

Thursday, 25 April, 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to our hearings
4 in Phase 8, Chapter 5, in which at the moment we are
5 looking into residential institutions provided by
6 CrossReach.

7 Now, we seem to have a link that's working all
8 right; is that so, Ms MacLeod?

9 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. That does appear to be
10 so, my Lady.

11 The first witness this morning is an applicant, who
12 will use the name 'Ally' when giving his evidence.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you. 'Ally', good morning. Can you see
14 me?

15 A. Yes, good morning.

16 LADY SMITH: I am Lady Smith, I chair the Scottish Child
17 Abuse Inquiry here in Edinburgh. Thank you for agreeing
18 to engage with us this morning over the link, this is
19 going to be really helpful.

20 'Ally' (affirmed)

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that. Now, 'Ally', we will start
22 your evidence in a moment. But can I just say at the
23 beginning that I do understand that being asked to talk
24 about things that happened a long time ago when you were
25 a child, particularly things that were difficult and

1 upsetting, is not easy. The complication for you, of
2 course, is that we are not doing it person-to-person,
3 you are doing it through modern technology. But I know
4 that we have people with you to help support you with
5 that.

6 However, if at any time there is anything you want
7 to ask for, such as a break, do say, that's absolutely
8 fine. Or if there is anything that you don't
9 understand, please speak up. We are very good at taking
10 it for granted people do understand what we are talking
11 about, but I know sometimes we don't make sense; that's
12 our fault, not yours, if it happens.

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: So just say if you have any questions at all.

15 I don't want you to feel confused or pressured in any
16 way; is that all right?

17 A. Yes, thanks.

18 LADY SMITH: Okay. Well, if you are ready, I will handover
19 to Ms MacLeod and she will take it from there. Thank
20 you.

21 Questions by Ms MacLeod

22 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. Good morning, 'Ally'.

23 A. Good morning.

24 Q. I don't need your date of birth. But to provide
25 a timeframe; can you confirm that you were born in 1978?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You have provided a statement for the Inquiry, and I am
3 just going to give the reference of that for the
4 transcript: WIT-1-000000961. Now, 'Ally', do you have
5 a copy of the statement in front of you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Could you turn to the final page, please?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Have you signed the statement?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In the final paragraph of the statement, do you say:
12 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
13 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
14 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
15 true.'

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay, thank you for that. So I would now like to take
18 you back to the beginning of the statement and what you
19 tell us about your life before care. You give us some
20 information here about your family background. I think
21 you tell us, 'Ally', that you were born in England,
22 where some of your mum's family stayed at the time?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. Did there come a point in time where your family moved?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Where did you move to?

2 A. We moved to Glasgow.

3 Q. And how old were you when you moved to Glasgow?

4 A. Um, 6. 5/6.

5 Q. Quite shortly after that move; was there a tragedy in
6 your family?

7 A. Yes, yes. My father, he was killed in a road accident.

8 Q. Is that when you were 6?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you tell us about that in your statement,
11 'Ally'. You tell us that you remember the police coming
12 to the door and telling your mother about that?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Following that event, that tragedy; did you remain in
15 Glasgow for a while or did your family move?

16 A. No, my mum left again. She went back to her mother's
17 side to find comfort, just a single parent losing her
18 man, so it was just about too much. She just wanted to
19 get away from it all.

20 Q. Did you have siblings at that time?

21 A. Yes, yes. I had a big brother and two little sisters.

22 Q. And did you then move with your mother to England?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you go to school in England?

25 A. Hmm, yes, yes.

1 Q. I think you provide some information in your statement
2 which tells us that wasn't a positive experience for
3 you?

4 A. No, it was not.

5 Q. Ultimately, did you stop going to school?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And how old were you when you stopped going to school?

8 A. Hmm, I was quite young, maybe 7/8.

9 Q. Did your family then move back to Scotland?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And I think you tell us that around that time you became
12 quite disruptive.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Could you develop that for me? And just what do you
15 mean by that?

16 A. Well, I wasn't -- obviously with no father figure and
17 that there, no, it was -- there was nobody really there,
18 obviously, with my mum and that working all the time,
19 trying to hold down two jobs and ... so I just couldn't
20 understand everything that was going on at the time, you
21 know. I didn't -- I thought it was normal.

22 So then I just stopped going to school, wasn't a lot
23 of interest in it and, still to this day, I have no had
24 any decent education, as you would say. Any mainstream,
25 anyway, that's for sure.

1 Q. You tell us that -- what you say is:
2 'By the time I was 9 years old I was considered
3 a danger to myself.'
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. In what way were you considered a danger to yourself,
6 'Ally'?
7 A. Because I would always run away. You know, I would --
8 like, I was meant to go to this school, where there was
9 only a couple of yours in the classroom. You know, the
10 taxi used to take us.
11 So, in the mornings, I would get the taxi and once
12 I got dropped off at the place -- I would wait for the
13 taxi to go away round the corner and then I would just
14 about turn and start walking home.
15 I use to go to people's doors, strangers' doors, and
16 things like that, asking for money or things, you know.
17 So this one time, I think it was an old lady and her man
18 invited me in. Obviously, I didn't know then, but
19 obviously now know they were kind of concerned, a young
20 boy chapping doors, talking to strangers, this, that and
21 the next thing. So she took me in and phoned the police
22 and the police came and got us.
23 Q. Did a social worker become involved in your life around
24 that time?
25 A. From then on -- from that day onwards they were involved

1 in my life all the time.

2 Q. Okay. Do you recall the name of any of your social
3 workers?

4 A. I can remember Clare Twigg, she was probably one of the
5 first ones. But early doors, no.

6 Q. You tell us in your statement that there was a meeting
7 held between your mother, social workers and a doctor?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. And you tell us that according to your mum they said
10 there was nothing they could do and that they thought
11 you would grow out of the time you were going through?

12 A. Aye, yes. That was it, aye.

13 Q. From that point on, were you appearing at Children's
14 Panel hearings?

15 A. No, they hadn't really started, no. From then on ...
16 that was just early.

17 Q. Okay. So when did Children's Panel hearings start to be
18 a feature?

19 A. Um, maybe just as I was coming 10, maybe. Maybe a wee
20 bit younger.

21 Q. And what was your understanding at the time of --

22 A. I was to let the panel --

23 Q. Carry on. Exactly, yes.

24 A. It was just to see what was wrong with us, why I wasn't
25 going to school, why I wasn't doing anything, you know.

1 They just wanted to know about that. But I didn't know,
2 so I couldn't tell them. So that was that.

3 Q. Okay. And did the time come, 'Ally', when you were
4 taken somewhere for what you thought was a visit?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. Can you tell me about that? Where were you taken?

7 A. I was taken to a residential school, Ballikinrain. My
8 ma and that said to us -- this was the day after the
9 Panel -- 'We want to go and have a wee visit to see what
10 it is going to be like, to see if you will like, this
11 new school and that'. I said, 'Aye, no bother'.

12 When we went there, we seen the place, took us
13 around, show us the dorms, the classes, things, members
14 of staff. I thought that's all it was, just a normal
15 visit like that. When it was time to go home I was kept
16 there. They must have just lied to us, so -- to make it
17 a bit easier for them, no? Because if they telt us
18 I was staying there, then there would have been World
19 War III, I wouldn't have.

20 Q. So you thought it was somewhere you might go in the
21 future --

22 A. Aye.

23 Q. -- or on a different day?

24 A. Aye, yes.

25 Q. So how old were you, 'Ally', when you were taken to

1 Ballikinrain?

2 A. 10.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. 10, aye.

5 Q. So was that in around 1988/89?

6 A. Yes, around about then, aye.

7 Q. And we will look now at the time you spent in

8 Ballikinrain. But are you able to give me an indication

9 at the outset of how long you spent there?

10 A. I have always thought I maybe spent a good five years

11 there.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I think I left -- I don't know if it was '96 I left.

14 I am not sure exactly when, because it was sprung on us.

15 It wasn't something that was thingmy to us -- I just got

16 a letter telling us I wasn't going to go back.

17 Q. Okay, but around about the mid-1990s, then, 1995/96?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Okay. So when you arrived at Ballikinrain you thought

20 you were going for a visit. You have told us your mum

21 left, you realised you were staying there. What were

22 you told then about why you were staying there, how long

23 you were going to be there?

24 A. Well, the lady told us -- they just said, 'Stick it out

25 and see what you think', and all that, 'Just give it

1 a try, you might like it', no? But I wasn't for having
2 it. I couldn't understand why I was there. I hadn't
3 done anything wrong.

4 Q. Okay. And in terms of Ballikinrain itself; where was
5 Ballikinrain?

6 A. It was Balfron, Killearn. It is in the middle of
7 nowhere, no? It is like a big old sandstone building,
8 over 100 rooms, even more. It was in a big forest and
9 that. Oh, it is all right. It is a nice place.

10 LADY SMITH: Do you remember it being in the countryside?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: I think not far from the hills of
13 Stirlingshire; is that right?

14 A. Aye, that's the one, yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Could you see the hills?

16 A. Aye, we used to go out. You would go oot and day or
17 they would take you oot to day things, caving,
18 abseiling, canoeing.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS MACLEOD: 'Ally', if I were to put a photograph of the
21 building on the screen -- and I think you may have it in
22 your folder --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- would you like to have a look at that for me?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I will put it on the screen at our end as well. It is
2 COS-000000212. Or COS-000001377.

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. So 'Ally', are you looking at a photograph there which
5 says at the top 'An introductory guide to Ballikinrain'?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And do you recognise the building in the photograph as
8 being Ballikinrain?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Can you help me with, then, looking at the photograph,
11 what part of the building we are looking at here?

12 A. You are looking at it as you are coming up the driveway,
13 sideways on, no? So the bottom flat -- the windows that
14 you can see at the bottom, that's the bottom unit.
15 That's dormitories. Above that, the big long ones in
16 the centre, that's like the staff offices. That's where
17 they have meetings, things like that, assembly hall.
18 The top one -- actually, the top unit, boys, you know,
19 for teenagers and over.

20 Q. So the younger boys were in the bottom part of the
21 building and the older boys were in the top, and there
22 were --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- other rooms on the middle floor?

25 A. Yes, yes. And dining hall, things like that.

1 Q. Okay, thank you.

2 Now, taking you back to your arrival there, I think
3 you tell us in your statement and you have mentioned
4 here that the social worker and your mother left; how
5 did you feel when that happened?

6 A. Hmm, I don't know. It is hard to say how I felt, you
7 know?

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Now -- knowing now what it would probably be like for --
10 you know, it probably felt scary, but I didn't really
11 engage much with anybody in my early days. I just kept
12 myself to myself a lot.

13 Q. Were you allocated to a particular room or a dorm, to
14 sleep?

15 A. Yes, yes, yes.

16 Q. And how many other -- how many boys were in your dorm?

17 A. Erm, in mine, there was four of us in mine, you know.

18 Q. What's your recollection of the number of boys in the
19 school in total?

20 A. Hmm, there was a few. I wouldn't say probably ... maybe
21 100, just under maybe.

22 Q. If you were 10; can you help me with the age range of
23 the boys from the youngest to the older ones who were
24 there?

25 A. I would imagine, in the bottom unit it probably spirals

1 for -- I think the youngest that I can remember somebody
2 being there when I was there was 8. So between 8 to,
3 like, 12, depending on -- at 13, you would be on the
4 bottom flat. And the older boys, on the top, would be
5 aged between 13 to their late teens.

6 Q. Okay. So do I take it from what you are saying you
7 started off in the bottom part of the building and then
8 moved to the top?

9 A. Yes, yes. I never moved. I wasn't moved from the --
10 I was always a bottom unit boy, as far as they were
11 concerned. No, I never made the transition to actually
12 sleeping up in the top unit.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Unless you were all brought back from a home leave;
15 that's the only time that they mingled.

16 Q. What was your awareness at the time of who -- if there
17 was an organisation that was in charge or running the
18 school?

19 A. I just thought it was members of staff, no?

20 Q. And who was in charge? Was there a head of the school?

21 A. Oh, a Mr KKM he was SNR, no?

22 Q. And was he SNR for the duration of your time
23 there?

24 A. Aye, aye.

25 Q. What was he like?

1 A. Mr KKM was all right, aye, aye.

2 Q. Did he have SNR ?

3 A. Aye, he had IKE . That would be -- I don't know his
4 name, but he was just IKE , we called him IKE .

5 Q. And are you able to help me with what he was like as far
6 as you were concerned? How did you find him?

7 A. He was all right. Seemed all right, aye. They were
8 like the members of staff you don't see. Obviously,
9 they are taking part with, obviously, the paperwork, all
10 this kind of things that they do. No, they didn't
11 really play a part in looking after us or doing
12 anything, or things like that.

13 Q. Okay. And who are the other staff that you recall from
14 your time at Ballikinrain?

15 A. A number of staff that came over the years that I have
16 had dealings with and that with in the times that I was
17 there.

18 Q. And can you help me with some of their names? Which
19 staff do you remember?

20 A. Er, GOU . I think I have some wrote down. He was
21 a --

22 Q. You speak about some of these in paragraph 12 of your
23 statement, 'Ally'.

24 A. Aye. GOU was SNR --

25 Q. GOU --

1 A. He was in charge of the bottom unit, Mr GOU no?
2 Two seconds.
3 GOU. So he was in charge -- he was the most
4 senior member of staff on the bottom flat and then,
5 underneath him, you would have -- there would be Irene.
6 She was a key worker, she was one of mine. There was
7 GOQ, another key worker. Mr HHZ, GOZ and
8 every so often they would just -- I don't know, but
9 there would be the odd trainee getting shown what occurs
10 on a daily thingmy, at times there were varying visitors
11 and that.
12 But it was the same members of staff that was kept
13 to their ain wee parts of the building, so it was them
14 that we dealt with all the time.
15 Q. Okay. In paragraphs 14, 15, and 16 of your statement,
16 you tell us about the routine at Ballikinrain and you
17 provide some helpful details there about the timing that
18 you got up, dressed, and that sort of thing.
19 A. Aye.
20 Q. One thing you say in paragraph 14 is, you say there was
21 no privacy when having showers?
22 A. No, no, no. We were all boys, so that was it. We were
23 all in there together. Around about 2 or 3 you would go
24 and get a shower and come back. We would just all be in
25 there together. The bottom unit was designated, just

1 say, an hour and a half for showers, and so everybody
2 had to be done in an hour and a half.

3 Q. Okay. By what you say there; do I take it there were no
4 cubicles or curtains or anything like that on the
5 showers?

6 A. No, just open curtains.

7 Q. During the day -- you have provided information about
8 when you got dressed, the food and the routine for that;
9 who was in charge of that part of the day, of making
10 sure that people were in the right places at the right
11 time?

12 A. I would imagine they would have their ain wee things
13 that they have to do and the times that they have to ...
14 whatever member of staff was on at that time, it would
15 be them that would be taking care of it, making sure --
16 they would oversee it.

17 Q. And did you get home at weekends?

18 A. Aye, you would get home at weekends if you behave.

19 Q. Who determined whether you behaved in a way which
20 merited getting home?

21 A. Who was in charge?

22 Q. Yes, who made that decision, whether you got home or
23 not?

24 A. I don't know. I don't know if they ever -- I just
25 thought it was just normal. I didn't know that it was

1 members of staff that would dictate or say if you were
2 good enough that week to get home leave or not, know
3 what I mean?

4 Q. So what kind of things would stop you getting home?

5 A. Just daft wee things, probably. No probably answering
6 back, being somewhere where you shouldn't have been or
7 something. Arguing, fighting with somebody.

8 Q. You mention in your statement that the food was good at
9 Ballikinrain?

10 A. Aye. Mm-hm.

11 Q. And I think you also mention that your table would be
12 examined and if it was tidy you might be offered extra
13 food?

14 A. Yes, aye, aye.

15 Q. So was that an incentive, then, to keep the table and
16 the area tidy?

17 A. I think so, because the man in question at the time, he
18 was military thingmy, so he'd probably a strict
19 discipline that he probably done in his ain house an a',
20 never mind just in there.

21 Q. Did you go to classes, school classes, during the week
22 at Ballikinrain?

23 A. Yes, aye, aye.

24 Q. And were there separate staff who were teachers in
25 the --

1 A. Aye, teachers. Aye.

2 Q. How did you find the schooling that was provided?

3 A. It was all right. You didn't really need to do it.

4 Q. So what do you mean by that? You didn't have to go to
5 the school?

6 A. Aye, when you -- if you were there in the classroom --
7 because they would only be, like, six of you or
8 something, you know. So you more or less just done what
9 you want. As long as you behaved and keep your head
10 down, you know, you can do a word search or something,
11 or play the computer, or copy. You would get a bit of
12 paper and they would tell you to write -- copy another
13 bit of paper on to that bit of paper. So it was not
14 really any work that you would class as educational.

15 Q. Something you tell us about in your statement is
16 an occasion where you stood on a nail?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. Can you tell me about that?

19 A. Well, it was just -- it was, like, the summer and just
20 playing, no? It was -- we were out the back. I think
21 we were having a smoke break and that. But, aye, where
22 we had to sit out the back and that and just play about.
23 Goofing about is what young weans do. It must have been
24 an old bit of wood with a nail through it and I stood on
25 it, and it went in my foot.

1 Q. And what happened? What impact did that have on you?
2 As in what --

3 A. Oh, it was sore, you know. It was sore. I am not going
4 to lie. I was mare or less greeting. And he just --
5 the member of staff, GOQ, he just ripped it right
6 oot and that was it, 'Stop moaning. Back to what you
7 were doing'.

8 Q. Were you left with any long term effects of the injury?

9 A. Well, until it was in me -- I was just a young boy,
10 so just that limp, do you know what I mean? So
11 obviously I had to put pressure on it. And then -- aye.

12 Q. How long did have you the limp for?

13 A. A couple of weeks.

14 Q. You tell us in your statement, 'Ally', that you wet the
15 bed sometimes at Ballikinrain?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And I think you say that you would get fresh bedding
18 from the staff and that you were never punished for
19 that?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. Did you get visitors coming to see you when you were at
22 Ballikinrain?

23 A. No. One time my brother, it was his school, he appeared
24 one day. He told us his teacher said to him that he was
25 aware he had a brother in some kind of residential

1 place, and they told him, 'We are donating a lot of
2 books to that place today; do you want to come up?' So
3 it was a wee surprise, just out the blue, my brother
4 landed, you know? But that was the only time I ever had
5 a visit.

6 Q. Did your social worker come and see you there?

7 A. Erm, no. Just, after so long, like, they have a review
8 about you, like, how well you have been doing, just like
9 a panel. But, no, that's the only time that we would
10 see them.

11 Q. Do you recall there ever being inspections of the
12 school, people coming in to inspect the school?

13 A. Aye. I don't -- if they were there we never got to meet
14 them and that, but we just seen them passing, you know,
15 wherever it was at the time they were getting shown
16 about, you know.

17 Q. Did any of them ever speak to you?

18 A. Erm, what? Inspectors?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Erm, no, not that I am aware of. No, no.

21 Q. Okay. Can I ask you about the atmosphere at
22 Ballikinrain, how you remember it? What was the
23 atmosphere there?

24 A. It was -- it depends -- depended on who -- what members
25 of staff and that were on at the time. Some members of

1 staff, you could cut it with a knife, it was dead eerie,
2 then you knew that it wasn't going to be a pleasant
3 night. You know, there was going to be a lot of madness
4 and whatever, you know. And other times it was quite
5 relaxed and things like that, you know.

6 Q. So when you say on occasions you knew it wasn't going to
7 be a pleasant night and there would be madness --

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. -- can you help me with what you mean about that?

10 A. Just that certain members of staff, they have a bee in
11 their bonnet and they like to let everybody know that
12 they have got a bee in their bonnet.

13 Q. So how did they let people know?

14 A. Shouting. Threats this, threats that, manhandled, you
15 know.

16 Q. Are there any particular members of staff you are
17 thinking about there?

18 A. Aye, there is a few. GOU used to be a bit
19 thingy with his authority and his mouth and that. You
20 know, he liked to try to paint a picture at times that
21 he was not a man to be messed with.

22 Q. And how did he paint that picture? What did he do?

23 A. He would grab you, threaten you, you know.

24 Q. When you say he would grab you, 'Ally', in what way?
25 Where would he grab you?

1 A. It all depends. He could grab me by the scruff of the
2 neck, the jumper, the jacket, drag you into a room, put
3 you up against a wall, blah, blah, blah, blah.

4 Q. So you are pointing your finger there; was that when you
5 were --

6 A. Aye, when you're up against the wall, just standing
7 there getting into trouble for whatever it was he was
8 getting you into trouble for.

9 Q. You mention a teacher called GOS in your statement.

10 A. Aye, GOS.

11 Q. What was his role?

12 A. I think he was like -- I don't know, an English teacher.
13 I think that's what he was, no?

14 Q. And did he have a certain -- what did he do if he wanted
15 to discipline you?

16 A. Aye, he would restrain you. He would bend your wrist
17 a way back, you know, the way you would be if you were
18 getting arrested. You know, the police getting your
19 pressure points, you know. He would do things like that
20 to stop you, if you were behaving or acting stupid.

21 Q. So can you give me an example of kind of a behaviour
22 that you would be engaging in for him to respond like
23 that?

24 A. Er, maybe getting a joke or whatever, with whatever boy
25 was sitting beside us in the classroom, or not doing my

1 work. Splitting us up, no, for talking, 'You shouldn't
2 be talking, no, you should be doing this'.
3 LADY SMITH: Do you know where this nickname 'GOS
4 [REDACTED]' came from?
5 A. That was just us. There was a few members of staff that
6 we had mad nicknames for them.
7 LADY SMITH: I just wondered about this word '[REDACTED]', is it
8 just that [REDACTED] with GOS [REDACTED]?
9 A. Just -- aye, aye.
10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
11 MS MACLEOD: Did you run away from Ballikinrain while you
12 were there?
13 A. Aye, aye.
14 Q. Did you run away quite shortly after you arrived?
15 A. Aye, not long after, actually, aye.
16 Q. And why did you run away on that occasion?
17 A. Because I didn't want to be there. I didn't know why
18 I was there.
19 Q. What happened when you ran away? Were you caught?
20 A. Eventually, aye, I was caught.
21 Q. Who caught you, 'Ally'?
22 A. Sometimes it would -- depends if it was members of staff
23 or the police, depending on how long after it was that
24 we ran away that they started to thingmy us, no? But,
25 that time, 12 hours I was away for.

1 Q. Was that the first time you ran away?
2 A. Aye. It was the first time, aye.
3 Q. And who caught you on that occasion?
4 A. Mr HHZ .
5 Q. What happened when you returned to Ballikinrain?
6 A. Nothing. You were just stripped, put into pyjamas, and
7 sat in the telly room. That's it. You don't move until
8 bedtime. Depending on what member of staff it was that
9 was on, then obviously if it was them it was on when you
10 ran away, then they are not going to be happy with you
11 because you have fucked up their shift.
12 Q. Did you run away on a number of occasions during
13 your years in the school?
14 A. Aye. Yeah, yeah, a few times, aye. Most times -- as
15 most as possible.
16 Q. If you were late coming back from weekend leave at
17 home --
18 A. Aye.
19 Q. -- was that something that was dealt with in
20 a particular way?
21 A. Aye, mm-hm, aye. Because it was looked upon as if
22 you're not there, then you are not getting another home
23 leave. If you are not back in time, then you will not
24 be getting home leave again until you are back on time.
25 Q. Was there a particular punishment that was --

1 A. Aye, you would be put into a vest and your underpants,
2 Y-Fronts, and you were sitting at the back of the telly
3 room, you weren't allowed to get involved in any
4 activities or things like that. So you were made to
5 look as an example, you know: 'you won't be late again.'
6 'You make sure you are there in time.'

7 So that was sent out across, so everybody would,
8 'I don't want to be like that, I don't want to be like
9 that'.

10 Q. So was that a public punishment, then?

11 A. Aye. If any of you were getting into trouble,
12 regardless of who it was, it was done in front of
13 everybody.

14 Q. And on those occasions when you -- how many times do you
15 think you were put in a vest and underpants in the
16 living area?

17 A. Oh, lots of times.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I was disruptive.

20 Q. When you were asked to strip to your vest and
21 underpants; were you asked to do anything, or sit or
22 stand in a particular way, or to --

23 A. Aye, you would be told to stand. You would be standing
24 and facing the corner. Not standing out, facing the
25 corner.

1 Q. How long would you be asked to stand and face the corner
2 for?

3 A. Oh, it depends, you know. It depends. Different
4 members of staff like to do different things, no?
5 **GOU**, he was an ex-prison warder an a', so
6 I don't know if that was probably some of the reasons
7 why he done things like that, to try to drill it into
8 our heads: this is what's going to be there for yous if
9 yous don't change your ways and whit you's are da'in.
10 But you don't think like that at a young age.

11 Q. And as well as this happening to you; did this happen to
12 other boys? Were there other boys in their vest and
13 underpants in the living room doing this?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. In terms of the length of time you could be standing
16 facing a corner, for example; are we talking minutes?
17 Hours? Can you help me?

18 A. No, the foreseeable -- the rest of the day. If that was
19 at 9 o'clock this morning or 10 o'clock, then you are
20 there. After each meal time and that, you are back in
21 that living room and you are back where you were until
22 it's bedtime. And then when everybody's oot playing
23 recreation and this, that, and the next thing, you are
24 standing there in that corner.

25 Q. Did boys ever rebel against that punishment or was it

1 something that --

2 A. Aye. Aye, aye, some boys took it worse than others, you

3 know. Aye.

4 Q. And if a boy rebelled against that; what would happen?

5 A. He would get into trouble.

6 Q. You tell us in your statement that this practice, this

7 punishment, was humiliating?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. Were you allowed to smoke in Ballikinrain?

10 A. Aye, aye.

11 Q. In paragraph 36 of your statement, 'Ally', you provide

12 some information about things that staff would supply

13 you with.

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. Can you tell me --

16 A. Nail varnish, alcohol. There was this one time we had

17 a can of beer between us. There was nail varnish, glue,

18 Tipp-Ex and solvents, so you could sniff them.

19 Q. Which members of staff were providing these things to

20 children?

21 A. The residential staff and sometimes the odd teacher,

22 depending on what it was. If it was at science, if

23 there was anything that could be done to try to buzz it

24 up, a thingmy way to get high with it, do you know what

25 I mean?

1 Q. And --

2 A. Fire extinguishers, everything. All the solvents.

3 Q. So were children asking staff for these things or were
4 they being offered voluntarily?

5 A. Aye, they would ask members of staff. Certain ones, if
6 you weren't on home leave and that member of staff was
7 on at the weekend, watching -- because there would
8 probably only be about eight of us or something, in the
9 whole establishment. Everybody was on home leave, so we
10 get to -- the activities, we would go out a run in the
11 van, go fishing or something and, depending on who it
12 was at the time, certain members of staff would buy us
13 a couple of cans or else they would get us a nail
14 varnish and that, so we did what we did.

15 Q. Something you say in relation to that in your statement,
16 'Ally', is -- you said:

17 'The attitude seemed to be that we were easier to
18 control if we were under the influence of such things.'

19 A. Aye, because then it is making their job a lot easier
20 for them. They don't need to worry about what we were
21 doing; they know what we are doing. So they know that
22 they are high. All right, we can keep an eye on them.
23 And we were always getting the wee rewards, so to speak.
24 It made us do what we were told.

25 Q. Okay. You have mentioned alcohol, beer, being provided;

1 was that provided -- how old were you when you were
2 provided with beer by staff?

3 A. Hmm, I reckon probably in my first 18 months there,
4 mm-hm.

5 Q. Right, so when you were, maybe -- are we talking 11 or
6 12?

7 A. 10, 11, aye. That was GPB. That was the woodwork
8 teacher.

9 Q. And in what circumstances was he providing you with the
10 beer?

11 A. We were just -- it was normal activities, know what
12 I mean? So we were out walking about in the grounds and
13 that.

14 Some members of staff, they lived on site. They had
15 wee houses and that, you know. So his house
16 . So, just on a wee wander or whatever, we
17 stopped in at the house, grabbed what he's grabbing and
18 then we were all back out, walking about just doing what
19 we were doing, jumping about.

20 Q. Okay. Another thing you talk about in your statement,
21 'Ally', is there were occasions where fights were
22 organised between the boys?

23 A. Aye, yes.

24 Q. Who organised fights between the boys?

25 A. Members of staff. Whatever members of staff it was that

1 seemed to have caught us fighting or whatever at the
2 time: do you want this settled like real men? Come on
3 we'll go into the gym.

4 Q. What did that entail, then, when you went into the gym?

5 A. It is either you or me.

6 Q. Was the staff member present? Were there other children
7 present?

8 A. Aye, aye, if it got out of hand, then they would step
9 in, 'Right, that's it, you are finished, done. Shake
10 hands, that's it, let's go'.

11 Q. Moving on, 'Ally', to paragraph 38 of your statement,
12 you have told me a bit about GOU [REDACTED] already and the
13 sort of behaviour you say he engaged in. Something you
14 mention here is you say that he slapped you in the face?

15 A. Aye, backhander. Mm-hm.

16 Q. Was that something that happened once or more than once?

17 A. Aye, it happened a couple of times, you know. Not just
18 with him, there is other members of staff and that and
19 all, you know.

20 Q. So in what circumstances did that sort of thing happen?

21 A. Back chat, you know, whatever, fucking about, carrying
22 on, not stopping carrying on, just whatever suited him
23 at the time and they were wanting to do whatever it is
24 that they were wanting to do.

25 They were telling us that everything we were doing

1 was for us to learn, you know, 'You will not be a bad
2 boy anymore once you leave here'.
3 Q. You mentioned a staff member called GOZ .
4 A. Aye.
5 Q. What was his role?
6 A. He was just a normal member of staff.
7 Q. How did he discipline you?
8 A. It would be me -- he flung me against a door, you know.
9 So he --
10 Q. What led to that happening?
11 A. I don't know if I was trying to get away. I don't know
12 if I tried to run away earlier in the day, you know.
13 Q. So when you say he threw you against a door; can you
14 tell me what he did?
15 A. He just grabbed us and said 'think you're fucking
16 something just now'. He just flung me up against
17 the door, he seemed like he liked to intimidate you with
18 his head down on my head and all, you know, blah, blah,
19 blah. I didn't like that, so I tried to run away again,
20 there and then, you know.
21 Q. In paragraphs 39 and 40, 'Ally', you provide evidence
22 about some sexual abuse going on between boys in the
23 school.
24 A. Aye.
25 Q. When did you first become aware of sexual abuse between

1 the boys?

2 A. Erm, I had probably been in there about two-year, maybe
3 even more.

4 Q. And what did you become aware of?

5 A. Erm, it was only because I got brought back from a home
6 leave that I found this out, you know what I mean? If
7 I hadn't been brought back from a home leave I don't
8 think I would probably have known, because the older
9 boys weren't meant to mingle with the younger boys, no.
10 They shouldn't be with each other. But, yeah, if you
11 don't get any home leaves, then whatever units opened up
12 that weekend, well, you know that then if you get
13 brought back, you were all staying in the same unit,
14 older boys, younger boys, you know.

15 Q. So the boys that are not at home are kind of condensed
16 into the same unit?

17 A. Aye, just -- aye.

18 Q. And on your return, then, from home leave on that
19 occasion; can you tell me: what did you become aware of?

20 A. Just in the dorm, you know. Noises. Another boy was
21 masturbating, you know.

22 Q. And was this an older boy?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. So you say a boy was masturbating; was that something
25 that was happening in view of other people or were there

1 other -- can you elaborate upon that for me?

2 A. Well, I don't know. It was at night time. It was
3 not -- we were in our beds. So obviously whatever -- he
4 has done what he has done, turned the light on,
5 obviously -- whatever, boys were talking. Obviously,
6 people making mad remarks, and jokes and laughing and
7 things like that, no. So he done -- cleaned the mess
8 and that up and the light out. And then it starts over
9 onto "you want to give us a wank, you want to do this,
10 you want to do that?" You know.

11 Q. Is this something you heard a boy saying to other boys?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. And what happened after that?

14 A. What do you mean what happened after?

15 Q. Did you see boys engaging in sexual activity?

16 A. Aye, aye. Aye. I never engaged in it, no.

17 Q. So what did you see?

18 A. I didn't take part in that. I seen one boy getting
19 a wank and I have seen other things, no. I have seen
20 one boy getting -- somebody shiting on his face. I have
21 seen a lot of fucked up shit.

22 Q. So, when you said there you saw one boy getting a wank;
23 do I take from that you saw one boy masturbating another
24 boy?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. And was that a younger boy masturbating an older boy?

2 A. I would imagine it was, aye.

3 Q. Was this something, as far as you were aware, that was

4 ongoing? You have told me that you became aware of it

5 initially when you were returned from home leave?

6 A. Aye. Aye. So whether anything else went on that

7 I didn't know about, things like that, I don't know.

8 I can't say. No, that was just there -- what I can tell

9 you. With regards to anything sexual happening, that's

10 all I was ever aware of there. Whether there was any

11 kind of raping carry on and that, I don't know.

12 Q. So you have told me about an occasion where you were

13 returned from home leave and what you saw; were there

14 any other occasions when you saw anything sexual like

15 that taking place?

16 A. Hmm, not that I can recall straight away, no, no. No,

17 that was probably it.

18 Q. Was it something that was spoken about amongst the boys?

19 A. Aye, you would obviously -- you'd get people slagging,

20 no, talking about you, you'd get people making

21 accusations and flinging it. So it was just as good as

22 it being thingmy but also it's true, you know.

23 Q. So do I take from that you would hear things that might

24 be going on, but that you weren't witnessing them?

25 A. Aye. Aye, they could do the things, no? But then

1 whether it was true or not, it is down to whatever it is
2 that you have heard that you want to believe.

3 But then if you know certain people, and you knew
4 what they were like or what they did, then you could
5 imagine this went on.

6 Q. As far as you were aware; were the staff -- did the
7 staff know that this was happening?

8 A. I don't know. I don't know. It would be hard to say
9 aye or no, because you used to get some members of staff
10 that would have a laugh and try and joke about certain
11 things like that, you know.

12 Q. Now, you mentioned as part of your evidence there
13 that -- and it is in your statement as well -- that you
14 saw -- I think how you put it: two of the older boys
15 shat on the face of one of the --

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. -- younger boys?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Was that something you saw on that same occasion or is
20 that another occasion we are talking about?

21 A. That was a different occasion, no.

22 Q. And was that something that happened in the bedroom set
23 up as well?

24 A. Aye. What it was is, in the bottom unit and the top
25 unit, you have what they like to call, like, a wee

1 splinter unit. There is normally four or five dorms in
2 it, but that's for people that are well behaved,
3 et cetera, and that. They get to go in there. That's
4 where that happened. Obviously, people getting up at
5 2.00 or 3.00 in the morning, running into other dorms,
6 hiding, doing stupid things, you know. And that's where
7 that happened.

8 Q. Now, you have said it in evidence, and you say in your
9 statement, you say:

10 'I was never sexually abused ... but I was scared on
11 those weekends when I didn't get home.'

12 A. You better believe it.

13 Q. What were you scared of, 'Ally'?

14 A. Well, you can imagine, no, places like that, aye, I was
15 scared bad times could happen to me, bad times are going
16 to happen to me. So, aye.

17 Q. So did you feel more vulnerable in that respect at
18 weekends?

19 A. Most definitely, aye.

20 LADY SMITH: 'Ally', who were you scared of?

21 A. Depending on members of staff, depending on prisoners --
22 'prisoners'. Sorry, other boys that weren't on home
23 leaves.

24 LADY SMITH: So it could be a particular member of staff you
25 were scared of or it could be a particular boy you were

1 scared of?

2 A. Aye.

3 LADY SMITH: I suppose the worst scenario would be if you

4 found that they were both there?

5 A. Definitely.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes. Okay, I have the picture. Thank you.

7 MS MACLEOD: You tell us in your statement, 'Ally', about

8 a boy tying younger children to a tree.

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. Was that something that happened on one occasion or was

11 that a practice that was repeated?

12 A. I think things like that went on a lot. There was a lot

13 of goofing about, carrying on, things like that. It was

14 just normal, stupid young boys doing things like this,

15 no.

16 Q. Okay. And you say that children could be left tied to

17 a tree for hours?

18 A. Aye. For ages, aye, aye. The boy in question that went

19 and tied somebody to a tree, I don't know if he is still

20 in -- he ended up in a nut house, he ended up in

21 Carstairs, you know.

22 Q. How was that dealt with by staff?

23 A. 'Stop moaning'.

24 Q. Who was told to stop moaning?

25 A. Us, the children.

1 Q. So when a child was tied to a tree; did staff intervene
2 to help them?

3 A. If they made enough noise, aye. Then they were like
4 that, right, 'Stop the fucking about, you', you know.

5 Q. In paragraph 41 of your statement, you talk about deaths
6 at Ballikinrain.

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Did some boys die, boys who were residents at
9 Ballikinrain while you were there?

10 A. Aye. Yeah, a couple committed suicide. Where it is
11 situated, in the winter, running away, two boys were
12 killed in the cold, all because of where it is. And
13 you're miles from nowhere.

14 Q. I think you tell us in your statement -- is that the two
15 boys you mention who were running away in the snow?

16 A. Aye, aye. Obviously, you see -- because when you are
17 running away you need to try to hide and stay, so you
18 are in like the fields and things like that,
19 (indistinct) if you could walk about on the road it
20 would be all right, they would have lived. But because,
21 obviously, they are hiding, trying to get away, so it
22 has killed them.

23 Q. You mention a boy who you recall being 12 or 13, and you
24 say he died after sniffing [REDACTED]?

25 A. Aye. [REDACTED].

1 Q. Was that something that happened in the school or while
2 he was away from the school?

3 A. Oh, that was -- he was on a home leave. That didn't
4 happen in the school.

5 Q. Okay. And you mention a boy who killed himself, I think
6 you say, while he was on home leave?

7 A. Aye. [REDACTED] aye.

8 Q. Now, after around five or six years in Ballikinrain,
9 'Ally', you ultimately left the school; can you tell me
10 how that came about, your leaving?

11 A. Erm, I just never went back, no. They were talking
12 about -- they were wanting to move me to another
13 residential place, secure units and things like that,
14 but I was at my wit's end. I said, 'I am done with
15 this. I don't want to be on supervision or that any
16 more'. So I got a letter to go to a Panel and it was
17 (indistinct) supervision, so I just never went back to
18 the place.

19 Q. Were you aged 16 then?

20 A. Aye. Aye.

21 Q. And did you go home from Ballikinrain --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- to live at home for a while?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. I think you tell us that at home you started getting

1 into trouble with the police?

2 A. Aye. Started to steal cars and things like that.

3 Q. I think you tell us, when you were 17 -- you say:

4 'That's when I first got done and got probation'

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. And then you say, when you were 18 -- you say you got

7 charged with kidnapping and got a five-year sentence at

8 that time?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then you say:

11 'Not long after I finished that sentence I got

12 a six-year sentence for armed robbery.'

13 A. Aye, that's it.

14 Q. Then you say that 18 months after that you got

15 a six-year sentence with a three-year extension for

16 an attempted robbery?

17 A. Yes. Aye, that runs out in December.

18 Q. Indeed, you say in your statement you have been in

19 prison most of your adult life?

20 A. Aye. More or less, aye. I have never worked or

21 anything. Never had a real job or anything like that.

22 Q. Now, at paragraph 45 of your statement, 'Ally', you

23 discuss the impact that you consider your time in care

24 in Ballikinrain has had on your life, and you provided

25 a lot of helpful information there. But I just want to

1 ask you about a couple of points that you make.

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. One thing you say is you say:

4 'I don't think that Ballikinrain taught me anything

5 other than teaching me how to be streetwise.'

6 A. Aye. That's it. Nothing else is taught to you in

7 places like that.

8 Q. You say that you have had no education throughout your

9 life?

10 A. No, none at all.

11 Q. And is that something you regret?

12 A. Most definitely, aye. I would have loved it, aye,

13 I would have loved to -- I would have loved to have

14 joined the army.

15 Q. And you say:

16 'I don't think I would be sitting in prison if I had

17 been better educated.'

18 A. Aye, I wouldn't be. No doubt about it, I would not be.

19 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 47, you have been on methadone

20 for 22 years?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And that started when you were at Ballikinrain, when you

23 started smoking cannabis there?

24 A. Aye, aye. I have not took heroin in 15 years, or

25 something, and yet I am still on heroin -- it is

1 a substitute, know what I mean? That's going to be
2 a long term thing, trying to come off the methadone
3 itself.

4 Q. In relation to the point you make about education,
5 something else you say is that your siblings went right
6 through school and that --

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. -- they are all employed?

9 A. Yes, aye.

10 Q. You say that you would love to do something with your
11 own life?

12 A. Aye. Instead of being in and out of here all the time.
13 There is nothing in here.

14 Q. Do you get night terrors related to your time in
15 Ballikinrain?

16 A. Aye. Aye.

17 Q. Is that something that continues to affect you, 'Ally'?

18 A. Aye, aye. Obviously, you learn to control these kind of
19 things after so long, you know. So, aye, only sometimes
20 they come back up.

21 Q. And in terms of reporting the things that happened to
22 you, you tell us in your statement that you haven't
23 reported these things to the police or anybody in
24 authority?

25 A. No, no.

1 Q. Moving on to the final part of your statement, then,
2 'Ally', where you set out some lessons which you
3 consider could potentially be learnt, and a point you
4 make there is that you say:
5 'What would have helped me and others would have
6 been if people who had gone through care themselves had
7 been involved.'
8 I think involved in caring for you.
9 'And had been there for us to speak to. These sort
10 of people would have had a better understanding of what
11 children like me had been going through.'
12 A. Aye.
13 Q. Did you feel when you were in Ballikinrain that there
14 was anybody you could turn to, or speak to, if you had
15 concerns?
16 A. No -- I don't know. I would be lying if I was to say
17 aye or no, because I found it difficult to approach
18 anybody and try to talk to them or open up, and things
19 like that, so I don't know.
20 Q. Now, moving on, then, to the very last part of your
21 statement, where you look at hopes for this Inquiry.
22 What you say there is:
23 'I just want to see things being better for children
24 who are struggling at home.'
25 A. Aye.

1 Q. And you say:

2 'I would like to see them receive the proper help
3 they need, as opposed to their cases just being pushed
4 under the carpet.'

5 A. Definitely.

6 Q. You say:

7 'Too many people end up in prison simply because
8 they were abused as children or come from broken homes,
9 and they don't get the support they need.'

10 A. That's true.

11 MS MACLEOD: Now, 'Ally', I have been asking you a lot of
12 questions and you have helpfully answered them all.
13 I just wondered if there is anything else that you would
14 like to add at this point before we complete your
15 evidence?

16 A. Erm, I don't know. Unless that's it, no. I should have
17 done. No.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Ally', could I add my thanks to you once more
19 for engaging with us as frankly and openly as you have
20 done. There is just one thing I am interested in that
21 you said that I would like to ask you a tiny bit more
22 about.

23 You said that you thought being in prison has only
24 taught you how to be streetwise, and indeed being in
25 Ballikinrain only taught you how to be streetwise.

1 A. Aye.

2 LADY SMITH: When you say 'streetwise'; what do you mean?

3 A. Obviously, places like that, they only teach people that
4 are going to probably end up having a dishonest
5 lifestyle about what it's really all about.

6 LADY SMITH: Right. So you are thinking back to learning
7 how to shoplift, how to steal cars, that kind of thing?

8 A. Aye, definitely.

9 LADY SMITH: To survive under the radar, if possible; is
10 that it?

11 A. Aye, because -- and I believe it is true, most people
12 that went through some of these residential places and
13 all that, they've not got a chance, they've not got
14 a chance. Once you become an unruly, that's you for the
15 rest of your life.

16 LADY SMITH: 'Ally', thank you for that. I am really
17 grateful to you, as I have said, for everything you have
18 given us.

19 Your written statement is part of your evidence as
20 well, and it was really helpful to have that in advance
21 to read. So thank you for that. Now I am able to let
22 you go, and the connection can be switched off.

23 A. Thank you. Bye, bye.

24 LADY SMITH: Bye.

25 (The witness disconnected)

1 LADY SMITH: Well, Ms MacLeod, what's the plan now?

2 MS MACLEOD: I wonder my Lady if we could potentially take
3 the morning break a little early and come back when the
4 next witness is ready. I think he may be ready before
5 11.45.

6 LADY SMITH: We will see how we go. I think that would make
7 sense.

8 Before we take the break some names of people whose
9 identities are protected by my General Restriction
10 Order, so they are not to be identified as people
11 referred to in evidence outside of this room. There are
12 six of them: GOU ; somebody called GOQ ;
13 Mr HHZ , I think his name is 'HHZ ' , HHZ ;
14 somebody called GOZ ; GOS ; and somebody
15 referred to as GPB the woodwork teacher, and that
16 might be somebody whose second name is GPB . So
17 please bear in mind that their identities are protected.
18 Thank you.

19 (11.18 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (11.39 am)

22 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant and
24 he wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
25 'William' when giving evidence.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'William' (sworn)

3 LADY SMITH: Now, 'William', do sit down and make yourself
4 comfortable.

5 'William', thank you for coming along this morning
6 to help us with your evidence. I already have your
7 written statement, which was really good to have in
8 advance, and that is part of your evidence. But we
9 would like to, if we may, explore some particular parts
10 of it with you, and that's what we will move on to do in
11 a moment.

12 You have found where the statement is, yes? It's in
13 the red folder and you can refer to it, if you want --
14 you don't have to -- while we are going through your
15 evidence. We will also bring up parts of your statement
16 up on the screen, you might find that helpful. If you
17 don't like the screen being on, just tell me and we will
18 switch it off. That's up to you.

19 A. No, that's fine.

20 LADY SMITH: Otherwise, 'William', please bear in mind
21 I want to do everything I can to make the whole process
22 of giving evidence as comfortable for you as I can,
23 knowing that what we are asking isn't easy. We are
24 asking you to go back in your memory to things that
25 happened a long time ago, and things that were

1 difficult, and may be difficult to talk about in this
2 environment, in a public place. So just say if, for
3 example, you want to pause or have a break, that's not
4 a problem. Or if there is anything else that we can do
5 to help you understand why we are asking something or
6 what exactly we are asking. Sometimes we are not very
7 good at explaining ourselves, I know that, and if you
8 don't understand us, that's our fault, not yours. So
9 just speak up.

10 A. Okay.

11 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to
12 Mr MacAulay and he will take it from there; is that
13 okay?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR MACAULAY: Before I speak to 'William', my Lady, can
17 I mention -- and 'William' is aware of this -- that part
18 of his evidence relating to the Scottish Prison Service
19 has been read-in.

20 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes.

21 MR MACAULAY: That was on Day 394.

22 LADY SMITH: Day 394. Do you have date for that, by any
23 chance? I can check it, don't worry.

24 MR MACAULAY: I can check the date. The reference for the
25 transcript is TRN-12-000000026.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 MR MACAULAY: Quite a long reference number.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, some of them are longer than others.

4 Yes, you appreciate I have already heard part of
5 your evidence --

6 A. Yes, yes, that's fine.

7 LADY SMITH: -- about some of your experiences in writing,
8 but that's not what we are going to focus on,
9 particularly, today.

10 Questions by Mr MacAulay

11 MR MACAULAY: Okay, 'William', hello again.

12 A. Hi.

13 Q. The first thing I want to do is to give the reference
14 for your statement to the transcribers, and that is
15 WIT-1-000001243.

16 The first thing I want you to do, 'William', is to
17 turn to the final page of your statement that you have
18 in front of you, that's page 29 -- sorry, page 30.

19 A. 30.

20 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed the statement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And do you see in that final paragraph:

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 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If we go back to the beginning of the statement, I don't
6 want your full date of birth, I just want to confirm the
7 year of your birth, so that I can get a context for what
8 you have to say. Can you confirm that you were born in
9 1983?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now, you begin by telling us -- or giving us information
12 about your life before you went into care, in particular
13 you talk about your family background.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What you tell us is that you were born in Glasgow and
16 you stayed with your mother and your father and you had
17 an older brother; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. There was also another brother, a younger brother, who
20 died when he was about six months old?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did that cause a problem within the family, the fact
23 that your younger brother had died?

24 A. Yes, it was actually my older brother, before I was
25 born.

1 Q. I see.

2 A. He died. My dad had said to my mum, 'Go out on a night
3 out', and she said, 'Right', and she came back, my
4 father had my brother lying beside him, but he died of
5 cot death. So I was born not long after that.

6 Q. Did his death have an impact upon --

7 A. Yes, my mum blamed my dad for it.

8 Q. And I think what you say in your statement is eventually
9 things came to a head and they split up?

10 A. They split up, yes.

11 Q. Were you then left staying with your mother?

12 A. Yes, my dad went away to stay with my gran and granddad,
13 and took my older brother.

14 Q. When you were with your mother, what you tell us in your
15 statement is that although you were going to school you
16 were misbehaving quite a bit?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Indeed, you tell us you were spending time hanging about
19 with your friends and getting into trouble?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did that mean you ended up appearing before a Children's
22 Panel?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I think the decision was that you would be put into
25 residential care; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think you even know when that happened. I don't want
3 the exact date, but was it in [REDACTED] 1992?

4 A. Yes. About, yes.

5 Q. Okay. You then tell us about the first children's home
6 that you were in, and I think you would be aged about 9
7 at this time; is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And I think you spent, what, about ten weeks in that
10 place?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were let out because you had been behaving rather
13 well?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was that the situation?

16 A. Yes, that was the situation.

17 Q. Okay. Now, when you went back home, then; what was the
18 position?

19 A. Er, my mum, like, she drank a lot, like, daily. So,
20 really, there wasn't any foundation or family life in
21 the house.

22 Like, my mum loved me, I know that, but she was
23 battling her own demons. She was in a fire with her mum
24 and that, and she was pulled out. Her mum and that
25 died. Then she got married to my dad when she was 16,

1 had my brother, my oldest brother, had my other brother,
2 then he passed away, and then I was born. So she was
3 battling her own stuff. So it wasn't a good, really,
4 environment.

5 Q. Okay. And did this environment mean that you were
6 mixing with older boys?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what were you doing?

9 A. Nothing, I was just following them.

10 Q. What were they doing?

11 A. They were, like, drinking and stealing cars.

12 Q. Were you involved with them to the extent that you were
13 with them when that was going on?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was the end result of this you being sent to
16 Ballikinrain?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were you taken there by a social worker?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And what was your first impression of Ballikinrain?

21 A. I thought it was like a big castle.

22 Q. Perhaps -- could I ask you to look at a photograph?
23 Would be you happy with that?

24 A. Yes, that's fine.

25 Q. This is at COS.001.001.0212. This should appear on the

1 screen for you. Oh, yes, I think I have to give another
2 number. It is COS-000001377, at page 1. See if this
3 works.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you recognise it?

6 A. That's Ballikinrain.

7 Q. As you pointed out, it is a big establishment.

8 A. Yes. That's the main building. When you come into it,
9 it is a big long road and then you come to a driveway,
10 with two, like, houses, but it is a gate, and then you
11 drive up a big long driveway. It has houses at the side
12 of it, all the way up. It is dead dark, and then you
13 get to the top and there is that big building.

14 Q. The houses that were there; were they connected with
15 Ballikinrain?

16 A. Yes, they were staff houses.

17 Q. Yes. But apart from those houses; was this place quite
18 isolated?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you tell us who SNR [REDACTED] was when you got
21 there; who was that?

22 A. KKM [REDACTED].

23 Q. Did you have much to do with him when you were there?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How did you find him?

1 A. Creepy.

2 Q. Why do you say that?

3 A. Just things he would do. Like, he was SNR, and
4 see, like, sometimes if you got out on like leave for
5 the weekend, or if you go out for the day, you would go
6 to, like, Port Dundas in Glasgow and a van would pick
7 you up.

8 I remember one day I got out, and he came himself to
9 pick me up, which was very strange, right. The
10 reason -- it was usually a bus. But he came himself,
11 and he asked me to sit in the front of the car with him,
12 but I refused, and I sat in the back. And just the way
13 he would touch you and that, inappropriate.

14 Q. You say he touched you, did he?

15 A. Aye. He would just be, like -- just say you were
16 sitting, he would put his hand on your knee, and just
17 things that you wouldn't do.

18 Q. But, in the normal day, did you have much to do with
19 him?

20 A. Yeah, well, he never really -- you seen him about the
21 actual place, but just every morning you would have
22 assembly and he would be asking who was there, asking
23 the names, and then you would say you were there. And
24 then he would just tell you what was happening through
25 the day.

1 Q. Now, we know it was a place for all boys; do you have
2 any sense as to how many boys were there during your
3 time?

4 A. Er, about 200 or something.

5 Q. You think as many as that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. I should perhaps have asked you: what age do you
8 think you were when you went to Ballikinrain?

9 A. Oh, I was the youngest. I was only about 10.

10 Q. Could you have been, perhaps, going up towards 12? Is
11 that possible?

12 A. Yes. Maybe, yes.

13 Q. Okay. And one date that we may come across, or we have
14 come across, is in about [REDACTED] 1995, so you would be
15 about 12 then?

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. In any event, it was either 11 or 12?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But you were young. Were you one of the younger boys?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now, you had a key worker and you tell us who he was;
22 how did you get on with your key worker?

23 A. My key worker was HVC [REDACTED], he was brilliant, a great
24 person.

25 Q. Why do you say that?

1 A. He was from New Zealand, but obviously worked in there.
2 He came over there, and he had a house with his wife and
3 his son, but he was a genuinely good person.

4 Q. Okay. And you do tell us something about the layout.
5 In paragraph 10, you say there were four units, and you
6 mention a couple of them; were you then placed in one of
7 the units?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you remember the name of the unit you were in?

10 A. The units, the names were just -- I can't remember the
11 first names. But then they changed the names to, like,
12 Ogilvy, and it was places that were out there. Out,
13 like, Balfron way. They used names like Endrick,
14 I think, and changed the names to places --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- of the units.

17 Q. And the unit that you were attached to; was that in the
18 main building?

19 A. Yes, the main building, up the stair.

20 Q. And how many boys would be in that particular unit?

21 A. About 50.

22 Q. I think you tell us the food was okay?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. You do talk about bed wetting, in paragraph 13. What
25 you tell us there is you never had a problem with bed

1 wetting; is that right?

2 A. No.

3 Q. But were there any boys who did?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. And did you witness what happened?

6 A. Yes, like, I know quite a lot of boys who were ...

7 because the rooms were double rooms, right? Like you

8 would double people in them. You would have, like, four

9 people in them. And only had a very few select single

10 rooms, so they said -- I know a person who used to wet

11 the bed more or less every day -- every night. And they

12 would just, more or less, change his bed and that was

13 it. They would leave the mattress still there.

14 Q. How would the bed wetter be treated?

15 A. Not very nice.

16 Q. Why do you say that?

17 A. Other people would laugh at him, just things like that.

18 Q. Would that be other boys?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So other boys would know --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- that this other person had wet the bed?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How would they find out?

25 A. Just the staff would say.

1 Q. You do say in your statement that the door to the
2 bedroom where this particular boy had wet the bed would
3 be left open and the smell would be obvious?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you wondered why that would be the position?

6 A. Yes. You see, now that I think about it, now I am a bit
7 older, I think some of the things were to isolate
8 certain boys, quieter boys. They would isolate them in
9 a cell, so that ... I don't know, whatever could happen.

10 Q. Okay. I do want to ask you a little bit about the
11 routine. You tell us about getting up at about 7.00 or
12 8.00 in the morning, and then you would have breakfast.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then you say in paragraph 11, if you go back to
15 paragraph 11:

16 'After that we went to school, though no actual
17 teaching was done.'

18 I just want to ask you about that.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. The school was on the premises?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Not in the main building?

23 A. No, not in the main building. You went out. But it was
24 on the premises.

25 Q. And why do you say that no actual teaching was done?

1 A. Well, the English class, when you went in there, he
2 would just put on the X Files DVD and let it run. If
3 you went into the maths class -- his name was GOS, he
4 was from Manchester, and he was a huge Manchester United
5 supporter and all he would have is VHS tapes of
6 Manchester United playing.

7 Q. I think you do develop that in paragraph 14 of your
8 statement, where you say:

9 'There were classrooms, but we didn't really get
10 schooling.'

11 You mention the X Files there. You say the art and
12 design teacher was good --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- because she did do some artwork, and you go on to
15 talk about the Manchester United fan. And you also say
16 you would play on the computer?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were these just computer games you were playing?

19 A. Yes, computer games. It was actual consoles and then
20 you could play games.

21 Q. How many boys would be in a particular class at
22 a particular time?

23 A. Yes, eight to ten.

24 Q. Another thing you tell us as part of the routine -- and
25 here you are looking at leisure -- you would have discos

1 and girls from the Good Shepherd would be invited?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What would happen at the discos?

4 A. They would just bring a DJ in and then have the hall,
5 put the lights off, put the music on and just let us do
6 whatever we wanted.

7 Q. And what do you mean by 'whatever you want'?

8 A. Well, like, with the girls, if you liked them, maybe
9 just -- we could go in a room with them and that.

10 Q. Sorry?

11 A. If we liked a girl, we could go in a room and kiss her
12 and that.

13 Q. What age were you when you participated in that?

14 A. Er, 12.

15 Q. One thing you say -- I do want to ask you about this --
16 is the staff got you drink and cigarettes?

17 A. Aye, and cigarettes, yes.

18 Q. Who got you that?

19 A. Well, mostly, all staff.

20 Q. And drink; what do you mean by drink? Do you mean
21 alcoholic drink?

22 A. Yes, that was at the discos.

23 Q. Yes, and what --

24 A. Well, there would be, like, juice and all that there,
25 and thingmy, but there would be wine, as well.

1 Q. And did the staff make this wine available to you?

2 A. Yes. Could you take it, yes.

3 Q. Did you drink it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In a previous paragraph, paragraph 10, you say that

6 during your time at Ballikinrain:

7 'They bought us cigarettes and alcohol.'

8 So was it only at discos that alcohol was brought in

9 or --

10 A. No, I remember when my mum died, I remember, like, I had

11 run away from Ballikinrain and --

12 Q. I will come -- I will look at that, but carry on.

13 A. Yes, and then when I was going back, it was actually

14 a staff member called IKD who used to always say he

15 was a big music producer, and he used to take you to his

16 house and show you the CD room. It was like an attic in

17 his house, with all CDs and how big he was.

18 Anyway, he came and picked me up and the first thing

19 he done was he went and bought me 40 fags, 40 Club.

20 Q. And that was cigarettes?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were you allowed to smoke in Ballikinrain?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But with regard to alcohol; who brought in alcohol?

25 A. It wasn't like -- alcohol wasn't, like, every day

1 things. Very rarely, like, discos. Once a year, maybe
2 twice a year.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Things like that. It wasn't every day, like, every week
5 or every couple of months.

6 LADY SMITH: When the staff member bought you 40 cigarettes;
7 how old were you?

8 A. Er, just 11/12.

9 LADY SMITH: Is that when you started smoking --

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: -- or did you start younger than that?

12 A. Yes, I had just started around about then, just before,
13 yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR MACAULAY: Did many of the boys smoke at Ballikinrain?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that wasn't a problem --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- they were allowed to?

20 A. The staff used to take you down and give you money,
21 every week as well. And then they would take you down
22 to Fintray, just down the road, and there was a Spar.
23 They would get cigarettes, and they would buy them for
24 you.

25 Q. Now, in relation to visitors, at paragraph 17, you do

1 tell us that your mother visited you once with her
2 partner?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How long had you been in Ballikinrain before that visit?

5 A. Er, not long.

6 Q. Was that the only visit you got?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I will come back to your mother dying in a little while.
9 You touched upon this already, but you go on to say
10 that your mother actually had a terrible life?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Having regard to having been saved from a fire, where
13 her parents had died; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Now, running away, you talk about that at paragraph 20,
16 and you say you ran away a few times; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Why did you run away?

19 A. Just to get away from there. Just a desire to be back
20 home with my friends.

21 Q. Yes. And you did that on a few occasions?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How long had you been in Ballikinrain before you decided
24 to run away?

25 A. I was in a few weeks.

1 Q. You talk about one occasion when you ran away with some
2 friends and you were picked up by the police, in
3 Saracen; do you remember that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What happened on that occasion?

6 A. It was a roasting -- it was a summer's day. It was
7 roasting, I had shorts and that on and the police
8 handcuffed me behind my back. And then they flung me in
9 the van on the floor and my shoe had fallen off. And
10 then they started battering me with my shoes in the van,
11 all the way to Saracen Police Station, and another boy
12 had already been picked up fae my area, was already in
13 there, and his mum came to get him. And his mum could
14 hear, like, me screaming in the police station.

15 Even when I got back to Ballikinrain, they had taken
16 me down to the doctor's in Killearn, to get the photos
17 and that took, to follow it up.

18 Q. And was it followed up?

19 A. They made a complaint. My mum had made a lot of
20 complaints as well, but it would always go to this --
21 I can't remember his name. He was the top policing. He
22 would say there wasn't enough evidence and just telling
23 me it. And when the staff took me to the doctor's and
24 took the photos and that, they thought that it would go
25 a lot further, but it just was the exact same: it would

1 go to a certain level and then they would say there
2 wasn't enough evidence.

3 Q. What was shown in the photographs?

4 A. Bruises. I had -- head to toe, I was covered in
5 bruises.

6 Q. As you said, before she died your mother made quite
7 a number of complaints against the police?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Why was she making these complaints?

10 A. Because they used to -- the police always used to, just,
11 grab us. They would batter us in the street. There was
12 these two beat police, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and there was
13 this other one, who used to, just grab us, batter us,
14 lots of different things.

15 Q. Was that before you went into Ballikinrain?

16 A. Aye, before and after, and still during.

17 Q. And you go on to say that the police actually came to
18 your house to pick you up?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. They would lock you up in the police station?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did they have a particular thing they did when they
25 locked you up, to ensure that you stayed there for the

1 weekend?

2 A. Yes, they would put me in an unruly -- or, see if it was
3 a Thursday, they would drive me about until after
4 12 o'clock at night, so I would make sure I wouldn't go
5 to court the next day and I would be in all weekend,
6 until the Monday.

7 Q. Would you be in a cell?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What age would you be?

10 A. Like -- only, like, 12. 11/12/13.

11 Q. When you did run away from Ballikinrain and you were
12 returned; would anything happen to you?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Now and again, was your care at Ballikinrain reviewed?
15 Did you have care reviews?

16 A. Yes, they didn't give me any care reviews, but they said
17 they would have reviews.

18 Q. Did you go to Panels from time to time?

19 A. I went to a few Panels from time to time, yes.

20 Q. Were you ever given reasons as to why you were being
21 kept in Ballikinrain?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You have a section in your statement where you talk
24 about -- it is headed 'Abuse at Ballikinrain', and can
25 I just ask you -- that's at paragraph 25 -- about that?

1 You talk about the woodwork teacher, who was a man by
2 the name of GPB : would that be right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Would you be in his class?

5 A. Yes, he didn't like me. Well, he didn't like a lot of
6 people.

7 Q. Sorry?

8 LADY SMITH: Are you sure that was his second name?

9 A. GPB , yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Okay.

11 MR MACAULAY: We have heard of a GPB .

12 A. Oh.

13 Q. Does that ring any bells?

14 A. Yes. I know -- yes, it was GPB or GPB , one of
15 them.

16 Q. But he was the woodwork teacher?

17 A. Yes, he was the woodwork teacher.

18 LADY SMITH: It is the same man.

19 A. Yes, he stayed on the premises, as well.

20 MR MACAULAY: You tell us -- you talk about him; did he do
21 something to you?

22 A. Yes, like, as well as he used to hit us, he used to have
23 a set of keys in his right-hand pocket, a big set of
24 keys, and he would have a big string, and at the end of
25 it he would have a big conker, because there were big

1 trees all about there. So he would get the conkers, and
2 drill a big hole through the conker, put it at the end
3 of the rope, tied it, and he had it and kept it. Then
4 see if he didn't even like -- if you did something or
5 said something he would smash you with it, the conker.

6 Q. And where would he smash you?

7 A. Anywhere on the head. Always it was the head he hit
8 you.

9 Q. Did that -- and can I ask you a question? Was that
10 sore?

11 A. Really.

12 Q. And did it cause --

13 A. Aye, a few times, I had wee, tiny cuts on my head. It
14 would do it.

15 Q. How often did this happen?

16 A. It felt like he was always in a mood, all the time. And
17 in Ballikinrain they used to have a motor bike, and he
18 was in control of it, and he used to blackmail kids to
19 get a shot at it. He told me to let certain people get
20 a shot out of all of the people. It was always the same
21 ones that got to take out to the woods and get a shot,
22 always.

23 Q. Did you get a shot?

24 A. One time.

25 Q. Coming back to -- you have described it as a conker on

1 a string and you being hit by that on a number of
2 occasions; did you see any other boys being hit?

3 A. Yeah. Yeah, lots of boys.

4 Q. What was the reason behind doing it?

5 A. Just, he was always angry, I think he drank as well, but
6 he was always angry. He was never -- he was never --
7 just he was always moany.

8 Q. Now, the Inquiry has spoken to this woodwork teacher,
9 **GPB**, and he denies hitting anyone on the head. He
10 accepts that he may have hit boys on the back and the
11 legs.

12 A. That's a blatant lie, because if -- there was the
13 woodwork teacher, just say I am me and he's there, so if
14 he got annoyed he just had to do that, then walk to the
15 back and hit them. He would just do that and hit you
16 straight away.

17 LADY SMITH: You are describing him being in front of you,
18 facing you?

19 A. Yes. So if he was hitting you on the back he would have
20 to walk round you. He would just do that and hit you.
21 That's a blatant lie.

22 LADY SMITH: Was he taller than you?

23 A. Yes, he was really tall. Tall and skinny.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

25 MR MACAULAY: In the woodwork class; would you generally be

1 on your feet?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But he was able to, because he was taller?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You mentioned him. You also mentioned another member of

6 staff, I think you tell us his first name, called

7 GOZ ?

8 A. Aye, GOZ .

9 Q. What happened in connection with him?

10 A. Er, one day I was playing pool with someone and he was

11 telling us to stop -- I can't remember why he was

12 telling us to stop, but he was telling us to stop

13 playing. I was like, 'Right, we have nearly finished

14 the game. The game is nearly finished', playing

15 snooker, me and this other boy. He's like, 'No', and he

16 ran to the table and he said -- his hand with the balls,

17 grabbed me, dragged me into one of the side rooms, and

18 then started trying to punch me.

19 So I was lying back -- he flung me on the bed, so

20 I was trying to kick him with my feet. So then he took

21 off his belt and started hitting me with it.

22 Q. And where was he hitting you?

23 A. Everywhere.

24 Q. What was the result of that? Did you have any injuries?

25 A. I had marks, belt marks on my arms, my legs, my

1 shoulder. Mainly on my legs but, because I was trying
2 to kick him away.

3 Q. And were you making a noise?

4 A. Aye, I was screaming.

5 Q. Do you think that would have been heard by other members
6 of staff?

7 A. Aye, really be heard, but everybody knew what was
8 happening.

9 Q. Coming back to **GPB**'s -- the woodwork teacher's use
10 of the conker on the string, I will just refer to it as
11 that for the moment; do you think other members of staff
12 would have been aware of that practice?

13 A. Aye, because the other boys would tell -- would talk
14 amongst ourselves and tell other staff members.

15 Q. When you had a key worker, for example, who you
16 mentioned; did you tell him about these matters?

17 A. Hmm, I think **HVC** knew, but he just kept himself to
18 himself and didn't get involved, really, in anything
19 like that.

20 LADY SMITH: Just going back to **GOZ** and his belt; did his
21 belt have a buckle?

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: You may not remember, but do you remember which
24 end of the belt he held when he was hitting you with it?

25 A. Aye, he was slapping me, and then he flung me on the bed

1 and then he was trying to slap me, so I was trying to
2 kick him. So then he got mad and then he just pulled
3 off his belt and just started hitting me. So, look,
4 I think he had the buckle in his hand --

5 LADY SMITH: Right, okay.

6 A. -- and was just hitting me with it. But he done -- he
7 folded it. He did that and folded it and started
8 hitting me with it.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR MACAULAY: You do tell us that because of the way you
11 were treated you ended up with bruises and welts on your
12 legs and back.

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. Now, what were you wearing on your legs; short trousers
15 or longer trousers?

16 A. Er, maybe tracksuit bottoms and a t-shirt.

17 Q. The other member of staff you mentioned in this part of
18 your statement -- you have mentioned him previously --
19 is IKD.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can I just ask you about him? He was the one who was
22 into music; is that --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell me just a little bit about your involvement
25 with him?

1 A. Well, he used to have a big fancy car and all that, and
2 he used to say things, that he worked in the music
3 industry, and he'd a big house and all that. All that
4 kind of stuff.

5 And then he would take you to his house. And when
6 you go into his house, up to an attic and there were
7 tonnes of CDs, and then he would show you, and he would
8 say, 'Look, I produced ..."

9 Whatever. And his name would be on the CDs. More
10 or less he was trying to show off.

11 Q. Okay. But nothing actually happened, other than being
12 shown the CDs?

13 A. Aye, no. Just -- no, wouldn't let anything happen.

14 Q. Now, can I come back, 'William', to the time your mother
15 died? You have already told us that she did visit you
16 once in Ballikinrain?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think you mentioned that this was on an occasion when
19 you had run away that you found out she had died?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me about that?

22 A. Yes, I had run away and I was in my friend's house in
23 Ruchill, where I am from, and then my mum's friend's boy
24 came to my friend's door, and he said to us, whatever,
25 and he's like, 'Listen, your cousin's on the stair, you

1 need to go down there', and I was like, 'For what?' I
2 was like, 'No, I am not going back to the home'.
3 I thought he was there to get me back to the home. And
4 he was like, 'No, you need to go down there now, you
5 need to go down there now', and I went down, and the
6 lights weren't knocked off in the close, it wasn't dark,
7 so it was bright, and then she had a wee Metro. The
8 door -- she came out her car driver's seat, and I saw my
9 brother sitting in the back greetin' and I knew what had
10 happened. I just knew.

11 Q. And what impact did that have on you at that time?

12 A. That was me, alone.

13 Q. Did you find out that she had in fact committed suicide?

14 A. Yeah. I found out a lot of things. Like, I found out,
15 like, my mum got -- she got actually raped by a police
16 officer. I didn't know that at the time.

17 Q. No. That's something you found out later on?

18 A. Later on, yes. Which I am actually -- the police are
19 actually coming to see me about it.

20 Q. Okay. Now then, can I come to when you come to leave
21 Ballikinrain?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You tell us in your statement, at paragraph 28, that you
24 left after you had been there for about two years or so;
25 is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You would probably be about 14 at that time?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. In about 1998?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What you say in paragraph 28 is you left because the
7 staff said you were too old?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But you actually were quite young, younger than some of
10 the other boys?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So --

13 A. They said I had outgrew it.

14 Q. And what was your attitude to leaving?

15 A. I was just, like -- I didn't -- because I was just going
16 to somewhere else I didn't know. I just didn't --
17 because I was familiar with it, so I didn't want to go.

18 Q. Was it that very same day that you were told you were
19 going that you left?

20 A. Then the car to take me.

21 Q. You say in that paragraph:
22 'Looking back, I would say that the staff in
23 Ballikinrain were nasty people that tormented the boys,
24 both physically and mentally. It was disgraceful.'
25 Can I ask you to develop that as best you can?

1 A. Just -- obviously, hindsight is a good thing. But, at
2 the time, we knew some of the things were -- like,
3 people that were more quieter, that were more recluse,
4 they would get -- treat them different to people that
5 weren't, like, people that would have a mouth or say
6 things. Like, they would take them on holiday and all
7 that. I never got to go on holiday or anything like
8 that, but they would take them to places at night time,
9 as well.

10 There was a staff member, **IKE**, he had a tuck shop
11 and he would take only selected few people down to this
12 tuck shop to get stuff, and they would be down there
13 for, like, two or three hours.

14 Q. I can see that, favouring other boys --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- who were quieter boys, you are saying?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When you say they were nasty people that tormented the
19 boys, I just want to flesh that out. What do you mean
20 by saying they were nasty and tormented boys, physically
21 and mentally?

22 A. Well, hitting you, and daily. Every day just hitting
23 you. It was wrong. And then you would get hit by
24 things, like I say, like **GPB** would do. Like **GOZ**
25 used to hit you with a belt. A lot of staff would hit

1 you, just hit you. That's all. Like they wouldn't
2 think, they would just hit you.

3 Q. How would they hit you?

4 A. Slap you or whatever, in front of anybody. Or they
5 would drag you into a room and physically hit you.

6 Q. You have told us about the incident with **GOZ** --

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. -- taking you to a room and hitting you with the belt.
9 But did that happen to you in relation to any other
10 members of staff?

11 A. Yes. I remember, like, everybody was away for the
12 weekend, so there was only so many boys in the school.
13 So we all got put down to -- I can't remember the name
14 of the unit, because there was only a few of us in.
15 I can't remember the staff member's name.

16 But he used to hit you. He came in -- we were
17 sitting playing the computer, and obviously it was the
18 weekend, because other people were out on leave, and he
19 said we were being too loud and told us to be quiet. So
20 we weren't paying him any attention. And then, again,
21 he's just came in and grabbed us and took us in the
22 room, and he grabbed me up in one of the wee rooms, up
23 against the wall, started cussing at me, swearing at me,
24 and he said, 'I warned you, to help you', and then he
25 said I was to stay in there all weekend.

1 Q. Did you see other boys being hit?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. By staff members?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In what way?

6 A. I seen lots of people hit. I seen people being slapped,
7 punched, kicked.

8 Q. You left in about 1998, so we are talking into the late
9 1990s --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- when you say this behaviour was going on with staff?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Now, I think when you came to leave Ballikinrain,
14 you were taken to a place called St John's; is that
15 right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You tell us about St John's in the next number of
18 paragraphs. In paragraph 34, the reason you came to
19 leave St John's was because you ran away and you stole
20 a car; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. After being at St John's; were you then taken to
23 Kerelaw?

24 A. Kerelaw.

25 Q. How old do you think you were when you went to Kerelaw?

1 A. Er, 13/14.

2 Q. Okay. As you tell us in paragraph 35, Kerelaw consists
3 of an open school and the other part is a secure unit?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Which part were you put into?

6 A. Secure unit.

7 Q. Was that because you kept running away from places?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What you tell us in 36, is that you were in the secure
10 unit for about a year; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. There were girls as well as boys in the secure unit?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. Again, you say the food was alright?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. As far as the sleeping arrangements were concerned; can
17 you tell me about that? What was the set up in Kerelaw?

18 A. You went in and you had units 1, 2 and 3. A unit there,
19 an unit there and a unit there, and then you had a wee
20 door there, with stairs to go up, and that would be
21 where the rooms were, for the people that were kept
22 there.

23 Q. And were these single rooms?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In your time either at Ballikinrain or at Kerelaw; were

1 you ever visited by a social worker?

2 A. Never.

3 Q. Now, let's look to see what happened to you at Kerelaw.

4 At 41, you say if you spoke back to the staff they

5 would beat you up and put you in this little room.

6 A. Yes, like a wee -- they called it the silent room.

7 There was nothing in it. Just it was a wee tiny room

8 with just concrete walls, and they would fling you in

9 there with no clothes on.

10 Q. The beating up part; could you help me with that? What

11 happened?

12 A. The staff would just start restraining you and would

13 shout 'Lock 1, lock 2' and while they were doing that

14 they were nearly breaking your arms. And they would

15 punch you, slap you, and say things, 'Do you think you

16 are a ... do you think this? Do you think that?'.

17 Q. You do say that there were plastic ties that would be

18 used to bind your wrists and your ankles?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How many members of staff would be involved in the

21 process of putting you into this little room?

22 A. Well, if they were restraining you, there would be,

23 like, six, because they would actually restrain you.

24 Thingmy your arms and your legs and then lift you and

25 take you into the room. Or actually fling you into the

1 room.

2 Q. As far as being fed is concerned; how did you get your
3 food?

4 A. When you were in there, you very rarely got anything.
5 They would come and say, 'Right, we'll get you something
6 to eat and give you a drink and that', but a day or two,
7 you could go without getting nothing, absolutely
8 nothing. They wouldn't even come and let us -- the
9 door, the hatch or nothing. They would just punch you
10 in there.

11 Q. Were you in that room more than once?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How often would you be put in that particular room?

14 A. I would be in six, seven, eight times.

15 Q. And how long generally would you --

16 A. The longest I was in, it was for four days.

17 LADY SMITH: What was that for?

18 A. Fighting with another boy.

19 LADY SMITH: Was he put in a cell as well?

20 A. No, he was in -- he had been in for a long time. He was
21 actually in for murder.

22 LADY SMITH: Right, okay.

23 A. And he was there for a long time. I wasn't, so he knew
24 the staff. So I got put in there, he didn't.

25 LADY SMITH: Okay.

1 A. He got put in his own room.

2 MR MACAULAY: Yes, you mentioned the particular offence that
3 he was in for; were there boys there, and girls indeed,
4 who were there for different sorts of offences?

5 A. I was only -- not only there for stealing cars and
6 running away, but I was a Panel warder. I -- and I was
7 always the youngest. And everybody else was always
8 convicted at court for murder, kidnapping social
9 workers, like, very serious. It was all over the news
10 and that, the crimes that they had done.

11 Q. One thing you tell us, at paragraph 43, is when you were
12 involved in having exercise you would speak to other
13 boys and other girls from the open school?

14 A. The open school.

15 Q. What information did you learn?

16 A. Like, the staff were sleeping with the girls and that,
17 and they would be just -- they could do anything they
18 wanted. And they would be drinking, smoking, just do
19 whatever they wanted. Even the stage I was there, I was
20 out one day and there was a boy in his unit and he had
21 the doors open and he had all saucers you put a cup in,
22 and he was just skiting them along the road. And it was
23 like a compound, so ... but nobody done anything.

24 Q. You also suggest there were boys and girls who were
25 having sexual relations?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Were you told that?

3 A. Yes -- no, I know that.

4 Q. How do you know that?

5 A. Because I had a child with a girl there.

6 Q. I will come to you in a moment. But other boys and
7 girls; what made you think that they were having sexual
8 relations?

9 A. Oh, they tell you -- they would tell you.

10 Q. Now, apart from the physical abuse you have talked
11 about; what about being verbally abused by staff?

12 A. Yeah, all the time they would verbally abuse you.

13 Q. Can you give me some feel for what would be said?

14 A. 'Do you think you are a wido? Do you think you are
15 a hard man? Shut your wee arse hole. You are a wee
16 wanker. Just fuck off you wee prick', things like that.
17 Like, daily.

18 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 45, that Kerelaw was probably
19 the worst of the places that you were in?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I think we have touched upon this already, but you never
22 saw a social worker during your time in Kerelaw?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Now, you mentioned that you had a sexual relationship as
25 well --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- in Kerelaw?

3 A. No, it was in St Mary's.

4 Q. Yes, I am going to come to that.

5 Now then, I think you were told after Kerelaw that

6 you were to go to an open school, and that was at

7 Kibble?

8 A. Kibble.

9 Q. What age were you when you went to Kibble?

10 A. So, a year. So, like, 15.

11 Q. Were you told why you were going to Kibble?

12 A. Er, I had been in there for a year, so they just says

13 that they are going to move me to an open school, to see

14 how I was, and they needed the bed.

15 Q. Had you been in the secure unit for the whole year?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think, in fact, though, as far as Kibble was

18 concerned, you were only there a few weeks?

19 A. Yes, I was only there for three weeks.

20 Q. And did you run away when you were in Kibble?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Now, was it after that you went to Longriggend?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You talk about that in paragraph 51.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You go on to talk about what happened to you at
2 Longriggend. As I said at the beginning, that's part of
3 the evidence already.

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. Is there anything you feel yourself you want to say
6 about that, in general terms?

7 A. No, that's fine, that's fine.

8 Q. After you left Longriggend, the next place you went to
9 was St Mary's Kenmure in Bishopbriggs?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were you going to a secure unit?

12 A. Secure unit.

13 Q. Again, was that a mixed establishment?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. So it had boys and girls?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you have any sense as to how many boys and girls were
18 there at the time you were there, in the secure unit?

19 A. Er, no more than 50.

20 Q. And you would be about, what, 15 by now?

21 A. Yes. I think, yes.

22 Q. You talk about the key worker that you had at St Mary's,
23 and you name him. You say he was brand new?

24 A. Big John, yeah.

25 Q. So you got on well with him, did you?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. I think this is where you say you got one of the girls
3 pregnant?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. How did you get into a relationship? How were you able
6 to get into a relationship with this girl?

7 A. Because we were in the same unit. We were just
8 together, sitting.

9 Q. But this was a secure unit?

10 A. Yeah, it was a secure unit.

11 Q. Were there other boys and girls, as far as you were
12 aware, that were having sexual relations in that unit?

13 A. Er, yes.

14 Q. How do you know that?

15 A. One other girl and a boy.

16 Q. And how do you know?

17 A. Because they told me. I have seen them. I have seen
18 them actually doing it.

19 Q. When you say, at paragraph 61:
20 'Sex between boys and girls at St Mary's was fairly
21 common.'

22 Was that your state of knowledge at the time?

23 A. Mm-hm, yeah.

24 Q. Now, when you got -- when this young girl became
25 pregnant; what age was she?

1 A. Er, she -- I was either 14 or 15, and she was a year
2 younger than me.

3 Q. And what happened then?

4 A. We were together and then she got pregnant. The staff
5 and that knew. And then they got -- they shipped her
6 out to foster carers.

7 Q. What was the staff's reaction to discovering that
8 a young girl in their care had become pregnant?

9 A. They didn't say anything.

10 LADY SMITH: Did you get any advice about contraception?

11 A. No, they just shipped the girl out and then she had my
12 son.

13 MR MACAULAY: Now, as far as visitors when you were at
14 St Mary's Kenmure -- because then I think you tell us
15 that your uncle did visit regularly?

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. Were you aware of any inspections being carried out?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did any inspectors speak to you at any point?

20 A. What about?

21 Q. Well, just about life in St Mary's?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you own up to being the father of the child?

24 A. Yes. Yes, I told them.

25 Q. And did anything happen? Were you given any advice?

1 A. No, like I says, they moved her to foster care and then
2 she had the kid. And then as soon as she had the kid
3 she came up to visit me.

4 LADY SMITH: So they moved the girl to foster care while she
5 was still pregnant?

6 A. Yes, and then when she had the kid she came up and
7 visited me.

8 LADY SMITH: Was she able to keep your son?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: And have you been able to see him?

11 A. Yes, right up to he was -- I have seen him, yes. Still.
12 He stays in Stirling.

13 LADY SMITH: All right, because he will be much older now,
14 in his 20s?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR MACAULAY: Running away -- you talk about that at
18 paragraph 66 -- you did try to break out on one
19 occasion; could you tell me about that?

20 A. Yes, there is a new St Mary's built. [REDACTED],
21 [REDACTED]. But, the old St Mary's, like, it was
22 obviously bullet proof windows and glass and that
23 anyway. But I'd wrote my friends a letter and told them
24 where the cameras was and that and what room I was in,
25 and to bring ladders, and moved the cameras. I drew

1 them a wee map. So they came to try to break me out.

2 Q. It was quite a planned enterprise, then?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What happened?

5 A. I got caught and I got charged with attempted prison

6 breaking.

7 Q. And were you convicted?

8 A. No.

9 Q. I think you tell us you may have been sentenced to nine

10 months for this?

11 A. I think I did. I can't remember.

12 Q. In any event, did you continue to serve that sentence?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At St Mary's?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. Now, in relation to other abuse, what you tell us at

17 paragraph 67 is that the staff would regularly kick you,

18 slap you, punch you or give you a dead leg?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And this was a daily occurrence, was it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you look upon this as a normal way of life?

23 A. Yes, really.

24 Q. And when you were restrained; would straps be used in

25 that process?

1 A. Yeah, they would use their hands and they would say
2 'Lock 1, lock 2, lock 3, lock 4', but then they would
3 use, like, straps to -- around your thighs, your ankles,
4 around your wrists.

5 Q. You tell us that you came to leave St Mary's:
6 'When they opened the door one day and told me I was
7 free to go.'

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So it was really as sudden as that, was it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And when you left; did you go to your older brother's
12 house?

13 A. Yes. He wasn't in, but.

14 Q. I'm sorry?

15 A. He wasn't in.

16 LADY SMITH: Was he still living at the same house?

17 A. Yes, he was.

18 LADY SMITH: So at least he hadn't moved away.

19 A. Yes. He had not moved away. I didn't know I was
20 getting out, they let me out and then I just went to his
21 house. He wasn't there. So I just left the bag of
22 stuff I had at the door and then went about Ruchill.
23 But I ended up -- I got picked up by the police later
24 on.

25 Q. I think what you say in your statement, at 69:

1 'Because I had been in care since I was 9 years old
2 and locked up again and again, when I got out [that's
3 from St Mary's] I would squeeze lots of things in.'

4 So, in a very short period of time, you did a number
5 of things?

6 A. Yes. Like, because I was always locked up all my life,
7 when I got out for a few hours I would do millions of
8 things that I would think I would do. I would go to
9 town do get this, and then I would be away with my
10 friends drinking, and then probably in a stolen car or
11 something, or whatever. And then in the space of a few
12 hours I would be back in, get lifted by the police.

13 Q. I think you are only free, if I can put it that way, for
14 a few hours?

15 A. Yes, only a few hours, yes.

16 Q. Then you were caught, you went to court, and you were
17 eventually sentenced to 18 months; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What you tell us, initially, you were remanded in
20 Barlinnie, and you were there for four months?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You then talk about your time in Barlinnie. As I said
23 to you before, 'William', that's been read-in.

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. Thereafter, looking at paragraph 83, you spent time in

1 Polmont?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Again, it has been read-in, but what you say is Polmont
4 was nothing like Barlinnie; it was a lot better?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If I can take you to your life after care, you start
7 telling us about that at paragraph 93. You begin by
8 telling us that you were released from Polmont after you
9 turned 18; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But you were inside again, I think, for what you say was
12 stupid things?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you give the example of using a false name --

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. -- on one occasion and being arrested for that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Now, at paragraph 95, you tell us that your partner and
19 you have been together now for 21 years?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So you are in a stable -- have been in a stable
22 relationship --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- for quite some time; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How have you been getting on -- how did you get on with
2 the police, certainly in the earlier parts of that
3 relationship? Did you have problems?

4 A. Well, I used to tell my partner, like, the police would
5 always treat me different. She would just say 'Right'.
6 I remember one time -- as soon as I seen the police,
7 I would run. Just automatic, run. If they ever stopped
8 me I would give a different name, just because that's
9 what I was used to, running away from the home.

10 But, this time, it was me, my partner, my friend,
11 the police came and I ran, and then the police ended
12 up -- they caught us down a wee lane, with bushes and
13 that. But my partner had just finished work. They had
14 taken her in a car and she was in the car, and then she
15 heard over the radio 'Come here' -- whatever it is. But
16 they ended up taking her to where I was, and they said,
17 'Do you think your boyfriend's a hard man?' and then
18 they took her out the car and made her watch while they
19 had me handcuffed and battering me.

20 Q. So your partner witnessed this?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And what you say is they battered you with truncheons?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What you do tell us, at 96, 'William', is your partner
25 helped a lot and you began to settle down, and that you

1 now have three children?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Now, at 99, if I move on to there, you tell us that

4 in December 2021 you went into a coma?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you just give me -- just elaborate on that; what

7 happened?

8 A. I went into a coma. It was my pancreatitis. It was

9 through drinking. I was getting a pain and I was going

10 to the doctor's, going to the hospital, and they were

11 saying it was nothing. And then it got that bad, like,

12 the poison at the time through my body, it got that bad,

13 I ended up in a coma for eight months.

14 Q. And when you came out of the coma?

15 A. When I came out of the coma I couldn't walk. I couldn't

16 talk or anything, and I was only six/seven stone. I had

17 to learn to walk and talk again.

18 Q. Now, you talk about your children. Just tell us about

19 that. They are very polite and you are not too strict

20 with them; is that correct?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. Now, reporting to the police, you say:

23 'After the first time I spoke to the Inquiry I was

24 contacted by the police just before Christmas last year

25 and then two CID officers came and noted down everywhere

1 I had been in care.'

2 Did you give a statement to the police about being
3 in care?

4 A. Yes, they were just asking me general stuff. Yes, about
5 the care, yes.

6 Q. Looking at impact, you say that due to the length of
7 time that you have been in care you believe you have
8 been institutionalised; can you explain to me what you
9 mean by that?

10 A. Like, when I used to get out, I was only out for a few
11 hours and then back in. And then, like, when I was out
12 with my partner, my partner started to notice that I had
13 been out for, like, a few days and then it would turn to
14 weeks and she started to notice that I was acting
15 different. I started to think things. And it was --
16 she says it was as if I wanted to get back behind bars,
17 really.

18 Q. What, I think, you tell us, in paragraph 107, is that
19 being locked up and being battered, notwithstanding that
20 you wanted to go back to prison:

21 'That's where I believed I belonged. That was my
22 home.'

23 A. Yes, that's all I knew.

24 Q. You tell us that you have nightmares?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What are the nightmares about?

2 A. Different -- different things. My partner says, like,
3 when I am sleeping and that, sometimes she says that,
4 like, she hears me, like, crying when I am sleeping, or
5 looking for my mum. And then just other things, like,
6 she -- I will just say things, she says. But she
7 doesn't know what it is that I'm saying -- what it means
8 or anything. It is just a lot of times she says she's
9 woke and heard me crying when I am sleeping.

10 Q. One of the things you do tell us, at 109, is that you
11 were never taught how to read or write?

12 A. No.

13 Q. You had no education?

14 A. No, I taught myself.

15 Q. What about your experience at Ballikinrain? There was
16 schooling there, but I think you tell us it wasn't
17 education?

18 A. No, it wasn't.

19 Q. But, clearly, from what you tell us at paragraph 110,
20 your partner has been a great help to you?

21 A. Yes, the best. Really, the best part of my life, yeah.

22 Q. The way you have put it: she has grounded you?

23 A. Yes. If it wasn't for my partner, I don't think I would
24 be here today. Meaning alive.

25 Q. If we look at a section in your statement that looks at

1 lessons to be learned, at 115, I think it was your
2 partner who learned of the existence of this Inquiry; is
3 that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. That was when you were in a coma, and you are happy to
6 give your account of what happened to you, because you
7 hope it will help other people?

8 A. Yes, really.

9 Q. You say that what happened to you was a total injustice?

10 A. Really. Like, really, I couldn't imagine that my kids
11 just now -- my daughter's 8 and my other son, [REDACTED], is
12 12, and my other boy's 16. When I was their age, I was
13 going into care. I couldn't imagine them being put into
14 an environment that I had been put into.

15 In those places, nobody was ever happy because you
16 were in with people that were in for murder and
17 everything. It was always down, so you couldn't be
18 happy. So that's the way you always were.

19 Q. You have told us already -- if we focus on
20 Ballikinrain -- that there were young boys there who
21 were vulnerable?

22 A. Yes, totally, totally. Like, they were really -- like,
23 you were more streetwise and then you could see the
24 difference. Like, they were totally vulnerable. I even
25 says to my partner, 'I wish that I had done a lot more',

1 but I couldn't.

2 Q. And your view, at 116, is a lot of the staff in these
3 places clearly had no training?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Why do you say that?

6 A. Because I remember the staff member started, [REDACTED]. She
7 just applied for the job and she got it, and she told us
8 that.

9 Q. At 117, I think you are harking back to what you have
10 already said, and you ask the question:

11 'Why are you repeatedly beating a 11-year old boy
12 with a belt when he is in your care and you are
13 a 30-odd-year-old man, because you didn't like what he
14 said?'

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think that's a question you are asking, and you would
17 say the answer to that -- the obvious answer is it
18 shouldn't happen?

19 A. It should never -- never should it happen.

20 Q. And you say, at 118:

21 'Sitting down one-to-one with youngsters and
22 speaking to them, building a rapport, would be more
23 beneficial, than sending them to a home or putting them
24 into a room themselves.'

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Very well, 'William', these are all the questions I have
2 for you today; is there anything else you, yourself,
3 would like to say?

4 A. Er, no, no, that's everything, thank you.

5 MR MACAULAY: Okay. Well, thank you for providing your
6 statement and coming to answer my questions.

7 A. No, that's absolutely fine.

8 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I can confirm that no questions have
9 been submitted to be put to 'William'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 'William', I would like to add my thanks --

12 A. Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: -- both for your written statement and for
14 coming here today and bearing with us, as we have
15 questioned you on so many things in the time you have
16 been sitting in that seat. I am sure it can't have been
17 easy to have us delve into your memory the way we have
18 done. But it is really helpful to the work that we are
19 doing here to have heard you --

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: -- as we have done. So thank you for that.
22 I am now able to let you go.

23 A. Thank you very much, thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: Now, I have four names, before I rise for the

1 lunch break, of people whose identities mustn't be
2 disclosed as being part of our evidence outside this
3 room. And they are HVC, GPB, the woodwork
4 teacher, who I think we have established is probably
5 GPB, GOZ and IKD.

6 So it is a little bit before 1.00, but I think we
7 should stop for the lunch break now and sit again at
8 2 o'clock.

9 MR MACAULAY: Yes, and this afternoon we will have read-ins.

10 LADY SMITH: Move on read-ins this afternoon, yes. Thank
11 you very much for that.

12 (12.56 pm)

13 (The luncheon adjournment)

14 (2.00 pm)

15 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

16 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady, we have an afternoon of read-ins
17 in store for your Ladyship this afternoon.

18 LADY SMITH: Good.

19 MR MACAULAY: The first read-in is from an applicant,
20 John Harrison.

21 John Harrison (read)

22 MR MACAULAY: His statement is at WIT.001.001.5608.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR MACAULAY: John was born in 1972. He begins, at
25 paragraph 2, by telling us a little bit about life

1 before going into care:

2 'My parents were [he names them] ... my father took
3 his own life on [REDACTED] 1986. He was in the care of
4 Gartloch Mental Hospital at that time. My mother died
5 on [REDACTED] 1981, when she was in the Southern
6 General Hospital.'

7 [REDACTED] So he would
8 have been 8 when his mother died.

9 He goes on to say that he had a hatred towards his
10 father. His father got remarried, six months after his
11 mother's death:

12 'My father didn't get on with my mother's family.
13 I know my father had a motorbike accident and I don't
14 know if this had an effect on his mental health.

15 'It was after my mum died that I first came to the
16 notice of the social work. The social work had never
17 been involved with us before this. It might have been
18 because of my father's mental illness. My grandmother,
19 from my mum's side, wanted custody [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED].'

21 He describes the family home and the connection
22 between the grandmother:

23 'My father wouldn't let [REDACTED] granny, but she
24 would always turn up at school every Friday, at 3.00, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]. It wasn't a legal custody battle; my gran just

1 wanted access [REDACTED]. Eventually my father relented
2 and [REDACTED] able to go and see my gran every Sunday.

3 'The difficulties for [REDACTED] me were that my
4 father was in and out of hospital with his mental health
5 issues. After my father committed suicide, [REDACTED] went to
6 stay at my gran and grandfather's house.'

7 He goes on to say, at paragraph 9:

8 'I was about 14 or 15 when I started staying out
9 late at night and playing truant from school. I was
10 tall and I think I looked older than I was. I was gay
11 and became a rent boy. Looking back now, as an adult,
12 I was mistaking people caring for me and thinking this
13 was good news. I know now that this wasn't the case.

14 'When I was 15 I ran away to London. This was when
15 the social work became involved big time. I was found
16 in London and flown back to Glasgow. I was met by two
17 social workers and two police officers.'

18 Then he was taken to an assessment centre. My Lady,
19 can I say that assessment centre will feature in a later
20 chapter --

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MACAULAY: -- in this case study.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes, of course.

24 MR MACAULAY: So I can go on to paragraph 30, where he talks
25 about leaving the assessment centre and going into what

1 he describes as a sort of halfway house for leaving care
2 that was run by an old woman. He ran away -- if we go
3 to 33:

4 'I ran away again to London. As I had the
5 supervision order hanging over me I knew I had to go
6 back to get that sorted out. I was still in contact
7 with my social worker, Liz Reid, at this time.

8 'I can't remember the exact date, but when I came
9 back from London I had to attend another children's
10 hearing. I was sent to Geilsland by the children's
11 hearing whilst the supervision order was rescinded.'

12 He goes on to describe the location. He was
13 probably aged 15 in 1987, when he went to Geilsland. At
14 36:

15 'I can't remember my first day, but I do recall
16 being shown round and informed about the house rules.
17 It was a big Victorian-style building in its own
18 grounds. I had my own room. I think that there were
19 also dormitories.

20 'Geilsland was a single sex establishment. There
21 were about 50 boys aged between 10 and 16 years old.
22 There were 20 residential staff who worked on a rotating
23 basis. I think that there were separate units within
24 the building.

25 'I don't think that Geilsland was an appropriate

1 establishment for me as I was under supervision. Others
2 that were there were under lockdown for carrying out
3 muggings. In saying that, I don't think that [the
4 assessment centre] was an appropriate place for me
5 either.

6 'You didn't have to wear a uniform at Geilsland.
7 There was access to showers and cleaning facilities.'

8 He then goes on to talk about aspects of the
9 routine, such as what happened in the mornings, at
10 bedtime, the food, chores and school. If I can pick it
11 up there, 43:

12 'I didn't do any schooling at Geilsland as I had
13 already sat my exams. As a result my routine was
14 different to the other residents. I was basically
15 allowed out and about. I used to get a daily travel
16 allowance, which was about £3 or £4. I would go on day
17 trips and visit my auntie. I was left to my own devices
18 most of the time. I also got pocket money to use at the
19 shop on the premises to buy soft drinks and sweets.'

20 He goes on to talk about other aspects of the
21 routine. Moving on to paragraph 47:

22 'I didn't celebrate any birthdays or Christmas while
23 I was at Geilsland. I was only there a short time.'

24 And he goes on to say, at 48:

25 'As with the assessment centre, there were regular

1 visits allowed at Geilsland. Liz Reid visited me on
2 a number of occasions. Visits from my gran and grandad
3 were limited, as neither of them could drive. I can't
4 recall any inspections.'

5 Then, my Lady, there is a section headed 'Abuse'
6 that I will read:

7 'I never saw any violence or the staff being
8 physical towards other residents.

9 'One of the staff, HNK [REDACTED], sort of
10 befriended me. We both liked military history. We got
11 on well. I would say that this went on for a couple of
12 months. HNK [REDACTED] was a care worker, I think. He was
13 aged around late 40s or early 50s.

14 'Eventually HNK [REDACTED] asked me if I wanted to go on
15 a trip to Islay, leaving from Oban. I don't know how he
16 managed it, but I was discharged into his care
17 overnight.

18 'I remember the drive to his home ... he put his
19 hand on my leg and said "Don't worry John, I know what
20 you like". From his access to my records he would have
21 known I was gay. HNK [REDACTED] was married, but when we got
22 to his house there was no one home.

23 'I slept on the sofa bed in his living room. At
24 various points throughout the night he would come in the
25 room and try to abuse me. He tried to touch me in

1 a sexual way. He pestered me constantly. As
2 an ex-street worker I knew how to deal with these
3 things. All through the night he was there trying
4 things. He had pornographic material and he was
5 masturbating.

6 'I started to doubt myself and question my
7 self-worth. Everything leading up to this was so that
8 he could try it on with me. HNK had groomed me and
9 I felt let down. It was very hurtful that he had seen
10 me as a sex object.

11 'The next day we went on the coach trip to Islay.
12 It was just a day trip. HNK said to me "Don't
13 forget I can get you kept in until you are 21". After
14 the trip we went back to his house, picked up the car
15 and drove straight to the home. I felt that after what
16 he had said to me, he was trying to hold a sword of
17 Damocles over me.

18 'Even after this I found out that he had went to my
19 auntie's. She told me later "The nice man, HNK" had
20 visited her to ask how I was. I thought this was him
21 trying to control me.

22 'He never tried anything else on with me. If I saw
23 him, most of the time it was silence. After this I was
24 even more resentful of authority.

25 'I left Geilsland in 1989, aged 17. This was after

1 a children's hearing lifted the supervision order.

2 'There was no aftercare when I left Geilsland.
3 There was nothing done to prepare me for life after
4 care. I'm not sure if it would have helped me anyway.

5 'I don't think I had any life skills, but I feel
6 that you learn these as you go through life.'

7 He then looks at life after care and, at 61, he
8 tells us that at one point, for example, he was
9 a minicab driver for a time in London.

10 At 62:

11 'When I turned 40 it all started to go wrong.
12 I started to dwell on what happened to me. I questioned
13 my self-confidence and why I had been put into care.
14 I began to use drugs. This ended up with me being
15 stopped in my car by the police in Notting Hill. I had
16 no insurance and had drugs in my possession. When the
17 police went to my house they found cannabis plants. As
18 a result of this, I went to the doctor and asked for
19 help. I managed to move on from that chapter. I feel
20 it made me stronger.

21 'About ten years ago when I was drunk I phoned
22 Geilsland. I think I was put through to the headmaster.
23 I told him what had happened to me when I was with
24 HNK . I was told that he had been dismissed after
25 a similar incident. I was also informed that HNK

1 was now deceased.

2 'In 2011, I contacted the Church of Scotland and
3 spoke with Jennifer Milligan, the safeguarding officer.
4 I met with her in 2013 and discussed counselling.
5 Jennifer confirmed HNK was deceased and that he had
6 been dismissed from Geilsland for incidents similar to
7 what happened to me.

8 'The church's intentions were good, but their
9 actions were poor. They were helpful, but I found that
10 they never got back to you when they said they would.

11 'In 2016, I went to Forest Gate police station in
12 London and reported what had happened to me. I spoke
13 with [a police constable] ... I felt for me this was
14 a useful exercise.

15 'The impact on me as a result of being in care was
16 that I had a lack of respect for authority. I developed
17 a mistrust for a lot of things.

18 'There was no structure to my care. I don't think
19 they knew what to do with me. I felt unwanted and you
20 think about the reasons why. I never had anywhere that
21 I could call home. I was very envious of other people
22 and I missed opportunities that others had.

23 'I understand now why I was put into care; that it
24 was for the good of me [REDACTED]. I used to hate
25 my dad, but now I wish I knew him.'

1 And he goes on to say he has had no access to his
2 records.

3 At 71, he says:

4 'I think intermittently about my time in care. It
5 should have been time better spent.

6 'I have contacted Future Pathways, a survivors
7 group. I am now speaking to a support coordinator. He
8 is providing help and support to me. I think I make
9 excuses not to go to counselling. It is something,
10 however, I am considering. I don't suffer from
11 depression, but I can feel a bit anxious.

12 'It should be remembered when people are in care
13 that they are still children. When you come out of care
14 there should be support available. Ongoing support
15 should be provided until you are ready to leave.'

16 He goes on to say:

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

21 And John has signed the statement on

22 1 September 2017.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 Ms MacLeod, when you are ready.

25 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is is another read-in. This is

1 of a witness statement by an applicant who will use the
2 pseudonym 'Scott'.

3 'Scott' (read)

4 MS MACLEOD: His witness statement can be found at
5 WIT.001.002.1102:

6 'My name is 'Scott', I was born in 1956. A lot of
7 the places I am going to talk about in this statement
8 have bad reputations. I stayed in most of the places
9 for short spells. It is difficult for me to say exactly
10 how long I was in each place, when I arrived there or
11 when I left. My memory isn't great on that sort of
12 thing. I am very forgetful. I remember all the places
13 I was in, but I don't always remember some of the
14 detail.

15 'I lived with my mother and father and older
16 brother, older sister and younger sister before going
17 into care. I was brought up in Glasgow. We lived in
18 a wee single end. It was a ground floor tenement flat.
19 The six of us slept in one double bed. There wasn't
20 enough room to swing a cat.

21 'Life in the house was horrendous. I had a mother
22 and father who were never there. My father worked in
23 a bookmaker's marking the boards. If he wasn't there he
24 was in the pub. He drank and gambled. I remember the
25 electricity and gas at home being cut off. Because

1 there was no gas my father had to do all the cooking
2 over a coal fire. The chip pan and tea pot were thick
3 with soot. I was made to break into coal bunkers to
4 steal coal for the fire. I remember trying to break
5 padlocks to get the coal out of people's bunkers. My
6 mother used to buy candles to light the place. It got
7 to the stage where she couldn't afford to buy the
8 candles anymore. My father had gambled all our money
9 away. There was no light in the house. I was sent up
10 to St Charles' Chapel to steal candles. I had to go out
11 and steal clothes off washing ropes because I didn't
12 have any clothes. We had nothing. I was only a wee boy
13 when I was doing these types of things.

14 'I went to a [local primary school] ... when I got
15 home from school there would be nobody in the house.
16 I was left to roam the streets. ... I was like
17 a starving fox roaming the streets looking for something
18 to eat. I recall going into pubs and shouting for my
19 father. I remember a time when me and my mother and
20 another wee boy ran back to my school and broke a window
21 to get in to the dining hall. We took the glass out of
22 the window and crawled through it. We did that because
23 we were looking for something to eat. We were starving.

24 'I remember being stripped naked by my mother when
25 I was 7 or 8. That was about 1963. She picked me up,

1 stood me on a chair and beat me with an old fashioned
2 carpet beater. I was beaten from my ankles to the neck.
3 I was squealing blue murder. All the neighbours came
4 running out when they heard me. They tried to help me.
5 The police and social workers became involved. That was
6 when I was taken away from the family home. I can't
7 recall whether that was the first time social workers
8 became involved.

9 'The next thing that I remember is leaving the
10 entrance of Glasgow City Council and being put in a big
11 black car. The man driving the car was in a ... green
12 suit and wore a hat.'

13 Between paragraphs 10 and 33, the witness speaks
14 about being in a children's home in Pollokshields when
15 he was aged 9.

16 I will move to paragraph 33. At paragraph 33, the
17 witness speaks about a short period of time when he was
18 back at home, and that during that period he was
19 sexually abused, he says, by a neighbour.

20 Between paragraphs 34 and 44 of the statement, the
21 witness speaks about his time at Larchgrove Remand Home.
22 That part of this witness's evidence was read-in to the
23 hearings and to the transcript on the 12th of this
24 month, Day 427.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: From paragraphs 45 to 67 of this statement, the
2 witness speaks about his time at Balrossie School.
3 I don't propose to read that section for now, other than
4 to look at two particular paragraphs which have
5 a bearing on a part of the statement that I am going to
6 read. Those are paragraphs 55 and 56. This is in
7 relation to Balrossie:

8 'When I went into the shower room on my first day
9 there was no member of staff in there. No one stayed in
10 the shower room to supervise. There was a guy in there
11 who was another resident. I would later learn his name
12 ... and that he came from Paisley. His family came from
13 there. That was his territory. He was dark haired and
14 hairy. He was under the shower. He came over to me
15 swinging his private parts about. He said things to me.
16 He told me to do this and that with his private parts.
17 He then imposed himself on me. There was nobody there
18 to stop him doing what he did to me.

19 'I later on got moved upstairs into a dorm. The boy
20 who had abused me was in a different dorm. I had to
21 meet this boy at night in the toilet. I had to give him
22 wanks and gobbles. He would make me turn up at
23 a certain time of night and make me do that. He had
24 a hold over me. Part of his hold on me was that he said
25 that he would tell the bullies what I was doing to him

1 if I didn't carry on doing it. I was terrified of him.'

2 I move to paragraph 68, where the witness speaks
3 about his time at Thornly Park Approved School, which he
4 covers in paragraphs 68 to 72 of the statement.

5 From paragraphs 73 through to 82, he speaks of his
6 time at Balgowan School in Dundee. That part of the
7 evidence was read-in to the transcript, my Lady, on
8 Day 417 in relation to the chapter looking at Dundee.
9 That was on 17 February of this year.

10 In paragraphs 83 and 84, the witness speaks about
11 his time at Barlinnie. That was read-in in the SPS
12 chapter of this phase of the Inquiry on Day 386, the
13 8 November 2023. As was paragraph 85, which relates to
14 his time in Longriggend. That's paragraph 85 to 91.

15 Between paragraphs 92 and 96 of his statement, the
16 witness speaks of a period of time he spent at Oakbank
17 School in Aberdeen.

18 In paragraphs 97 to 106, he speaks of his time at
19 Rossie Farm School.

20 In paragraphs 107 and 108, he speaks of a second
21 admission to Oakbank School in Aberdeen. He then speaks
22 of a brief return home to his parents.

23 In paragraph 113, he speaks of a period of time,
24 a short period he spent in Larchgrove before he was
25 transferred to Geilsland School, which he begins to tell

1 us about at paragraph 114 of the statement, on page 25:

2 'Geilsland is in Beith. It was run by the
3 Church of Scotland. It was like a big mansion-type
4 house. There were two parts to the school. I was in
5 the front part. The other part was at the back. The
6 back part wasn't attached to the main building.

7 'EZD [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] at
8 Geilsland. He was the person who was SNR [REDACTED].
9 He worked for the Church of Scotland.

10 'We all slept in dorms. My dorm was next to the
11 toilets. There were six or seven of us in the dorm.
12 There was another dorm next to the dorm I was in. It
13 was bigger and longer. I think that there were other
14 bigger dorms. The dorm I was in maybe held 15 or 20
15 boys. I continued to run away while I was at Geilsland.

16 'There was a mark system in there. All the marks
17 were put up on a chart-type thing. You had to iron your
18 own shirts and lay all your clothes out on your bed.
19 There were inspections. You could be deducted marks if
20 you didn't do that right. I always had the highest
21 marks that you could get. I never went below a certain
22 mark. I was always going up and up.

23 'There was a boot room, where everybody put their
24 boots and shoes. EZD [REDACTED] made me polish every
25 single pair of boots and shoes. I was even made to

1 polish the soles of the boots and shoes. Back then
2 I just did it. Looking back though, I think it was
3 psychological abuse. Why did he have me polishing the
4 soles of boots and shoes? There was no purpose to that.
5 He could have done that to other people as well as me.

6 'When I arrived at Geilsland, I discovered that the
7 boy who had sexually abused me at Balrossie was there.
8 He was in a separate dorm. The same carry on happened
9 all over again. [the boy] ... just carried on where he
10 had left off. He made me do things in the outside
11 toilets. It was at any time really.

12 'I ran away through fear and what was happening with
13 [this boy] I think I ran away a couple of times.
14 I got brought back. The second time I was brought back
15 I got given the belt by EZD in his office. His
16 office was like a big boardroom. He gave me the belt on
17 my hand.

18 'EZD was an evil man. He picked on me.
19 After the second time I had run away I decided to
20 knuckle down and keep out of trouble. Some time later
21 EZD got hold of me and took me to his office.
22 I think it was after tea time. It was 6.00 or 7.00 pm.
23 When I got into his office he told me that he was going
24 to take me home to visit my parents. That was the first
25 I heard that I was going to go and visit my parents.

1 I don't think, looking back, my parents had asked for me
2 to visit. He then told me to go and get changed into my
3 suit. I don't know why he told me to put my suit on,
4 but he did. I put my suit on and then he drove me to my
5 parents' house in Possilpark. I think that the reason
6 I got taken back might have been because my marks were
7 good from all my ironing and kit being laid out.
8 I remember [the boy who was abusing me] helping me to do
9 that.

10 'I think we arrived at my parents' house a little
11 before 9 o'clock. My father and one of my sisters were
12 there. My mother wasn't there. The gas and electricity
13 was cut off. My father had a tea pot on the coal fire.
14 He was sitting in a pair of pyjamas. We all sat down.
15 We sat for about an hour talking with my father.

16 [EZD] saw the situation and background I had come
17 from. Nothing had changed from the time we were in
18 Maryhill. It was the same situation. There was no
19 electricity or gas and so on. This was the only time
20 that I was taken back to my family home.

21 [EZD] then took me back to Geilsland. We got
22 back between 10 and 11 o'clock at night. He took me
23 into his office. That's when he started doing dirty
24 things to me. He sat me on his knee and winched me up
25 to his lips. I could tell he was gay. He fondled me.

1 He molested me. I couldn't say nothing.

2 'Later on I ran away again. When I was brought back
3 I was taken in to the games room by EZD . There
4 was either a snooker table or a tennis table in there.
5 EZD stripped me naked. He got me to run around
6 the table with no clothes on. There were three sticks
7 that used to hold the daily newspapers. They were there
8 to keep the newspapers flat. Each of the sticks had the
9 name of the newspaper they held written on them.
10 EZD hit me on the bum with one of those sticks
11 every time I got round to him when running around the
12 table.

13 'Up the stairs in the toilet there was a shower.
14 There was no bath. It was next to my bedroom.
15 EZD would make me take off my clothes in the
16 toilet. He would tell me to bend over. He would tell
17 me to sing a song. That's what he put me through. That
18 was a regular thing with him.

19 EZD picked me to go away and work in
20 Millport. I was one of the boys who was selected to
21 turn an old church into a holiday home for under
22 privileged children. I was one of his workers. We
23 stayed over there for maybe six months. The abuse
24 continued in Millport.

25 'I didn't see other kids being abused by

1 E Z D . The only reason I know that other kids
2 were abused is because I learnt that from the police
3 later in life.

4 'I think I was allowed out on leave from Geilsland
5 towards the end of my time there. I don't think I got
6 released after Geilsland. I remember breaking into
7 a bingo hall alongside two other boys whilst I was on
8 leave.

9 'I think we all went to Glasgow Sheriff Court.
10 After that I was sent to Polmont with the other two
11 boys.'

12 Between paragraphs 130 and 139, the witness speaks
13 about his time at Polmont Young Offenders Institution.
14 That evidence was read-in on 8 November last year --

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS MACLEOD: -- on Day 386.

17 In paragraphs 140 to 142, he speaks about his time
18 at Barlinnie for a second time, second admission to
19 Barlinnie, and that was read-in also in relation to --
20 as part of the SPS chapter.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: I will move now to paragraph 143, on page 32:

23 'I went back to my parents after my ten weeks in
24 recall. It was horrible. My mother was there, but she
25 wasn't there. It was like it was before. My father was

1 there. He was still drinking and gambling ... it wasn't
2 nice.

3 'I don't think I told anybody about what was
4 happening to me whilst I was in care at any of the
5 institutions I was at. I didn't tell any social workers
6 or any staff. The only person who suspected anything
7 was my mother. That was in and around [the time] when
8 I was in Balrossie. That was why she went to the police
9 station in Kilmacolm. That's the only time when
10 anything was reported to the police. I think it was all
11 brushed under the carpet.

12 'I'm sorry to say, but Barlinnie became a second
13 home to me after I left care. It was like a revolving
14 door to me. Up until 21 I was in and out of E Hall.
15 After that I ended up in other halls. I ended up in the
16 mainstream prison system. I was in and out of prison.

17 'I remember that I became what they called a trustee
18 in Barlinnie. I was a very trusted prisoner as
19 an adult. I was allowed on all the landings. I kept
20 myself clean. I think that's why the staff liked me.
21 I remember making the staff tea and coffee and things
22 like that. I got all the best jobs.'

23 I will now move to the part of the statement where
24 the witness speaks about the impact he considers his
25 time in care to have had on him. That part starts at

1 paragraph 152, and I will read from paragraph 153

2 onwards:

3 '[the boy] ... who abused me is still around. He
4 comes from a family that are well known for crime and
5 doing sexual things. I know from speaking to other
6 people that [he] is not a liked man. I still have
7 a fear of him. I'm worried about what might happen
8 because I have reported him for what he has done.
9 Throughout all my time in care I can count on one hand
10 the number of times I was visited. Everybody else got
11 visits. Nobody wanted to know me. It made me feel as
12 if I was an orphan, being placed in orphanages. That
13 hurt me. It wasn't nice not getting visitors. Not
14 having visits wasn't the main reason why I ran away,
15 though. There were always reasons, like the bullying
16 and abuse, that made me run away.

17 'The kind of people I went around with were always
18 older than me. They used me. They used me to line
19 their pockets. I have had doings off certain
20 individuals in my life. I have been left feeling
21 frightened to say no. I am ... not able to speak my
22 mind to this very day. That's horrible.

23 'My life has always been about being passed about.
24 I have been institutionalised. I quite liked my prison
25 life. I always got good jobs. I was always polite and

1 gave the prison officers respect. I did as I was told.
2 Growing up I didn't really have an outside life to
3 compare to my time in care. I think that is why,
4 although I was in institutions and prisons, I sometimes
5 had an okay time. All I had was other prisons and
6 institutions to compare my time with.

7 'I would never have turned out the way I have today
8 if I hadn't led the life I had. I think I would have
9 been a normal person if I hadn't been in these places.
10 It's left me unable to hold down conversations. I can't
11 hold down a relationship. I can't communicate. There
12 is nothing between my ears. All I talk about is my
13 past. When I am out and about all I want to talk about
14 is jails and prisons. Nobody wants to hear about that
15 sort of thing. I have been told that by people in pubs.
16 They will tell me to keep my mouth shut, speak to other
17 people or get out. It's a horrible feeling to be told
18 that. I'm speaking about these things because it is all
19 I know.'

20 I will now move to paragraph 164 of the statement:

21 'My experience of giving a statement to the police
22 the first time was horrible. I was taken into an office
23 with a couple of women. It didn't feel right. I felt
24 as if I was missing out on things. I felt
25 uncomfortable. I didn't like talking about the things

1 I was talking about in front of women. I don't believe
2 that I ended up telling them anywhere near as much as
3 I have said in this statement. I was stopping and going
4 outside and crying all the time. I remember standing
5 outside smoking cigarettes with my mental health worker
6 standing beside me.

7 'I also reported what happened in Stewart Street
8 Police Station ... [in] 2017. They came into my house
9 and sat down with me. They took a statement from me.
10 They said they had good and bad news to tell me. They
11 said the bad news was that **EZD** had passed away
12 a couple of months before they had come to see me. They
13 said the good news was that three other people had come
14 forward regarding him. I took from that that I had been
15 the first person to come forward to report him all the
16 way back in 2004. All I said to her was, "Well there
17 you go. Do you believe me now?"'

18 I will now move, my Lady, to the final part of the
19 statement, where the witness sets out lessons he
20 considers could be learnt. I will start reading from
21 paragraph 175:

22 'I don't want to see what was going on in these
23 places going on now. If they had cut out the bullying
24 in these places then it might have been easier to report
25 things. The bullying should have been stamped out.

1 There should have been more supervision at night from
2 night watchmen. Looking back I know that any staff who
3 were doing these things should have been reported.
4 I bottled it all up though. I should have been able to
5 feel that I could report things. I shouldn't have kept
6 it all to myself. That's what I did. All I did was run
7 away, that's how I got rid of it. I felt that running
8 away helped me. It didn't though, it just got worse
9 when I came back.

10 'I have never had any day in court with any of the
11 people that abused me. I don't know whether some of
12 them are still living. It angers me that none of them
13 have been brought to justice. I should have got my time
14 in court with **EZD**. I don't know why the police
15 were holding back. I don't know why they didn't charge
16 him.

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

21 'Scott' signed the statement on 5 September 2018.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, again, this is a statement by
24 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and to use
25 the pseudonym 'Ross' in his evidence.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Ross' (read)

3 MR MACAULAY: The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.0470

4 and he tells us that he was born in 1960. At
5 paragraph 3, he provides some insight into a rather
6 unhappy family background:

7 'Initially I was with both my parents, but my dad
8 left for a while and my mother brought me up. It was
9 after my dad left that the beatings from my mother
10 started. It wasn't a very good life and I started
11 getting into a bit of bother, stealing. One time I was
12 stealing and my mum heard about it and she put my hand
13 into the fire for stealing. Another day I went to the
14 shops for my mum and I got the wrong messages and my mum
15 threw an axe and it hit off my head and stuck in the
16 door. My head was split open. I got beaten regularly
17 by my mother because I couldn't spell or write properly
18 or if I didn't do my schoolwork properly. My siblings
19 were treated okay; it was just me who got hit.'

20 He goes on to talk about having difficulties at
21 school, and that the beatings continued. He spent
22 a short period in care -- in a care establishment, when
23 he was 9 years old and he talks about that at
24 paragraph 5. After that he goes back to stay with his
25 father.

1 He says at 6:

2 'Everything with dad was okay for a while, but by
3 that time he had a new woman and she had two children.
4 I didn't get on with one of the woman's daughters.
5 I got beating after beating from my dad until one day,
6 when I was 11 years old, it became too much and I walked
7 up to

8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 LADY SMITH: [REDACTED]

12 MR MACAULAY: 'The social work got even more involved, but
13 they never really did anything apart from say that I was
14 out of control.

15 'After that my dad had a meeting with the Social
16 Work Department and my dad and step mum said they
17 couldn't handle me anymore and it was decided I was out
18 of control and I was sent to Quarriers at Bridge of
19 Weir.'

20 Now, my Lady, it is the case that this statement was
21 signed before the Quarriers case.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes, this is a 2016 statement, isn't it?

23 MR MACAULAY: Yes. So it is not one of those statements
24 that postdate the Quarriers case study, and it does not
25 appear to have been considered during the case study.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MR MACAULAY: I think the way to approach this is to sweep
3 it up along with the post case study statements when
4 that analysis is being carried out.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes, I am sure we can regard it as available
6 for that as well.

7 MR MACAULAY: Absolutely. If I leave aside, then, what he
8 says about Quarriers and move on to paragraph 21. Your
9 Ladyship sees, at 21, after Quarriers, he is in the
10 Bellfield Assessment Centre, and again that's
11 an establishment that will be looked at in a later
12 chapter in this case study.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MR MACAULAY: That takes me up, then, to paragraph 31, at
15 a time when, after being in the assessment centre, he is
16 taken to Geilsland. This was probably in 1972, when he
17 was about aged 11 or 12, therefore one of the younger
18 residents.

19 Can I say throughout the statement he makes
20 reference to [REDACTED], but since that he has
21 clarified that he means EZD [REDACTED]. So for [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] read EZD [REDACTED].

23 LADY SMITH: Interesting confusion. Right. Thank you.

24 MR MACAULAY: It is clearly within the EZD [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED].
25 So he says, at 31:

1 'I went to Geilsland and I remember getting taken
2 there by [REDACTED]. I am not sure what age I was. It
3 was an approved school for boys run by the
4 Church of Scotland. Mr [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and
5 he was ex-Navy and that was how [REDACTED]. All
6 other members of staff were male, apart from one female
7 who helped in the kitchen. I slept in the White House
8 and there were four in each dorm.

9 'My dad never came to see me at Geilsland, but he
10 was working seven days a week. I saw him a couple of
11 times when I went home at weekends.

12 'There was no schooling at Geilsland, but they gave
13 us training to go and work, so that if you were out in
14 the big bad world you would be able to survive by
15 painting and decorating, which I did. There were staff
16 who were tradesmen and they would come in every day and
17 give us training and I was sent to the paint shop, which
18 was in the gym, and I was trained to paint and decorate.
19 Others were taught mechanics, gardening, electrician,
20 bricklaying and other stuff.

21 'Because there was no schooling I never learned to
22 read.

23 'Geilsland was like a secure unit and I never ran
24 away from there.

25 'We went to Church every Sunday in Beith, to the

1 church that the boys in Geilsland built.

2 'We got to play football and if you didn't play
3 football you just watched. Some of the boys used to
4 abscond when we were playing football.

5 'There used to be a church in Kibble, but it burnt
6 down, so we got to use the materials to build a church
7 within Geilsland. The boys in Geilsland built the
8 church and, just before we finished, we were working
9 until early in the morning to get it finished on time.
10 When it was finished we went there every Sunday. The
11 boys often did a show for the locals in the church. We
12 also used to go to the old folk's homes to tidy gardens.
13 We never got paid for the work we did, but we might have
14 got some pocket money.

15 'You had to lay out all your clothes for inspection,
16 like you were in the military, and you were given
17 a score. Clothes had to be laid out in a template. To
18 be allowed home for the weekend you had to get a score
19 of at least 90. Your Sunday clothes, which you wore to
20 church, had to be spot on. This was a reward to get
21 home.

22 'I was in the home for about four months when I got
23 into a fight with another boy and I beat him up. Later
24 on there was a shout over the tannoy that I was to go to
25 Mr EZD . When I got there Mr EZD hit me with a belt

1 that was split at the end. He must have had a nail
2 through the end because he hit me over the backside with
3 it and it made me bleed. I had my pyjamas on when he
4 hit me. There was a door in and a door out of his
5 office and when I went in he told me to bend over, then
6 he hit me on the back side with the belt. I then walked
7 out the other door and went round and back in the other
8 door and he would hit me again. I kept walking round
9 and he made me do this six times. This was the first
10 time I ever got the belt at Geilsland.

11 Another time one of the boys had hidden a razor in
12 a bar of soap and one of the other boys had slashed
13 himself while he was washing. Instead of the staff
14 dealing with it, they allowed the boys to deal with it.
15 It was called the gauntlet, where Mr EZD lined the
16 boys up opposite each other and they beat the backside
17 of the boy who had hidden the razor.

18 'One time after the inspection of our clothes
19 I refused to do my washing again. The creases had to be
20 right on your clothes. Your boots had to be bulled
21 properly and your Sunday best clothes had to be spot on.
22 If something wasn't right with your clothes EZD would
23 throw them out the window into the mud. Because
24 I refused I was made to shift about 20 tonnes of soil on
25 my own.

1 'We were made to get up in the morning, maybe once
2 a month, and forced to run about seven miles, even in
3 the winter, and when we got back we had to have a cold
4 shower. You had to sing to be allowed to come out of
5 the shower. If you didn't sing you didn't get out.
6 Another thing they did regularly was to make us parade
7 first thing in the morning. Then we did an assault
8 course where we were climbing nets and going under
9 pipes. One time Mr EZD , as a punishment for something
10 I had done, read out my file in front of all the other
11 children and staff, all about my parents and my
12 upbringing and everything I had done. I think he was
13 trying to make an example out of me and embarrass me.

14 'After EZD had done this he had a piece of wood
15 which was like a fascia board and there was tape like
16 insulating tape wrapped all the way round it. He would
17 hold one end then hit you with it. He hit me with it
18 over my jeans on my backside. I saw other boys getting
19 hit as well with this bit of wood at other times. Other
20 members of staff were there and saw what was going on.

21 'We were sitting outside one day in the summer and
22 all the boys were congregated outside at lunchtime. One
23 boy must have done something bad in the workshop because
24 EZD came and read his file out, which included why he
25 was in the home, and then gave him a beating with the

1 piece of wood.

2 'I left Geilsland at the age of 16. Basically, the
3 social workers came and told me I was 16 and that was me
4 finished at school and I left.

5 'I made complaints to the social work when I was in
6 Geilsland just like I did [before], but it didn't matter
7 how many times you complained, nobody listened. Nobody
8 ever listened. I have never spoken to the police about
9 any of the abuse I suffered at any of the homes.

10 'When I left Geilsland and moved back in with my
11 dad, the social work helped me get a job in the Falkirk
12 area building a place for the disabled and learnt
13 different skills when working with a trust and in
14 various jobs. For the last ten years I have been
15 working for a [REDACTED] company, but just recently took
16 voluntary redundancy.

17 'I married my wife 29 years ago and we have five
18 children together. We have six grandchildren. My
19 children know that I was in care, but they don't know my
20 problems with education, that I can't read and write.

21 'Because I was never given a proper education
22 I can't read and write. If ever I have to fill in any
23 kind of form I have to get my wife to do it for me.
24 Before I got married my stepmum used to write my letters
25 for me, then after I got married my wife did it for me.

1 'Falkirk Social Work Department have always been
2 responsible for me and despite the fact I complained
3 regularly to them at the three places I had been I never
4 heard anything back from them because nobody ever
5 listened. I hate the Social Work Department because
6 they just didn't listen to me. I don't know the names
7 of anyone I spoke to.

8 'My dad doesn't know that I can't read or write. So
9 far I have managed to hide it from everyone, but my wife
10 knows. I have worked for the last ten years in
11 a [REDACTED] company and they have just recently
12 introduced some written tests. I know that I couldn't
13 sit the tests, so I took voluntary redundancy from the
14 company. My son worked for the company and there is no
15 confidentiality in the company, so he would have found
16 out. I was also worried that my boss, who is
17 a neighbour of ours, that he, too, would find out that
18 I can't read or write. I had two choices, really.
19 Either to take voluntary redundancy or for them to find
20 out I couldn't read and write. I know that because of
21 health and safety I would have got the sack anyway.

22 'My mum didn't protect me, the people who put me in
23 care didn't protect me, so who was supposed to protect
24 me? Nobody believed me, saying I was a bad person,
25 a thief and that's how I have lived all my life, really

1 not knowing who to turn to. Because of what happened to
2 me I can't show my kids any love that a parent should
3 because I have never had it myself. I have always found
4 it difficult to show them what love is. I have a good
5 relationship with my brothers and sisters.

6 'I gave up smoking about 20 years ago and I don't
7 drink alcohol. I spend a lot of time with my
8 grandchildren and part of that is probably to make up
9 for what I missed with my own children.'

10 In paragraph 58, he says:

11 'There have been a couple of occasions when I have
12 thought about ending my life, but not recently.'

13 If we go to paragraph 60:

14 'I saw this Child Abuse Inquiry on the television
15 last year, so that's why I came forward. I definitely
16 want to remain anonymous throughout this procedure as
17 I do not want my family to find out.

18 'I have visited ... Geilsland with my daughter who
19 we have since found has autism and ADHD. That was about
20 16 or 17 years ago, when she was 12 and was getting
21 excluded from school. I showed her Geilsland to try and
22 show her that these are the places she really did not
23 want to go to. I have been back to Geilsland several
24 times and I keep going back, but I really don't know
25 why. When I am there I just think to myself "Why do

1 people get away with what they did to us in respect of
2 education and the beatings?" I get quite emotional when
3 I leave there.

4 'It is my intention to look for work again, but it
5 isn't easy now because of the application forms and
6 written tests which you have to do for every job now.
7 I have no exam certificates or qualifications and I am
8 just so embarrassed by the fact that I cannot read or
9 write.'

10 And he goes on to talk about treatment and records,
11 and, at paragraph 69, he says:

12 'I contacted the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh for
13 my Geillsland records and completed a freedom of
14 information request, but they said they couldn't find
15 anything, but were going to keep looking. I have never
16 heard anything back from them.'

17 And then hopes for the Inquiry, at 72:

18 'I hope that by me telling you this today people are
19 actually going to listen and believe what I have to say
20 and stop this from happening again because I don't want
21 anybody to go through what I have gone through. I have
22 not done this ... and I don't expect any compensation,
23 I just want to prevent it from happening to other
24 people.

25 'I would like to find out why Falkirk Social Work,

1 who were responsible for me the whole time ... allowed
2 it to happen and why they didn't do anything about my
3 complaints to them about the abuse I suffered.

4 'I definitely do not want my name to be released
5 publicly, although I realise that certain people may get
6 hold of my name and what happened to me, but I don't
7 want my family to read or hear anything about me.'

8 He ends by saying:

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

13 And 'Ross' has signed the statement, and your
14 Ladyship will see it is way back in 8 December 2016.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

16 Should we pause there for the mid-afternoon break?

17 MR MACAULAY: Yes, I think that's sensible.

18 LADY SMITH: And then return to some read-ins after that.

19 Thank you.

20 (3.00 pm)

21 (A short break)

22 LADY SMITH: Just before we turn to the next read-in,
23 a quick catch up on names of people whose identities are
24 protected by my General Restriction Order. E Z D,
25 you should already know and remember, is protected.

1 Another name, HNK, a man who was referred to
2 earlier today, and his identity is protected and mustn't
3 be repeated outside this room.

4 Ms MacLeod, where next?

5 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is that of
6 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Peter' and his
7 statement can be found at WIT.001.002.7258.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 'Peter' (read)

10 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Peter', I was born in 1965. I was
11 born in Paisley. My parents are now deceased. My
12 mother fell pregnant with my older brother when she was
13 14. He was born and I was born 19 months later. Our
14 standard of living was pretty poor. We stayed in
15 a tenement flat on the top floor and I remember there
16 were buckets everywhere due to leaks. I have a younger
17 brother, too, and us three boys slept in the same bed
18 while mum and dad slept in a recess in the living room.

19 'My dad had converted the other bedroom into
20 a repair shop to fix up motorbikes he had stolen. The
21 other room was like a scullery with an Aga fire. We
22 were always cold and the bed was always wet because
23 I wet the bed. The sheets were rarely washed. There
24 was no hot water and I got washed in the washing machine
25 on a Sunday because that heated the water. Mum did her

1 laundry in the local baths. We were always hungry.

2 'I had a fractured skull when I was 18 months old.
3 When I came out of hospital I stayed with my gran, the
4 incident when I fractured my skull happened in 1967.
5 Allegedly, I fell out of my high chair, but I have since
6 heard stories that I was held up by my feet and dropped
7 on my head. I believe this was my mum and she was
8 trying to kill me.

9 'After the fall, I endured a lot of physical and
10 emotional abuse at the hands of my mother and I always
11 found it strange that there was no intervention from the
12 social services. Between the ages of 4 and 5 my mum was
13 horrendous to me.

14 'Because I wet the bed my mum would make me kneel on
15 the board next to the sink, run the tap and try to force
16 me to do the toilet. I would be kneeling there for
17 ages, but unable to do the toilet because I would have
18 had nothing to drink.

19 'She also tried to strangle me with a belt once and
20 only stopped because I punched her in the face. On
21 several occasions she tried to drown me by holding my
22 head under the tap. On another occasion she took the
23 pole from the carpet cleaner and battered me over the
24 head with it. She used to say, "You are a wiry wee
25 bastard". This was all because I wet the bed and she

1 used to call me "pish pot". I have no recollection of
2 being a naughty child. I was just a child who wasn't
3 wanted.

4 'My father was a drinker and a gambler. He was
5 always working, but kept the money he earned for
6 himself.

7 'In records that I saw from my time later in List D
8 schools, I saw a note that described my situation as
9 "Total parental rejection".

10 'I started school in Paisley. Everything was new to
11 me. People were going to school with lunch boxes and
12 fruit. I had never seen fruit before. I started
13 stealing food from the other kids because I was so
14 hungry.

15 'I was only 5 and had to walk about a mile and
16 a half to school on my own.

17 'In about 1972, when we moved to a new house, it was
18 nicer, we had hot water and a garden where we could run
19 wild. My little sister was born. I was about 7 when we
20 moved there and was in a wee world of my own. I was
21 stealing a lot.

22 'When I was about 9, my mother was on tablets.
23 I took an overdose of them after an argument I had with
24 my brother. I then left the house and ended up in
25 Renfrew, where I fell off a bridge into the mud. I was

1 found lying in the mud and taken to a nearby police
2 office where I recall a policeman slapping my face and
3 asking what tablets I had taken. I was taken to
4 [hospital] ... and then moved to a psychiatric unit.
5 I was there for somewhere between four days and a week.
6 I was locked up and secured and ended up wrecking the
7 room I was in, in an attempt to escape.

8 'However, after about a week a social worker showed
9 up in a car and took me from the hospital. I was
10 dressed only in my pyjamas and had no shoes or slippers
11 on. I recall trying to escape from the car when we got
12 to the first set of traffic lights, but I didn't get
13 away.

14 'I was taken to Cardross Park Assessment Centre.
15 I was given no explanation or reason as to why I was
16 going there.'

17 In paragraphs 27 to 71, the witness speaks about his
18 time at Cardross Park Assessment Centre.

19 Paragraphs 72 to 80, the witness speaks about his
20 time at Bellfield, where he was for a short period of
21 time before going to live with an uncle and his wife.

22 From paragraphs 81 to 114, the witness speaks about
23 a period of time he spent at Monken Hadley in
24 Newton Stewart, later called Woodlands.

25 In paragraph 115 to 143, the witness speaks about

1 his time at Gryffe Children's Home in Bridge of Weir.

2 I will move to paragraph 144, where the witness
3 begins to provide evidence in relation to Geilsland
4 Approved School in Beith:

5 'Going to Geilsland was a reality check for me. It
6 was all boys, about 60 of them, who were all bigger and
7 older than me and nearly everybody seemed to have
8 tattoos. I was 14 years of age. I was the smallest guy
9 in the place and I was terrified. I would say the boys
10 were all aged between 14 and 17.

11 'Geilsland was made up of the main house, called the
12 Mansion House, a unit called the New Vic, the Chapel,
13 and the Chapel Cottage. This was a two-bedroomed
14 bungalow that was used to prepare boys for leaving
15 Geilsland and I stayed there during my latter time
16 there. I arrived at Geilsland at 6.00 pm one night in
17 1979 and was taken to see SNR [REDACTED], who was called
18 EZD [REDACTED]. He was ex-military and SNR [REDACTED]
19 in a military fashion. When I first met him, he said he
20 had heard I was a fighter and that if I wanted to fight
21 there, then I had to fight him.

22 'He then told me that there were seven golden rules,
23 but the only one I can remember is that fighting simply
24 wasn't tolerated and you would get six of the belt for
25 it. I was thereafter given a mountain of clothes,

1 working clothes, Sunday clothes, PE stuff, et cetera,
2 and had to sew my name on every item within two days.
3 Luckily other boys from Paisley helped me out.

4 'On my first night I was shown where my bed and
5 locker were. This was where you had to hang all your
6 clothes and you had to do it in a military fashion.
7 There were 16 in the dorm, which was split into two,
8 with Mr Hushcroft, a member of staff, in a adjacent
9 room. There was also two night wardens calls Biggins
10 and Warren. SNR had asked me what I wanted
11 to do when I grow up, and I told him I wanted to build
12 my own house, so he said I should join the builders'
13 group. Other work groups were electricians, joiners,
14 mechanics and farmers.

15 'A tannoy woke us up and we got washed, shaved, if
16 necessary, and then dressed. We were then allocated to
17 certain jobs and mine was to polish and buff the floors
18 on my hands and knees. After that we would go to
19 breakfast, which I took in a room in which there were
20 four tables and a hatch where the porridge was handed
21 out. We went to our respective workplaces between 9.00
22 and 4.30 pm, with a break at lunchtime, when we would
23 all go to the main dining room for lunch. After we
24 finished work we would have dinner and then play
25 football before going to bed.

1 'Before going to bed you were forced to say a prayer
2 and I recall that after I first arrived there I was too
3 scared to go to sleep. There were showers which we used
4 after PE or football or whatever activity, however there
5 was no privacy and there would be about 60 boys in
6 various stages of puberty. A doctor came in if we
7 needed him, although he normally just said to give us
8 paracetamol, and there were rumours he was a alcoholic.

9 'There was an occasion when I was on parade with
10 about 60 other guys in my work clothes. There was
11 a pond in the school with a hurdle in it. SNR
12 SNR said he would give the first boy who could do
13 a somersault over the hurdle a half ounce of tobacco.
14 I did it, but a couple of nights later I couldn't
15 breathe. In the morning they called a doctor who said
16 I would be okay and just to give me paracetamol. I got
17 transferred to the sick bay and was there for two or
18 three weeks. I had a collapsed lung.

19 'I wasn't taken to hospital and on one occasion was
20 even given the last rites. I was so ill my mother even
21 came to see me and even brought me some cigarettes, but
22 matron confiscated them when she caught me smoking in
23 the toilet. My social worker also came to see me.

24 'About a week before I got out of the infirmary, SNR
25 SNR brought me in a book. That was the first

1 book I had ever read and I enjoyed it so much I read it
2 again. Ironically, it was "A Sense of Freedom" by
3 Jimmy Boyle. After reading it I was determined I would
4 never go to jail.

5 'Eventually SNR [REDACTED] said I should get up and
6 go for a walk. As I passed the football field the ball
7 came towards me and I headed it and fainted. I ended up
8 back in the infirmary for a few days. The strange thing
9 is that CrossReach say that no medical records appear
10 for me from Geilsland.

11 'The only time I was in hospital was after I had
12 an accident and went on a sponsored two-week trip on
13 a schooner. I was transferred to Canniesburn and this
14 would have been in 1981.

15 'After I had been in Geilsland for about a year
16 I went to see EZD [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED], and told him
17 I wanted to go to school. He laughed, but told me to
18 leave it with him. A few days later I heard an
19 announcement over the tannoy saying I was to go to the
20 office. Mr EZD [REDACTED] then told me he had got me a placement
21 and would take me out to get my uniform. I went to
22 Kilwinning Academy High School and actually went with
23 [REDACTED], who was a year older than me.
24 Another boy from the school also went with us.

25 'While I was at the Academy I had to cram two years'

1 worth of education into just one year, but came out with
2 an A in English, a C in arithmetic, a C in maths, a B in
3 biology, a B in general science and a B in social
4 studies. They weren't O Grades, but were what was
5 called a Certificate of School Achievement. It showed
6 that out of 111 days I only missed 10.

7 'I used to --

8 LADY SMITH: That's remarkable, that he managed to do that.

9 MS MACLEOD: Yes:

10 'I used to get my bus fare to go to the Academy, but
11 as often as not I would spend it on cigarettes. I made
12 friends with a boy who stayed near the Academy. SNR
13 SNR warned me that if I missed one lesson that he
14 would pull me out of the Academy.

15 'I even got into the school football team and if
16 I had joined the Academy a term earlier I would have got
17 to go to Canada on a trip with the team.

18 'By the time I started at the Academy I had started
19 to toe the line and had a girlfriend. I asked SNR
20 SNR if I could go to the Christmas dance with her and
21 he took me to Burtons to get new clothes for it. Prior
22 to the dance I was in my mate's house and we had a wee
23 drink. I was 15. I went to the dance, and me and my
24 girlfriend won a dance competition. She was given
25 a bouquet of flowers and I was given a new football.

1 I got the last bus home.

2 'When I got back to Geilsland, SNR asked
3 me how I had got on and asked if I had done anything
4 I shouldn't have done. He then asked about the ball and
5 I told him I had won the dance competition. He
6 then made me do a keepy uppy for 30 in a row, as he
7 obviously suspected I had been drinking. I did it
8 easily and he just sent me to bed.

9 'While in Geilsland I was sponsored for the sum of
10 £2,000 to go on a SEAL Training Association trip, which
11 included two weeks on a schooner which took me round
12 Europe. While on board we worked four hours on, four
13 hours off. During the trip I had an accident during a
14 force ten storm in the North Sea, when I fell out of my
15 bunk and smashed my face off a radiator. This is what
16 led to me going to Canniesburn Hospital in 1981.

17 'When I finished the two-week course the ship's
18 master wrote that I was willing and enthusiastic,
19 a great worker, and although seasick and injured, it was
20 only with difficulty that he was able to persuade me to
21 rest. He also said I was popular and a good mixer.

22 'There were plenty of activities at Geilsland, like
23 canoeing, boxing and football.

24 'At Christmas dinner they even put cigars and
25 cigarettes on the tables for the boys. The school made

1 a big thing about Christmas, which was done prior to us
2 going home for the Christmas holidays. I don't recall
3 birthdays being celebrated. Geilsland was
4 a Church of Scotland school, and there was a minister,
5 Mr Harbiston, who was allocated to the school. We were
6 made to march to the local church in Beith in twos
7 wearing suits. Whoever took us would be shouting,
8 "Left, right, left, right". We were also forced to say
9 a prayer before bed every night.

10 'My mother only visited me the once and that was
11 when I was in the infirmary. The main reason for her
12 not visiting was because I used to go home at weekends
13 to her house. My social worker came to see me from time
14 to time. There was once a man from Finland who ran
15 an Approved School in Finland who visited the school to
16 see how Geilsland was run. I remember we were forced to
17 learn how to do highland dancing for his visit. Other
18 than that, I wasn't aware of any official visitors.

19 'I would like to emphasise that there was no sexual
20 abuse at Geilsland as far as I was concerned or aware
21 of. However, the discipline was harsh and the film
22 "Scum" was a good representation of what Geilsland was
23 like, and I learnt that on my very first morning.

24 'I had always had this thing about people
25 interfering with my food. On my first morning a boy

1 stole my milk. I grabbed him and smashed his face on
2 a radiator and burst his nose. That started a riot.
3 Both of us got sent to EZD ██████████, SNR ██████████.
4 When we got to his office he said to me, "You already?"
5 He asked which of us wanted to go first, and gave me six
6 of the belt on the backside, over my trousers. The boy
7 had to watch me getting the belt, and then I had to
8 watch him getting the same, which I found degrading.

9 'Later that day there were visitors and each one sat
10 with three of the boys. One of the boys ... said that
11 I wasn't to sit where I was and I punched him. A member
12 of staff grabbed me by the hair and dragged me out of
13 the hall. He smacked my nose off a letter box which
14 made my eyes water.

15 'I was taken to SNR ██████████, who was
16 a Mr GJ ██████████. He reminded me that I had only
17 been there that morning and told me to bend over
18 a chair. I said, "Fuck you", and he told me to hold out
19 my hand. He hit me halfway up my arm, and after that
20 I said I would bend over the chair. So that was twice
21 on my first day I got six of the belt.

22 'When we rehearsed for plays and concerts, SNR ██████████
23 SNR ██████████ would be present, holding a croquet mallet.
24 If you sang out of tune he would hold the mallet about
25 three inches over your head and drop it. That doesn't

1 sound much, but it was agony. We used to play murder
2 ball a lot, which was 30-a-side using a medicine ball.
3 There was no rules and, quite simply, if there was
4 somebody on the other side who you didn't like you could
5 take them out with no reprisals. Looking back I realise
6 how wrong that was and how people could have been
7 injured.

8 'I was in Geilsland during [REDACTED] 1979. The
9 weather that year was brutally cold and we were forced
10 to work outside in all sorts of weather. I was 14 and
11 pushing barrel loads of cement round the sites.
12 Sometimes they would make an announcement over the
13 tannoy at 5.30 am, and we would have to get up and take
14 everything out of our rooms, cabinets and all, and take
15 them outside. We would also go on assault courses at
16 that time of the morning in our PE kits, and we had
17 a shower. After that we had to sing a song before we
18 got out.

19 'On one occasion, I had thrown a stone and
20 Mr [REDACTED] HQT shouted, "Who threw that?" I didn't own up
21 and he told us all to line up. He then did what he
22 called "the train", whereby each of us walked through
23 a door, would get one of the belt, and then join the
24 line again.

25 'I was first as I am sure he knew it had been me.

1 He told me to go over the back of the chair. In my mind
2 I knew he was going to enjoy it, so I told him to fuck
3 off and he slapped me across the face. I then got told
4 to put my PE gear on and got put in the cell. The fact
5 it was a List D School means I doubt it was legal for
6 them to have such a cell.

7 'I was in the cell for about six hours when
8 a message came over the tannoy that I was to go and see
9 SNR [REDACTED], who had just returned. He told me that
10 he was aware of the incident with me and Mr HQT [REDACTED] and
11 that I would be getting the belt.

12 'However, SNR [REDACTED] then asked me who I thought
13 should give me the belt and I said Mr HQT [REDACTED], as it
14 was him who I had told to fuck off. As I was only
15 wearing PE shorts he told me to go and put trousers on,
16 which I did, although I also put on heavy dusters down
17 the back of my trousers.

18 'I then went over to HQT [REDACTED]'s office and told me
19 to get over the chair. He swung the belt, but instead
20 of hitting me, he swung the belt over my head. He then
21 told me to get out and to go clean the bins, which was
22 to be my punishment. It was years later that
23 I discovered HQT [REDACTED] and SNR [REDACTED] had a bet on as
24 to whether or not I would go to HQT [REDACTED]'s office for my
25 punishment.

1 'There was an incident one time during the period
2 I was attending Kilwinning Academy. I was back at
3 Geilsland and still wearing my school uniform. I saw
4 a boy bullying a wee boy who was quite pally with me.
5 He sort of had special needs that weren't recognised at
6 the time.

7 'SNR [REDACTED] was walking around the dining room
8 and asked if anybody wanted a fight. The boy who had
9 been bullying the younger boy said "Me", and that he
10 wanted to fight the wee boy. SNR [REDACTED] winked at
11 me and asked if anybody else wanted to fight, so I said,
12 "Me", and that I wanted to fight the boy who was
13 bullying. I had to strip off my school shirt and tie
14 and shoes, and then faced up to this boy, who stripped
15 in the same way. They made us space, and SNR [REDACTED]
16 was about to give us a count of three, but as he started
17 I punched the boy. As he lay on the floor, I was still
18 punching him. SNR [REDACTED] gave me a slap on the head
19 and warned me about losing my temper. SNR [REDACTED],
20 EZD [REDACTED], was a hard taskmaster and physically
21 reprimanded me on many an occasion, but he did well by
22 me. He helped me to get into a school, helped me when
23 I was leaving Geilsland, and even wrote me a nice
24 reference. For all the times SNR [REDACTED] punched or
25 belted me, I still have a lot of respect for the job he

1 did, especially in that era, and what he did for me. He
2 taught me manners, respect, and how to conduct myself.

3 'Once, I got into the routine I managed to stay out
4 of trouble. Eventually I was moved into the Chapel
5 Cottage which I stayed in on my own for a time living
6 independently. My routine there was to get up, go to
7 Kilwinning Academy, get dinner, play football and go to
8 bed. Eventually SNR [REDACTED] said someone else would
9 be staying in the cottage with me, which annoyed me, as
10 I had made the place my own. The guy, whose name
11 I don't recall, moved things about and I told him to
12 have everything back in place by the time I got home
13 from school. We ended up having a fight and SNR
14 SNR [REDACTED] warned me about anger issues and made me
15 polish the chapel's wooden floor.

16 'I continued to go to school while in the Cottage,
17 but my main love in life was playing football. Although
18 I continued staying in the cottage during the holidays,
19 I integrated more with the other boys. I started to toe
20 the line and that was when I had a girlfriend from the
21 Academy. Geilsland used to have open days for parents,
22 visitors and social workers each year. Food would be
23 laid on in the gym and a stage was constructed, where
24 relevant prizes were handed out from.

25 'One year SNR [REDACTED] called me over to his

1 office for a chat the night before the open day. He
2 asked me who I thought should win the [REDACTED] trophy,
3 which was given to the boy of the year, based on
4 character and behaviour, and I named a particular boy.
5 I left the office and heard the tannoy announcement
6 telling that boy to report to the SNR [REDACTED] office.
7 When I later asked what had happened, he said SNR [REDACTED]
8 SNR [REDACTED] also asked him who should win the trophy, and
9 he said I should win it. The next day it was the last
10 trophy to be handed out and SNR [REDACTED] said for [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED] and then presented the
12 trophy to both me and the other boy.

13 'My mother, brother, and I think my social worker,
14 were all there, as was the Reverend James Currie. This
15 appeared in the local paper, [REDACTED]. I always
16 felt that it was the boys who ran the school. It was
17 the boys who fixed the electrics, the boys who did
18 joinery repairs, the boys who did the mechanics on the
19 staff cars and the boys who worked as farmers, who sold
20 the fruit and vegetables.

21 'The boys would also be sent to Paisley, Hamilton or
22 Ayr and made to sell flags for various charities.
23 Everything about Geilsland was done to make the place
24 look good to those outside the place.

25 'As far as I was concerned, the boys themselves

1 didn't matter. They were abused physically and
2 emotionally. Take for instance the good report I got
3 from working on the schooner or the good report I got
4 from Kilwinning Academy. That all reflected well on
5 Geilsland, which is all they wanted.

6 'After I left Kilwinning Academy I continued to stay
7 in Geilsland and continued to integrate with the others.
8 I continued working in the building section. But when
9 I was 16 I told SNR [REDACTED] that it was time for me
10 to leave. SNR [REDACTED] took me to my mum's house, but
11 she had left and it was just my 17-year-old brother who
12 was there. SNR [REDACTED] asked me if I wanted to stay
13 with my brother, and I said yes.

14 'We stopped off for a bite to eat and he asked me if
15 I would like to get into catering. On the way back to
16 Geilsland we stopped at an hotel and SNR [REDACTED]
17 spoke to the manager who ran the hotel. SNR [REDACTED]
18 explained my situation and asked if he would give me
19 a job. He said yes, and I ended up doing almost
20 everything, except working behind the bar, as I was too
21 young.

22 'After I left Geilsland I stayed with my brother and
23 worked in that hotel. Not long after I moved in with my
24 brother and we ended up in a fight and I ended up
25 smashing up a lot of windows. The police were called

1 and I ran away to a neighbour's house and phoned
2 Geilsland. [REDACTED] arrived 20 minutes later and by
3 this time I was in handcuffs. [REDACTED] made a deal
4 with the police to fix all the windows and that he would
5 take responsibility for me. I then went to stay with
6 [REDACTED] for a few days, but ended up back at my
7 brother's place because my girlfriend stayed nearby.
8 I then went to stay with an aunt.

9 'I stayed working at the hotel until my uncle got me
10 a job changing tires ... I enjoyed that, but was just
11 drifting and was getting into the odd bit of trouble.
12 I didn't want to go down that road or end up in jail.
13 My girlfriend was 16, and we went to England. We had
14 a wee girl and got a flat. However, she got home sick
15 and we went back to Scotland and we both went our own
16 way. The last time I saw my daughter was when she was
17 about 6 years old. The break up with my girlfriend hit
18 me hard and I lived homeless for almost a year.

19 'Later in life, I met a partner and we had three
20 children together. We were together for 17 years, so
21 I won at the horses, won a wife and won three children.
22 When I became a father, it was important for me to break
23 the cycle of a child in care that I had gone through,
24 and not allow my children to go into care. I am pleased
25 I managed to do that and I am proud of how my kids have

1 turned out.'

2 The witness speaks about some time he spent working
3 in the building trade and a placement working in
4 a children's home.

5 I will read from 226:

6 'The guy in charge of the home said I could apply
7 for a job as the caretaker of the building when it
8 shutdown. I got offered the job, but was also offered
9 the job [REDACTED]. I took the job at [REDACTED]
10 on the night shift and worked there for nine years with
11 juvenile offenders as a residential care officer.

12 'While working as a social worker in the previous
13 placement, I set up a junior football club, which was
14 for under privileged boys. I obtained fundraising to
15 set it up and put measures in place to prevent any child
16 being left alone in changing rooms and did not allow
17 showers. Working in [REDACTED] ended up being
18 detrimental to my health and I became what they called
19 "contaminated" because I was working with young sexual
20 offenders. This led to me being overprotective of my
21 own children. My marriage broke up around 2000 and
22 I developed a mental health problem. I had always had
23 this, but it became more pronounced after the break up
24 of my marriage.

25 'Then, due to an incident that I don't wish to

1 discuss, but was to do with the break up of my marriage,
2 I had a court case, which led me to losing my job [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]. I worked in a distillery for a while and
4 then sat my PSV and spent a few years driving buses. In
5 2010, I was diagnosed with a health condition and
6 chronic fatigue and haven't worked since. Being in the
7 care system and what happened there have led to me now
8 having mental health problems and getting panic attacks.
9 I have claustrophobia and depression and have been
10 having bad nightmares and anxiety. I can't fly and
11 I can't get on a plane because of my claustrophobia.
12 I have been abroad only on a boat. I would love to go
13 to Canada, but I just can't get on a plane. I also have
14 a bit of OCD because of Geilsland and can't even go to
15 bed without washing the ashtrays.

16 'In 2010, I met a girl and we got married, but it
17 only lasted 14 months, which was mainly my fault and the
18 mental health problems I have from my time in care.
19 I have my own place and have had for the last few years.
20 I have never reported what happened to me during my time
21 in care to anyone in an official capacity, although
22 I now do have a solicitor who is seeking compensation
23 for me. I have told her my whole story.

24 'I have some records from my time in Geilsland,
25 which show when I arrived and why I was there, and the

1 fact I was punished a few times. I have handed these
2 over to the Inquiry. However, I am baffled as to why
3 there are no medical records.

4 'One of the frequent things I think this Inquiry
5 should be looking at is that no person in care should
6 share a room with another person. When I worked in
7 [REDACTED] it was designed that people had a lot of
8 privacy, which was good. People who were abused as
9 children should be listened to and believed. People
10 working with children should be vetted and those who
11 went through the system should be asked for their
12 opinion and for their input as they understand the
13 issues. When I was interviewed for the job in [REDACTED]
14 it didn't look good that I wasn't married at the time.
15 Just because somebody has qualifications doesn't
16 necessarily mean that they are the right person for the
17 job.

18 [REDACTED] told me to get a reference from the
19 minister. He gave me one, but he didn't know me from
20 Adam, which was wrong. I know a lot of things have
21 changed and children now have more rights and that the
22 people who worked in Geilsland when I was there worked
23 under different criteria. I believe the Inquiry may
24 lead to people being compensated, but many victims have
25 died. If I'm due anything and I die before anything

1 happens, then I have a will and would like my children
2 to get it.

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 'Peter' signed the statement on 22 July 2019.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this again is a statement by
10 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous and to use
11 the pseudonym 'Oliver' in his evidence.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 'Oliver' (read)

14 MR MACAULAY: His statement can be found at WIT-1-000000821.

15 He was born in the year 1982. It begins by telling us
16 about his life before going into care, in that he had
17 an older brother, and then a younger brother, and at 3
18 he says:

19 'When I was between the ages of 4 and 5 my mum and
20 dad split up. For the next year my brothers and I went
21 to stay with my dad ... after that year with dad I moved
22 back to stay with mum, who was now in Rosyth. When
23 I was staying with mum the atmosphere between her and me
24 was not great. She was always showing preference to my
25 two brothers, and she looked at me as the outcast.

1 I was also having some arguments with mum, as I did not
2 like that she was seeing different men. Mum was looking
3 to have me placed into care as soon as possible. At
4 this time I was not getting on well at school and was
5 expelled for fighting with a teacher.'

6 He goes on to say that the Social Work Department
7 was involved with the family, and a social worker by the
8 name of Helen Cameron tried to help. At the end of that
9 paragraph:

10 'My mum was still not happy and between her and
11 Helen they came to the decision that I was to be deemed
12 outwith parental control'

13 Then, over the next few pages, he talks about
14 a number of different establishments, not covered by
15 this case study, that accommodated him. If one goes up
16 to paragraph 50, page 10, he says:

17 'When I was 15, I was told that I was to be moved
18 from ... [the care home that he was in]. I am not sure
19 if it was because I had made the improvements or because
20 there was not going to be a place for me. I am still
21 not sure, but not long after I moved ... [that care
22 home] closed down. I was transferred to Geilsland
23 School in Beith.'

24 That was when he was 15. So that would be about
25 1997, and he was born in 1982:

1 'When I was moved to Geilsland I was placed into the
2 flat for older boys. I had my own room and during that
3 time staff were supposed to help me getting ready for
4 being in the adult world.'

5 Moving on to page 11, he talks about the routine.
6 The food was okay. And then in relation to schooling,
7 at paragraph 57:

8 'The school lessons were held within Geilsland and
9 were normal class work. They did offer additional
10 education for pupils to learn some trades, such as being
11 an electrician.

12 'For my issue with wetting myself, I was given
13 an appointment with the local doctor in Beith. I don't
14 know his name, but he prescribed me a nasal spray. I am
15 not sure of the name of the medication, but it did help
16 me. When I was at Geilsland for a few months and trust
17 had been built up, I was allowed weekend leave to stay
18 with my dad. If I misbehaved, one of the punishments
19 would be that my weekend pass would be cancelled.

20 'I did run away not long after I had been assaulted,
21 when my nose was broken.'

22 And he mentioned that later:

23 'Me and another boy from Glasgow ran away together.
24 He made his way to Paisley, while I made my way to Fife.
25 I was away about eight days. I knew I couldn't go any

1 longer because I had no money. I went to the social
2 worker at Cowdenbeath and asked if Helen Cameron would
3 help me and give some sort of grant. Instead she phoned
4 the local police station, which was situated across the
5 road from their office, and I was taken back to
6 Geilsland. I don't remember if anything happened, but
7 I probably had a loss of privileges.

8 'I was still having issues with wetting myself, at
9 night and during the day. There were different members
10 of staff who would call me names like "Pishie". It
11 wasn't just the staff, but some of the other children in
12 the home. If I did wet the bed I washed my own sheets.
13 The problem was if one of the other children in the flat
14 found out they would make sure to tell everyone else in
15 the home.

16 'If I did wet myself I was allowed to have a shower
17 or a bath to get myself cleaned up. The only problem
18 was I didn't have enough clothes and the staff would not
19 help me and it meant I had to sit the rest of the day in
20 the wet clothes.

21 'One of the staff, GHS, was a bully. There was
22 one occasion when he assaulted me and punched me in the
23 face and I sustained a broken nose. He was one of the
24 staff who called me "Pishie".

25 'There was another member of staff, GLR,

1 who assaulted me ...'.

2 I think that should probably be GLR .

3 LADY SMITH: GLR , it must be.

4 MR MACAULAY: '... one night he came to the room, but

5 I never heard him arriving. He said he was shouting on
6 me, but I tried saying I never heard him. He then came
7 right up to me and punched me in the ribs. He told me
8 that I better keep my mouth shut.

9 'After the GHS incident happened, when I had been
10 at Geilsland for nearly a year, I was not taking any
11 more of the staff hitting me and demanded to make
12 a phone call. I phoned my dad and told him what
13 happened. He told me he would come through and sort the
14 staff out. I was persuaded that this might not be the
15 best answer and could cause more problems. I decided to
16 tell my dad not to come. The staff just swept it all
17 under the carpet.

18 'As soon as I was 16 I was allowed to leave
19 Geilsland. I think it was on my birthday that I was
20 told I was leaving.

21 'Some time ago, perhaps eight years ago, I was
22 contacted by the police in Glasgow. They told me that
23 they were making inquiries about incidents in Geilsland.
24 At that time I was not ready to speak to anyone and
25 refused to give any statement. I wish now that I had

1 talked to them because it might have helped someone
2 else.'.

3 At 70:

4 'During my time in care there was very little formal
5 education and as a result I left care with no school
6 qualifications. That put me in an impossible situation
7 trying to get any job. I just felt like the authorities
8 did not help me and I started rebelling against all
9 types of authority.

10 'When I left my time in care I was an angry young
11 man. I found it really difficult to cope with the
12 memories of the abuse and turned to drink and alcohol.
13 Instead of being able to go out into the adult [should
14 be world] ... and have some sort of working life, as
15 I would have done if I was not in care, my life turned
16 upside down. I turned to drink and drugs and for the
17 next many years, until I was about 30, I spent most of
18 that period in and out of the prison system.

19 'I have a 14-year-old daughter. I was involved in
20 a short term relationship with her mother, but that
21 relationship did not work out.

22 'In the last ten years I have been with my partner.
23 She has helped support me through all my issues. Since
24 we have been together, apart from a short spell in
25 prison for breaching a drug rehabilitation order, I have

1 been out of trouble.

2 'Since about 2013/14 I have no longer been getting
3 involved with the wrong company and I am currently on
4 a rehabilitation programme, being prescribed methadone.
5 I am also prescribed strong anti-psychotic drugs. I am
6 working to be strong enough to wean off the methadone
7 and begin my life drug-free. I will have to continue
8 with the anti-psychotic medication for some time yet.'

9 And then going on to impact:

10 'I remember very early in my time in care that my
11 dad spoke with social workers and asked them to provide
12 proper help for me. He warned them at that time that he
13 could see that if I did not get that help that I would
14 spend my life in and out of prison. Due to them not
15 providing proper support that is exactly what happened.

16 'I have no self-respect or dignity. I believe that
17 if I had been given proper education and been looked
18 after properly when I was in care I would be in a much
19 better position in life. I am always asking my partner
20 if I am smelling in any way. I know in reality I am not
21 because I spend so much time scrubbing myself. That is
22 just me reacting to when I was young.

23 'My memory is really bad and has been for
24 many years. There are times I can't find my medication
25 and get into a bad sweat worrying about it. Secondary Institutions - to be publ

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'Since leaving the care system I have never reported any of the abuse to the police or any other authority. The main reason is I did not think anyone would believe what happened to me.'

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And then in relation to lessons to be learned, at 80:

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'I just want the abuse of children in care to stop and the social work to provide proper help. Perhaps if the social work had listened to me when I did try to report some of the abuse, they could have made me a different person. I don't want what happened to me to happen to any children currently in care.'

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'My partner saw a newspaper article saying that investigations were being carried out into the abuse ... as a result I made contact with the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. They provided some help by putting me in touch with Future Pathways. They, too, have already helped with some finances and are still helping me with some other matters.'

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'At this time I have never had any counselling or spoken with any psychiatrist. I am hoping Future Pathways may be able to help me there.'

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'I hope by coming forward I can now move on with my life and put a lot of the abuse behind me. It has been good for me to come to the Inquiry and have someone listen to me.

8

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

9

10

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

11

12

And 'Oliver' has signed his statement on

13

28 September 2021.

14

LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

15

MR MACAULAY: I suspect that is probably it for today.

16

LADY SMITH: I think we should stop there for today. We

17

have done quite a number of read-ins this afternoon,

18

because we had all this morning's evidence too, and it

19

is a lot to take on board.

20

MR MACAULAY: Tomorrow, my Lady, we will start with

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a read-in or read-ins, and there is an oral witness due

22

at quarter to midday.

23

LADY SMITH: Good. Is it just -- no, we have two oral

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witnesses in total, tomorrow.

25

MR MACAULAY: There was supposed to be two, unfortunately

1 one has pulled out.

2 LADY SMITH: One is not able to come. I had forgotten,
3 thank you for reminding me of that.

4 The final run of names for today of people who are
5 not to be identified outside of this room, the first one
6 was a reference to Mr GJ [REDACTED], and I think that
7 may be a reference to the GJ [REDACTED] who is covered by my
8 General Restriction Order. So he mustn't be identified
9 as being referred to in our evidence outside of this
10 room, nor must GLR [REDACTED], that's another name that
11 you have already heard this week, and nor must the man
12 called GHS [REDACTED], and I think I do know what his second
13 name is, but it hasn't been mentioned, so I am not going
14 to mention it. But if anybody thinks they can work it
15 out, so be it, but they can't disclose it.

16 So that's it for today, and I look forward to seeing
17 people tomorrow morning. Thank you.

18 (3.55 pm)

19 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

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