

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Friday, 26 April, 2024

(10.00 am)
LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome to the last day this week of our evidence in relation to Phase 8, Chapter 5, in which we are looking particularly at provision of residential care by CrossReach. As you know, this week we have been hearing evidence about Geilsland and one or two other CrossReach establishments.

Now, as I explained yesterday, there will only be one witness in person today, that will be at about 11.45. But, in the meantime, I think we are ready to read-in some statements that haven't yet been read-in; is that right?

MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady, that is right. I will begin this morning by reading in the statement of an applicant called Alexander McLean. His statement is to be found at WIT-1-000000934.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

Alexander McLean (read)

MS MACLEOD: Part of Alexander's statement was read-in during the Foster Care case study, on Day 334, which was 7 October 2022.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

MS MACLEOD: 'My name is Alexander McLean. I was born in [REDACTED] 1983. I was born in Stranraer, [REDACTED]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



'My dad was a very abusive man who was an alcoholic, that's why I was in and out of the care system from when I was 3 years old until I was 16 years old.

'My first memory of when I went into the care system, when I was three years old, is when I went to Windsor Lodge.'

Between paragraphs 5 and 7 the witness speaks of his time at Windsor Lodge Children's Home in Newton Stewart.

Between paragraphs 8 and 64 of his statement, the witness speaks about his time in foster placements.

Between paragraphs 65 and 67, he speaks about being back in his father's care.

Between paragraphs 68 and 69, he speaks about a further foster placement.

Between paragraphs 70 and 76, he provides evidence about being back in parental care and, between paragraph 77 and 78, he describes his experiences at Gifford House Children's Home in Castle Douglas.

Between paragraphs 88 and 97, he describes his experiences at Milton House, in Stranraer.

1 Between paragraphs 98 and 135, he describes his time
2 at Hillside Residential School in Fife.

3 Between paragraphs 136 and 139, he describes his
4 experiences at St Mary's Kenmure, in Bishopbriggs.

5 Then, in paragraph 40, he speaks about Moore House
6 School, in Bathgate. That's paragraph 140 to 143.

7 At 144, the witness begins to describe his
8 experiences at Geilsland. I will move to that part of
9 the statement.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS MACLEOD: 'I was still 15 years old when I went to
12 Geilsland, in 1998. I was in Geilsland for over a year.
13 Geilsland was run by the Church of Scotland. Geilsland
14 is in Beith, a small town about 20 miles south-west of
15 Glasgow. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] Geilsland
16 when I was there. Chris McNaught was the assistant
17 manager.

18 'I think a lot of the staff were ex-military or
19 ex-police, two in particular called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. If
20 you took one look at [REDACTED], you would think he was in
21 the army. He was about six feet tall and full of
22 muscle. [REDACTED] was a bit smaller, but there wasn't
23 an ounce of fat on that man. Nancy was an old lady,
24 I think she was in on her 60. She said she used to work
25 for a prison. Alan was an average guy. There was

1 Tom Mormon, and another Tom, but he didn't come across
2 as a friendly guy which seems unfortunate if you are
3 going to work with children.

4 'There was a woman called Claire, a man called
5 zHVI, another man called Tam, and a guy we called Wisp,
6 because of his hair. Everybody liked Wisp. He was into
7 music and we played guitar and piano together. He was
8 a pretty cool guy. I don't believe he would have done
9 any harm to kids.

10 'When I think about it there was no one younger than
11 me in Geilsland. They were all 15 years old or older,
12 because could you stay in Geilsland until you were
13 18 years old. Before I even moved to Geilsland they
14 took me there for a visit. My social worker,
15 Audrey Reid, took me and showed me around. They showed
16 me the workshops and what to expect.'

17 LADY SMITH: Just pausing there, Ms MacLeod, we should
18 perhaps note when you referred to this applicant being
19 into music and playing guitar and piano with a member of
20 staff, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

22 Secondary Institutions - to be publishe

23 MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady. Secondary Institutions - to be publis

24 Secondary Institutions - to be

25 LADY SMITH: But he does seem to have been able to carry on

1 in Geilsland.

2 MS MACLEOD: Yes, that's exactly right:

3 'My social worker, Audrey Reid, took me and showed
4 me round. They showed me the workshops and what to
5 expect. Then I was taken back to Moore House, and it
6 was a week or two later that I moved into Geilsland.

7 'I felt like I was being moved from pillar to post.
8 I felt I shouldn't be getting moved about like that, but
9 I thought I would give Geilsland a go.

10 'When you came into Geilsland, there was Lomond Unit
11 and could you see Garnock Unit and the workshops. The
12 third unit was behind the workshops, but I wasn't ever
13 in it. On the left-hand side was the main building,
14 where the main offices were, where they had meetings.
15 There were three units in Geilsland. When people got
16 moved into Geilsland they went into Lomond Unit first.
17 Everybody went in there to be assessed. Then they
18 decided if you got moved into one of the other units or
19 if you stayed there. If you were moving on from
20 Lomond Unit you went to Garnock Unit.

21 'I can't remember what I third unit was called.
22 I was in Lomond Unit for maybe a month or two. Then
23 I got moved over to Garnock Unit.

24 'I noticed how some of the boys acted in there.
25 I knew some of them weren't straight. I knew I was gay

1 back then, but I was in the closet. There was a boy who
2 was open about his sexuality, but nobody really cared
3 about your sexuality in Lomond Unit. I suppose they
4 might have been more bothered in the other units. There
5 were 12 boys in the Garnock Unit. The regime was just
6 the same in Garnock Unit as it had been in Lomond Unit,
7 but the layout was different. In the Lomond Unit all
8 the bedrooms were upstairs, but, in Garnock, two of the
9 bedrooms were downstairs. The only difference was that
10 there was three dormitories in Garnock. Each of the
11 dormitories at Garnock had its own living room, kitchen
12 area, a bathroom with a shower and four bedrooms.

13 'From Monday to Friday you would get up in the
14 morning, shower, have breakfast, and then go to school
15 from 9.00 am until midday. We would get woken up by
16 whichever staff were on duty in the morning.

17 'When we went to bed at night, they had night staff.
18 In Lomond Unit the bedrooms were upstairs. There was
19 a man who would watch over the boys to make sure we
20 weren't doing anything stupid or running away. There
21 was a bit in the middle he could sit at and there was
22 a little office for him. There could be staff staying
23 over at night, sleeping, but the little guy was always
24 there, awake. I didn't ever have to call on the night
25 staff. When I went to bed that was it, I was straight

1 to sleep, then back in the morning for a shower and then
2 back to school again.

3 'Every unit had three different night staff. In
4 Garnock Unit there was **ERT** and Robert, who we called
5 Rab. Rab was usually up for a laugh and a carry on.
6 Thirdly, there was an older chap whose name I can't
7 remember. Sometimes there was one member of staff on
8 night duty, sometimes there were two.

9 'They had a small dining area in Lomond where we
10 would sit. They had that in all the units. We had
11 breakfast there in the morning and, at lunchtime, we
12 would come back from the educational unit and, after
13 lunch, we would go to the workshops where we learned
14 a trade. 'In Lomond Unit the food was good. It was
15 a lot better than in Garnock Unit. I can't remember the
16 name of the lady who cooked in Lomond Unit, but
17 everybody liked the food. She was only there for
18 lunchtime and tea, she was away after that. For supper,
19 you could make a bit of toast or something. The staff
20 would take you into the kitchen to do that. They had
21 a main kitchen, but in Garnock Unit every dormitory had
22 its own little kitchen to make a coffee. The staff were
23 fine if somebody wanted a toast or a packet of crisps.

24 'They had showers in Geilsland, not baths. Every
25 dormitory had its own shower. I think there was bath in

1 the dormitory up the stairs, but nobody used it. There
2 were no restrictions on when you could go for a shower.

3 'I had a friend in Geilsland. He was from England.
4 He had a really strong accent, but he got on well with
5 everyone. I think he had a severe problems with
6 cleanliness, because he would have three or four showers
7 a day. People used to mock him for it. If he had any
8 bit of sweat on him he was straight in the shower. To
9 the best of my knowledge, he didn't get any help with
10 that cleanliness obsession. I don't know his
11 background, maybe there were reasons for that.

12 'They had two washing machines and a tumble dryer in
13 Garnock Unit, so everybody took their turn doing the
14 washing. I think everybody knew how to use the washing
15 machine. Near the dining area in Lomond was the games
16 area. Normally, after we finished in the workshop,
17 people would come home and play a game of pool, play on
18 the PlayStation, or watch TV. They also had a smoking
19 area in there as well. You were allowed to smoke in the
20 building.

21 'If you went for PE they had a pool table there and
22 most people would just play pool. I can't remember the
23 PE teacher's name, but he was good at pool. Most people
24 couldn't beat him. He was in his 50s. He was muscular
25 and he had a metal plate in his head. He had a heart

1 attack in Geilsland, but he was okay. Most boys liked
2 him.

3 'They did have a kind of football pitch, but nobody
4 was interested in physical education. It was rare that
5 you saw boys running about with a football. I think
6 a lot of the boys were lazy at Geilsland. They did have
7 equipment for badminton and others sports, but nobody
8 was really interested in them; they were more interested
9 in getting into trouble or running away.

10 'Sometimes, but very rarely, the staff would take us
11 on an activity, like ice skating or something like that.
12 Sometimes the staff would take us to their houses. They
13 would hire a video that maybe wasn't in our age group,
14 maybe an 18 certificate. Instead of taking us back to
15 the unit, we would watch it there. In Garnock Unit
16 there were two members of staff who did that, the first
17 was zHVK, who was called zHVK, the second was
18 ERW. ERW took us to his dad's
19 house, which was near an airport, but it wasn't far from
20 Geilsland either. ERW's dad was there, too.
21 I don't know his name. He was just an old man.

22 'Nothing physical happened when I was there, but
23 I did find it a bit strange that certain people took us
24 to their houses.

25 'ERW did have a gym at his dad's house and

1 me and the other boys would lift weights, mostly with
2 our t-shirts off. I don't know if it was grooming.
3 I don't want to make an assumption.

4 'The school at Geilsland was for the whole place.
5 There were classes in English, maths and computing.
6 I think those were the only three school subjects that
7 they had that you could study, but you could study
8 joinery, painting, plumbing, to be an electrician, and
9 I think you could learn to be a mechanic there, too.
10 I think they were trying to get people to learn a trade.

11 'I would go to my classes in the morning, and go to
12 joinery and plumbing in the afternoon. The only time
13 that changed was a Tuesday, because everybody had to go
14 to church.

15 'There were people who came to Geilsland for the
16 educational part and then went home again, back to mum
17 and dad or whoever. I can still remember a boy, he
18 would come from Glasgow on the train. He was at
19 Geilsland every day from Monday to Friday, then he went
20 back home again every night. The school day ended at
21 3.00 pm. He wasn't there at weekends. He used to be in
22 my class, but then he got moved to a different class.

23 'We had teachers who came in for classes in the
24 morning, but they didn't work in the residential units.
25 The staff from the units were the ones who were teaching

1 in the workshop sheds in the afternoons. There was one
2 teacher called Doreen, who would fill in for the staff
3 in the units if someone was off sick. Everyone got on
4 with Doreen. She was quite a hardy woman. Some boys
5 would try to wind her up, but she wasn't one to be
6 messed around with. I don't think there was any
7 healthcare, like nursing or anything, at Geilsland. The
8 only place I went to like that when I was at Geilsland
9 was if the staff took me to get my glasses. I wasn't
10 ever taken to a doctor at Geilsland. If I fell ill or
11 had the flu, they would just let you sleep in bed.
12 I never saw anyone being taken to the doctor.

13 'One thing happened when I was at Geilsland that
14 I found strange was when I was 15 years old we were
15 given the choice whether to get the meningitis vaccine
16 by two nurses who came to the unit, at least that's what
17 they told us. The reason I took it was that my cousin
18 had died from meningitis. I thought I didn't want to
19 chance it.

20 'There was a small chapel in Geilsland. We had to
21 go to church on a Tuesday. Even if it was against
22 someone's religion, they still had to go. People were
23 forced to go. Some boys didn't to go, but I went
24 because I have a belief in God. They used to make fun
25 of me for believing in a higher power, but that's the

1 way I was brought up. So it didn't bother me, to go to
2 church. I never understood why we didn't go to church
3 on a Sunday. We were only at church for about half
4 an hour. They would teach us a bit of the Bible.
5 Sometimes other people would come to the church. There
6 was a man from America who came. He had a hard life.
7 He was raised by mice. There was even a choir from
8 America that came. After we had been to church, we went
9 back to the workshops or the classes. I wasn't aware of
10 any sectarianism at Geilsland.

11 'The chapel was on the grounds of Geilsland. I have
12 seen pictures of the church recently and it looks a lot
13 different from when I was there. They do weddings there
14 now.

15 'If you were doing good in the workshops you would
16 get a very small payment. It wasn't very much, but you
17 would get something. In the plumbing workshop I learned
18 how to fix a toilet and how to fix a sink. I remember
19 when I was in the joinery workshop I used to build
20 chairs and tables. They were then sold on to people.
21 So you were learning, but they were making profit of us
22 doing that. I was told that by the guy who was the head
23 of that workshop. His name was HVF but we used to
24 call him HVF I overheard him saying to someone that
25 the chairs were getting sold.

1 'I never saw anyone having their birthday celebrated
2 at Geilsland. We maybe had a Christmas dinner, but it
3 was nothing spectacular, nothing like would you have in
4 a family home. We got pocket money. And because I was
5 a smoker the staff would take us down to the shops to
6 get cigarettes. They had permission from my mother and
7 I was allowed to smoke.

8 'I was the only boy in Geilsland that didn't get
9 home leave. When I got moved to Geilsland I think only
10 got to see my mum once when I was there, when she came
11 to a fun day at Geilsland. Other parents were there,
12 too. They had a sports event on that day. People had
13 to lift weights and see how far they could carry them,
14 things like that.

15 'I was hardly ever in the offices in the main
16 building at Geilsland, but if I had a Children's Panel
17 it was in there. I can't remember who my key worker was
18 in Garnock Unit. Everybody had an allocated key worker.
19 My social worker was Audrey Reid. I never liked her at
20 all. The manager from school services back then --'

21 LADY SMITH: From social services.

22 MS MACLEOD: 'The manager from social services back then was
23 David Drake. I never got on with him either. I think
24 Audrey Reid came and saw me once when I was in
25 Geilsland. I think it was for a meeting about my

1 progress. They had meetings like that to see how I was
2 getting on at school, how I was getting on with the
3 other boys. Those meetings were in the conference room
4 in the main house in Geilsland.

5 'There was a guy called Tom Mormon who used to come
6 to all my meetings with me. Tom Mormon was the manager
7 of the unit before HNL took over. Tom lived in Beith
8 and we got on well because he played piano as well. He
9 taught me some pieces. He was a really nice guy. Then
10 he left and HNL came on as manager. He is another
11 one who would have smelled the drugs ERW was
12 bringing in and did nothing about it.

13 'At weekends most boys would go home and see their
14 families. There was myself and three other boys who
15 were the only four who didn't go home. Other boys were
16 committing crimes all the time, but they still got to go
17 home. Some boys were running away from Geilsland to
18 Beith and getting drunk or throwing stones at windows,
19 and other boys were committing crimes when they were
20 home for leave, but they still got to go for home leave
21 again after that.

22 'My mum and dad were always fighting and I couldn't
23 see my mum when I wanted to. It wasn't the school that
24 was trying to stop me; it was my dad. My dad was trying
25 to prevent me from seeing my mum. He was working

1 through lawyers to create a stigma. He always liked to
2 control people. My mum used to be scared of my dad, but
3 not now.

4 'There was a guy who worked in Geilsland called
5 Tom Mormon. He was the manager of the Garnock Unit at
6 one point, before a guy called HNL took over. Tom
7 was a good guy. He had a sports car. He took me down
8 once to see my mum [REDACTED].

9 'Every home I was in, I always found a way to see my
10 mother. Geilsland reminded me of Bishopbriggs, but it
11 was open, you could walk out if you wanted. Whereas you
12 were locked up in Bishopbriggs.

13 'I didn't have any problem with being bullied by any
14 of the other boys. I could hold my own. There was
15 a report in the papers years ago about a man abusing
16 boys in the unit. His name was zHVI, because he had
17 [REDACTED]. He didn't do anything to me. It was
18 a female member of staff who found out about it.
19 I think her name was [REDACTED]. She went to do something
20 about it, but he murdered her and then killed himself.

21 'The reason I knew there was somebody dodgy about
22 zHVI was that he took me out in a minibus one day when
23 we had to pick up something from home. He was telling
24 me stuff about other boys that he shouldn't have been
25 telling me. He told me that one particular boy was

1 bisexual and that he fancied me, a member of staff
2 shouldn't have been telling me that. ERW
3 punched a boy in the eye and gave him a black eye, but
4 he a blamed it on another boy. I can't remember that
5 boy's second name, but he got put out of Geilsland. He
6 was the type of boy who could stand up for himself.
7 ERW was the kind of guy who if he liked you,
8 he liked you, and if he didn't, he didn't.
9 ERW certainly didn't like me. He made threats
10 against me. It was through ERW that this boy
11 got moved to another placement. Me and this boy were
12 like brothers, but I can't even find him online because
13 I can't remember his second name it is that long ago.
14 ERW was the one who was bringing drugs
15 into the boys at that time and the boys couldn't afford
16 to buy the drugs. ERW ended up emigrating to
17 another country. It was another boy who told me that at
18 a later date, that it was ERW who was bringing
19 in the drugs and that he emigrated. Apparently staff
20 found out about him bringing cannabis in to the boys and
21 he took off. In my opinion, it should be an automatic
22 prison sentence for someone in that position bringing
23 drugs to young vulnerable persons.
24 'Every time ERW was on duty the smell of
25 cannabis would hit you. I don't know why ERW

1 was bringing drugs in to the unit. I don't know if he
2 was getting paid. I remember a number of the boys he
3 was associated with. They used to be in the unit
4 together all the time. I knew it was ERW
5 bringing the drugs in. I think that was the reason he
6 moved me to the bottom dormitory. I think ERW
7 realised I had worked out what was happening.

8 'Anyone could smell the cannabis. The thing that
9 angered me was that KMJ, SNR
10 SNR, walked into that unit and would say he
11 was just popping in to see that everything was all
12 right. He was there less than two minutes and then he
13 would leave. He was basically turning a blind eye to
14 the drug use.

15 'I was assaulted by the member of staff called ERT.
16 Me and a friend planned to run away. I was going to see
17 my mother and he was going to come with me. He was
18 willing to come with me. There was a train station near
19 Beith and we had it planned. When we were going to get
20 the train late at night we were going to sneak on to the
21 train to Glasgow and from Glasgow down to Stranraer, but
22 it didn't go according to plan. We got outside the
23 building and that's when ERT caught us. He was one of
24 the night staff at Garnock. I think there was another
25 member of night staff on duty that night, but I am not

1 sure who. When ERT caught me, he through me against
2 a wall and cut my head open. I still have a scar there.
3 Normally ERT was okay with people, but that time he
4 came behind me, put me in a headlock and threw me up
5 against a wall.

6 'The funny thing is ERT didn't do anything to the
7 other boy. I was the main target that night. The other
8 boy just went to his room. I have no idea why ERT did
9 that to me, I wasn't threatening him or acting in
10 a threatening way. After he threw me against the wall
11 ERT pushed me back to the building and I went away from
12 him. I did say to ERT that he had no right to do that
13 to me. I could understand that if I was acting up he
14 would have to have the right to restrain me, but not to
15 throw me up against the wall.

16 'I know I wasn't the first person to be hit by ERT,
17 because one night ERT gave another boy a black eye.
18 That boy didn't take it any further. He didn't get the
19 police involved. I didn't witness it, but it got round
20 the unit. The boy must have told people what happened.
21 I am pretty sure ERT hit a few other boys as well.

22 ZHVK was the one who assaulted me with the chair.
23 It was another night when I was running away. I can't
24 remember who I was going to run away with, it was that
25 long ago. I hid in one of the built-in wardrobes in the

1 bedroom and my friends hid in the others. zHVK came
2 storming into my room, looking for me, and then I heard
3 him up on the roof. I could hear him swearing. He
4 said, 'No one's going to be fucking running away when
5 I am on'. He came back down from the roof, through my
6 bedroom window. He then found me in the wardrobe and he
7 threw me to the other side of the room. He was capable
8 of doing that. He had very muscular arms. He was in
9 a rage. He lifted a wooden chair and threw it at me.
10 It broke on my foot and my whole foot was black and
11 blue. If that chair had hit me differently it could
12 have killed me.

13 'When I confronted zHVK about it the next day,
14 I took my trainer off and showed him what he had done to
15 me. He didn't show any remorse or say he was sorry. He
16 said, 'Well, you will know not to fucking run away when
17 I am on'. He said it quite aggressively. I would say
18 a lot of the boys were scared of zHVK. I heard round
19 the unit that other boys had been hit by zHVK and ERT,
20 too.

21 'I don't know if my injured foot was noticed by any
22 other staff. The PE teacher was off work for a few
23 months after he had a heart attack and that might have
24 been the same time that zHVK injured my foot.

25 'I tried to stay away from zHVK after that. The

1 only time I would see him was at the dinner table.
2 I tried to stay away from ERW and ERT as
3 well. I would ask the day staff who was going to be on
4 duty that night. If they said it was ERT, I would be
5 in my bedroom before he even came to the door. If you
6 could get away with hitting children, I just wanted to
7 stay away from him.

8 'I believe that there was more staff that were
9 lifting their hands to children. I think it was well
10 known what was going on. I think some of them shouldn't
11 have been there. I think some of them were ex-forces.
12 I thought that at the time. You can pick up on people's
13 mannerisms. Also, it was going around the school that
14 zHVK was in the SAS and that ERT was a Royal Marine.

15 'I got threatened in my bedroom by zHVK. I was
16 accused of doing something I hadn't done and he was
17 threatening to get me done in if I went to prison. The
18 way he sounded it was believable. Luckily a few months
19 later I was able to leave.

20 'When ERT threw me up against the wall and cut my
21 head open, the police were involved. I was really angry
22 and I smashed my room up and demanded he phone the
23 police. The police came the same night. I think it was
24 the police from Beith. The police took a statement from
25 me in the office and ERT was in the office with me

1 when I was giving my statement. The police were there
2 for five or ten minutes and then they left. I don't
3 know if ERT had shown my files to the police.
4 Something tells me they did, because the police were not
5 friendly. They were not nice at all. The police told
6 me that I had done it to myself. As I said to the
7 police: what reason would I have for throwing myself
8 against a wall?

9 'I didn't get any medical attention. The next day
10 I spoke to other staff about what ERT had done, but no
11 one was interested. I did mention that a couple of my
12 progress meetings that I had been assaulted by zHVK and
13 ERT . They said they were going to investigate, but
14 they did nothing. David Drake, Audrey Reid,
15 KMJ , Chris McNaught and Tom Mormon would all be
16 at my progress meetings. I presume they would have
17 written down what was happening at the meetings.

18 'I am not aware of the police being called out for
19 anything like that any other time. When I was assaulted
20 by zHVK , I didn't bother phoning the police because
21 I didn't think there was any point.

22 'What angers me is that I didn't get to go to
23 an independent living unit. I was just thrown in at the
24 deep end once I left Geilsland. The Social Work
25 Department actually went against what the Children's

1 Panel told them to do. When I left Geilsland I was over
2 16 years old. Audrey Reid came and collected me and
3 took me to Rhins of Galloway. It was a bit like
4 an hotel, but it was run by the Council. It was one
5 room and it had bed, wardrobe, television, and
6 a bathroom. There were drug users in there, so I got
7 put back in to care.

8 'One of the drug users they were moving me away from
9 was someone who had been at Geilsland. At my last Panel
10 I told them that there were drug users in the place
11 I was living and I got put into a place called Ladyacre
12 in Dumfries for two weeks. It was only until they could
13 get me another bedsit in Stranraer. But the social
14 workers were told by the Children's Panel to get me
15 a fully furnished flat with support continuing on until
16 I was 21, and they didn't provide either of those
17 things.

18 'It says in my file that I was is to get support
19 until I was 19 years old, but I can still remember the
20 last panel saying it was to the age of 21. They never
21 once put me in a fully furnished flat, but because I was
22 no longer under a supervision order the social worker
23 could do whatever they wanted.

24 'I got my first house when I was 17 years old, but
25 I wasn't ready for it. I didn't last because I wasn't

1 taught how to cook and things like that. I was in and
2 out of homeless units until I was 21 years old.

3 'When I got out of the care system I was wild.
4 I was no angel. I got in with the wrong crowd and did
5 stupid things. I went to prison four times after I came
6 out of the care system.

7 'When I hit 20 years old that was my turning point.
8 I decided I wasn't going down the same route as my
9 father, going in and out of prison. I had my first gay
10 relationship when I was 21 years old. That didn't go
11 very well, so I moved to England where I was playing the
12 piano in restaurants. I met a new partner and moved
13 abroad.

14 'I moved to Germany in 2004 and stayed there for
15 12 years. I can speak perfect German. I worked in
16 a supermarket and played piano in two different
17 restaurants. After my relationship broke down, I spent
18 time in London and Blackpool, where I was again playing
19 the piano in restaurants.

20 'When I moved back to Scotland I was playing the
21 piano in an hotel up there. I think if I didn't play
22 the piano, things could have worked out quite
23 differently for me.

24 'I don't play piano as well as I used to because
25 I don't practice as much. I stopped working as a piano

1 player because the money wasn't enough. I took on
2 a better job offer. I was getting paid more working in
3 big supermarkets than I was playing the piano.

4 'I have had problems with my emotions since being in
5 care. I think you learn to live with it and deal with
6 it, but you never forget it. Some people are lucky,
7 because they can block things out, but I can't.

8 'I suffer from bad anxiety, and I do have an alcohol
9 problem, but I do get help with it. I have cut my
10 alcohol consumption right down. Luckily, I never turned
11 to drugs.

12 'The social workers lied to me in the past to cover
13 their own tracks. One of them even say said to me that
14 my mum had cancer, but she didn't. When my mum
15 challenged it, the person who said that left. That's
16 the thing about social services. If you challenge them
17 and you have the evidence, they leave.

18 'I have spent a lot of time playing the piano,
19 making up my own music. That was my therapy. I never
20 had any other help. I have not reported the abuse I
21 suffered to the police or anyone. One of the main
22 reasons I didn't make a report to the police is nobody
23 believed me about the abuse back then, so no one is
24 going to believe me now. Staff and social services get
25 believed over the child. It should never have been that

1 way, but unfortunately that is still the way it is.'

2 Between paragraphs 227 and 232, the witness speaks
3 about records and related matters, and I don't propose
4 to read that part of the statement.

5 I will now move on to paragraph 233, where the
6 witness discusses lessons he considers could be learned
7 from his experiences:

8 'I think there will always be someone who will get
9 through the loopholes. Some of the people who abuse
10 children don't have a criminal record and if you get
11 a clear disclosure, nine times out of ten you could get
12 a job working with children. They don't really look
13 into anything else.

14 'There should be better checks looking into people's
15 backgrounds. I don't think places should be run by
16 churches. A lot of sexual abuse comes from religion.
17 It's not just priests; it is pastors and others.

18 'I am grateful that the Inquiry is happening. Maybe
19 other kids will come forward and something will happen.
20 Maybe the people who abuse children will be brought to
21 justice. I think if someone was to really get a proper
22 sentence it would scare some of the others and stop
23 them. I hope that the people who abused me will pay the
24 price for it. When you are in a home and you are
25 a vulnerable child, the staff are there to look after

1 you, not to lift their hands to you. When I was thrown
2 against a wall by ERT I was disbelieved. All I can
3 hope is for a bit of justice for kids who are abused in
4 the care system. I believe that kids who have been
5 abused in the care system should get compensation.
6 Regardless of where it may be, it is still happening
7 somewhere.

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

12 Alexander signed the statement on 9 March 2022.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Mr MacAulay.

14 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady this is an applicant who wants to
15 remain anonymous and use the name 'Sean' in his
16 evidence.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Sean' (read)

19 MR MACAULAY: His witness statement is to be found at
20 WIT-1-000000793.

21 'Sean' was born in 1987. He begins by telling us
22 about his life before going into care:

23 'I was born in Inverness and lived with my mother
24 and stepfather. My parents separated as a result of my
25 father throwing my mother down the stairs when he found

1 out she was pregnant with me. I don't think the police
2 were involved.'

3 He goes on to say, at 3:

4 'My stepfather and my mother got together shortly
5 after I was born. I was 8 years old when my mother
6 married my stepfather.

7 'I attended Crown Primary School until primary three
8 and then moved to another primary school. I found
9 things difficult when I was a child and I was bullied at
10 school by other boys. I had been bullied at school
11 since primary five and that continued into first year at
12 secondary school. I started fighting back when I was in
13 secondary school.'

14 At 6 he begins setting out the background leading up
15 to being admitted to Geilsland:

16 'I was always young for my year and I was small for
17 my age. I was in trouble an awful lot. My schoolwork
18 was good and my grades were brilliant, but I tended to
19 mess about and get into trouble for silly things, like
20 talking back to teachers and for a lot of fighting.
21 I think I was just too sharp for my age.

22 'My mother and stepfather had four children
23 together.'

24 And he goes on to describe who they were. At
25 paragraph 8:

1 'It was confusing for me because I felt I was
2 singled out and treated differently from my siblings
3 when I was growing up. I had a different relationship
4 with my stepfather than my friends at school had with
5 their fathers. The only time he said anything to me was
6 when I was in trouble or when there was something to be
7 said. My brother would get away with murder. The same
8 rules didn't apply to him as applied to me.

9 'There was violence at home, mostly generated at me.
10 I was grounded all the time. I felt scared and
11 constantly under the threat of violence from my parents.
12 I was punished for everything.'

13 At 11, he says:

14 'I started using drugs at secondary school.'

15 He describes the first secondary school, and that he
16 was suspended when he was in the first year.

17 Moving on to paragraph 12:

18 'I believed my stepfather to be my natural father
19 until I was 13 years old when I found out [who my father
20 was] ... and that I had a half brother who was a year
21 younger than me. This came out during an argument with
22 my mother and stepfather.

23 'I tracked down my real father when I was 14 and
24 started doing a Saturday job with him in a salon in
25 an attempt to get to know him.

1 'On the fifth or sixth Saturday after I had started
2 he vanished. He had run off to London. I was left with
3 lots of questions and that had a bad effect on me at
4 that age, when you are trying to find out who you are.

5 'Things started unfolding after that and I was using
6 cannabis from then on.'

7 He goes on to say that he was also using Valium.

8 Then, at 16:

9 'One day at school I knocked out a boy, broke his
10 nose and knocked out four of his teeth. To prevent me
11 getting expelled for good I was sent to live with my
12 granny and granddad in Edinburgh. My granny was my
13 mum's mum.'

14 And he attended at another school, but got expelled
15 for fighting. He returned to Inverness and to another
16 school that didn't last long because, again, he was
17 expelled for fighting. It is also the case he talks
18 about at paragraph 17, where he was expelled.

19 At 18:

20 'I started running away from home when I was
21 attending school in Inverness because I was constantly
22 being punished and I was never allowed out. I did try
23 to stay out of trouble, but the bullies at school
24 wouldn't leave me alone.'

25 His brothers were toddlers:

1 '... and I felt I was being treated like
2 a babysitter. I ran away for months on end and stayed
3 with friends, who were usually a bit older than me. The
4 police would get me eventually and take me home.'

5 Then he discusses the involvement of the Social Work
6 Department.

7 Towards the bottom, at 22:

8 'When I was 15, I ran away again and used a friend's
9 National Insurance number and started working in
10 a restaurant. Every time I was caught by the police the
11 social workers took me to stay in a flat in Inverness.

12 'During this time I was drinking with older boys on
13 Market Brae Steps. One of them threw a Buckfast bottle
14 at two Glaswegian men who were just out of prison and it
15 hit one of them in the face. There was a fight. The
16 police lifted us and we were detained overnight. The
17 other two blamed me. I was taken in front of
18 a Children's Panel in Inverness and placed under
19 an indefinite Supervision Order. My mother said she
20 didn't want me back home.

21 'I was taken to a children's centre by a social
22 worker. I was told I would be there until I was 16.
23 I stayed there for two weeks and made friends with ...
24 [another boy]. A girl who moved into the unit took
25 a fancy to me and I think this is why I was moved.

1 'I was then moved to Geilsland ... I think she was
2 called Susan. She told me Geilsland was a residential
3 school and that I would be in a unit with other boys.
4 This was in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 2002. I remember the
5 date because it was life changing.'

6 So he would be about 15 at that time.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR MACAULAY: 'I was terrified going to Geilsland. I knew
9 I would be there for a long time and it wouldn't be
10 easy. I was due to turn 16 some months later, but they
11 told me that because of the Supervision Order I could be
12 kept indefinitely. I didn't understand this. If you
13 could legally leave home at 16, I couldn't understand
14 why I had to remain in care. I believe the Supervision
15 Order was to be reviewed, but I never went back in front
16 of the Children's Panel.

17 'I was devastated that my mum didn't want me around
18 as much as I wasn't around. I was only at home for
19 a couple of days every month.'

20 Then he goes on to describe the location and, at 29,
21 the layout:

22 'There were three residential units, a separate
23 school and a church. The units were called
24 Cunningham House, Garnock Unit and Lomond Unit. I was
25 in Garnock, which was for the most troubled boys.

1 Lomond Unit was for sex offenders. There was a big
2 fence all around the property, but the gates weren't
3 locked.

4 'Geilsland was scary. It was all boys. It was full
5 of proper car thieves and people in for serious assaults
6 from Glasgow and the surrounding areas, and I was from
7 the Highlands.

8 'I was with boys who had quite happily stabbed
9 people and were proud of it. I had never mixed with
10 people like this before. As much trouble as I had been
11 in, I had never done anything like that and I wouldn't
12 have dreamt of it.'

13 At 34, he says:

14 'Geilsland SNR KMJ. Some staff
15 members were good and some were bad. My key worker was
16 called GHV and he was a really good guy. I remember
17 a woman called Sheena who quit. I don't know why she
18 quit.'

19 Then over to paragraph 39:

20 'We were allowed to phone home whenever we wanted.
21 You just went to the office to ask to use the phone.
22 They were pretty flexible about this.'

23 Then he provides some information about the routine.

24 He says, at paragraph 43:

25 'I was in flat 2, which was between flats 1 and 3.

1 My bedroom was upstairs. I had my own bedroom which had
2 a single bed, a built in cupboard, a dressing table and
3 a television. I had my CD player from home. I made my
4 bed in the morning as part of my morning routine, but we
5 weren't made to do this.'

6 Towards the bottom, at paragraph 48, he says:

7 'All the boys ate in the canteen at the same time.
8 You usually sat with your friends and the same crowd
9 kept to each other. The food was really good. There
10 was a selection of food for lunch.'

11 Moving on to paragraph 51, where he talks about the
12 schooling:

13 'School was absolutely terrible and we had no
14 interest whatsoever. It was vocational, so was geared
15 towards careers as electricians, painters, joiners and
16 mechanics. I was allocated to the electricians group.
17 You weren't allowed to choose your group.

18 'There were three or four boys to a class. You
19 spent half the day in a workshop and half in class,
20 where you did music, maths, English, and other academic
21 options. We also did PE in a big gym.

22 'Teachers came from outside Geilsland to teach us.
23 You could choose to work or go on the PlayStation. We
24 also played cards for cigarettes during classes. The
25 teachers sat back with their feet on the desks. The

1 teachers were happy with this because they had an easy
2 day. It was an absolute disgrace.

3 'After school we went back to the unit and played
4 pool and hung around. We didn't have any homework.
5 There weren't any books or board games.'

6 At 58:

7 'The school was owned by the Church of Scotland, so
8 they marched us up to church on Sunday. We just wore
9 our normal casual clothes. I was christened as a baby,
10 but I didn't believe in God.'

11 Moving on to paragraph 62, where he is talking about
12 trips that had been organised:

13 'GHV [REDACTED] and GHU [REDACTED] took us to Lake Windermere
14 on one occasion. The boys on this trip [and he mentions
15 who they were] ... at the end of this trip GHU [REDACTED] and
16 a boy called [REDACTED] grabbed me and threw me off the pier
17 into the lake. I didn't find this funny. This was
18 because I had climbed out of the window one night on to
19 the ledge and hidden the trainers belonging to one of
20 the members of staff. It was a practical joke. I was
21 too stubborn to change out of my wet clothes and sat in
22 them on the bus back to Geilsland.'

23 Then at 64:

24 'The staff knew we were taking drugs, but we were
25 given passes anyway. They didn't monitor where we went.

1 This always involved drugs and alcohol. Another boy's
2 mother would take him to the local drug dealer's house
3 to get drugs. We would hang around Ayr or Largs and
4 meet up with girls we had met when the staff had taken
5 us to the park, or to the cinema.'

6 Then, over the page, at paragraph 69, on visits:

7 'My mum, stepdad, brothers, sisters and girlfriend
8 came for the school sports award academy.'

9 LADY SMITH: The awards ceremony.

10 MR MACAULAY: 'I won the [REDACTED] Memorial Trophy. This
11 was in memory of a boy had had been killed walking from
12 the train station up to the school. It felt good to see
13 them, but we were mixed with the sex offenders that day
14 and I was worried because my little brother and sister
15 were only toddlers.

16 'A couple of months after I arrived at Geilsland
17 I was introduced to Anne Kealy, my new social worker.
18 This was the only visit I had from her and I never saw
19 her again until I left Geilsland.

20 'I was under an indefinite Supervision Order.
21 I think it had a review period, but I can't remember it
22 being reviewed. I never had a Panel after I was sent to
23 Geilsland.'

24 At paragraph 73:

25 'We ran away sometimes, this depended on the weather

1 and how much money we had. We would go to the local
2 shop and steal alcohol. We ran away until we got caught
3 by the police, usually after a few hours. The unit
4 wasn't locked. Sometimes we could creep out at night
5 and get back in again without being noticed.

6 'I had an issue with bed wetting from when I was
7 quite young. There was a protective cover on the
8 mattress in Geilsland and the cleaners would change the
9 bed. Sometimes I would pull the sheets off if they were
10 wet and put them next to the washing basket. I was able
11 to take a shower after this happened.

12 'I got picked on by GHU for wetting the bed. He
13 was always polite, but after I made a complaint about
14 another staff member, he totally changed and he told the
15 other boys I wet the bed. The other boys then teased
16 me. A boy told me that GHU had told him. I remember
17 [another boy] ... also wet the bed.

18 'The night staff came on duty every evening at about
19 9.00 pm. They always worked in pairs. One would come
20 into your bedroom and one would wait outside.

21 'One night when I had been at Geilsland for about
22 two or three months there was a new member of staff who
23 came into check on me. She was blond with blue eyes and
24 five foot eight or a bit taller. She was in her late
25 30s or early 40s. She told me my television was too

1 loud, so I turned the volume down.

2 'I heard foot steps go downstairs, so I turned the
3 volume up again a couple of notches. She must have been
4 pretending to go downstairs, because she burst back into
5 my room along with a staff member called **HVN** who was
6 also on duty for the first time. He was a big guy who
7 looked like Charles Bronson. He had a shaven head and
8 was in his late 30s. When we were initially introduced
9 to them in the corridor before they started their shift,
10 they said they had both worked at Kerelaw before
11 Geilsland.

12 'They gave me the fright of my life. I jumped up on
13 to my bed because I felt threatened. **HVN** grabbed me by
14 the scruff of my neck and flipped my legs right over his
15 head and on to the floor. I landed on my back. **HVN** put
16 his knee on my chest and pinned me down. He knelt on me
17 so hard I could feel my ribs cracking and I still have
18 an indentation on my rib cage to this day. I felt
19 I couldn't breathe and I was being suffocated. They
20 both sat on me. They were trying to hold me a certain
21 way in order to restrain me. The woman sat on my legs.

22 'My friend from downstairs came up and tried to get
23 in to help me. He was screaming for them to let me go.
24 The woman got off my legs and put her foot against the
25 bottom of the door, so he couldn't get in. They tried

1 to blame me for what had happened, saying I should have
2 got off the bed. They were saying they felt threatened
3 because I was standing on the bed. The incident felt
4 like it went on for an hour and a half. They tried to
5 calm me down and get me to admit I was wrong. They
6 eventually agreed to leave me when I calmed down.

7 'I felt like shit. I had a sore chest and I was
8 scared, but I didn't see a doctor. Every time they came
9 in after that I thought it might start again. They came
10 in every hour, looked around and then left. I think
11 because they were new they wanted to do things their
12 way. I felt there was a presumption of guilt every
13 hour, every night.

14 'The usual member of staff who did nights was called
15 Steve and he just used to stick his head round the door
16 and ask if you were all right.

17 'One night when I had been in Geilsland for a few
18 months I slammed the door of my room. I think I slammed
19 the office door, too, and all the other doors.
20 Christine and GHS came charging into my room.
21 I told GHS he wasn't going to restrain me, but he
22 grabbed me and spun me round. Christine and GHS
23 tried to put me on the floor. I tried not to go down
24 because I didn't want adults lying on top of me for
25 two hours. GHS couldn't get me down, so he pushed me

1 back on the bed. I kept goading him by saying he wasn't
2 going to restrain me and calling him names. He had me
3 by the scruff of the neck and he punched me in the face
4 twice using a clenched fist. I had never felt a punch
5 like it in my life. I was only a boy and he was a grown
6 man. I felt helpless.

7 'Christine screamed at him to stop and pulled him
8 off me. They both left and I had a sore face and felt
9 like absolute shit. I had a shiner. I was swollen
10 around the eye, but I didn't get any medical attention.
11 I just wanted to be with my family, but I wasn't able
12 to.

13 'Following the incident with GHS, GHU would
14 verbally abuse me when he met me in the corridor. He
15 would ask me how many pubies I had as he walked past me
16 and teased me about my height. He always made
17 derogatory comments.

18 'A new boy came into Geilsland and he was really bad
19 news. His mum gave him drugs to take into the unit and
20 he flooded the place with Valium. Another boy and I had
21 taken it and we were full of it. We were meant to be
22 going on a trip and we were on the minibus. I plucked
23 the hat off the other boy's head as a joke. GHU
24 said something to me and I was cheeky to him. He got me
25 on the floor of the minibus, trying to restrain me.

1 I felt one of his hands grab me by the head and he
2 smashed my face into the floor of the minibus. The
3 other boys witnessed this. They kept me in the minibus,
4 restrained, for ages until I calmed down. I witnessed
5 other boys being restrained inappropriately.

6 'I remember GHU [REDACTED] restraining a boy. This
7 happened in the third flat living room. This boy was
8 deeply emotionally upset and this just made matters
9 worse. This boy was only being verbal because he was
10 upset about something, but he was physically abused when
11 he was being restrained. He was grabbed and thrown to
12 the floor.

13 'GHU [REDACTED] had his knee on the back of this boy's neck
14 and another staff member, called KDU [REDACTED], was trying to sit
15 on his legs. He was pinned down. It was excessive
16 force. It went on for ages, maybe at least an hour.
17 Another boy and I were screaming at them to let him go.
18 It was upsetting for us. The situation would have been
19 different if the boy had been trying to harm himself in
20 some way, but he was just upset about something.

21 'Another boy was also restrained excessively when he
22 was upset. He was flung about like a rag doll. This
23 happened regularly and you felt powerless. GHU [REDACTED] had
24 been a prison officer in Barlinnie and he restrained
25 boys countless times. He behaved like a prison officer

1 in a boys' home. He had the wrong temperament for the
2 job.

3 'The restraining happened in the painter's class
4 once to a boy. This was done by staff members
5 HVW and GHU. They had one person on his
6 upper body and another on his lower body. GHU knelt on
7 his neck and twisted his wrist.

8 'It was standard practice for the staff to restrain
9 you if you were cheeky or misbehaved in some way.
10 Restraining was their answer to everything. They would
11 restrain you until you were exhausted and then you had
12 to go and complete paperwork and sign a form. I know
13 this should have happened every time you were
14 restrained.

15 'There was a feeling of us against them. Things
16 would have been different if the staff had been trained
17 properly to have more patience and taught to speak to
18 the pupils, rather than restraining them. One staff
19 member knew how to talk to us. He dealt with us
20 completely differently. He treated us totally
21 differently.

22 'One day when I had been at Geilsland for about
23 eight months two boys and I were on a day pass and we
24 went to the beach at Largs. We were meant to go to
25 Kilwinning, but we went to Largs because it was the same

1 train. The staff knew we were on Valium, but they gave
2 us passes anyway. We had stolen Southern Comfort from
3 Safeways and we had drunk Buckfast and we had taken
4 Valium the day before. We were absolutely smashed. We
5 shouldn't have been there. We met a few girls that we
6 had been seeing on the beach. I was arrested later that
7 day for being drunk and incapable, and I was taken back
8 to Geilsland in a cage in the back of a prison van.

9 HYL was a key worker for a boy. She
10 started working in Geilsland in the summer of 2003. She
11 used to walk up and down the hall singing hymns and
12 pretending to be God-fearing. She was married with
13 children, but she was having a relationship with this
14 boy. I know this because this boy told me. He told me
15 that he loved her and that she loved him. This boy was
16 two years younger than me.'

17 Which would put him at about 13 or 14:

18 'When we had a day pass at the weekends we would go
19 to HYL's daughter house in Kilwinning. I had a short
20 sexual relationship with her daughter and then this
21 other boy went out with her. We would take drugs and
22 alcohol. The first time I saw this other boy and HYL
23 together, HYL was sitting in the room smoking a joint
24 with this boy. I saw them kissing and fondling each
25 other. They had clothes on. We left them in the room

1 and left them to it.

2 'HYL always took this boy out of Geilsland. She
3 brought drugs and alcohol into Geilsland for us.
4 I could tell she was stoned when she was at work at
5 Geilsland and I got hash from her once. The staff in
6 Geilsland knew that we took drugs because we were high,
7 but they couldn't control it. This boy got copious
8 amounts of cannabis and Valium from her. This boy hated
9 heroin because his parents had died of a drugs overdose.
10 HYL and this boy's relationship continued for months
11 while this boy was at Geilsland and they were both still
12 there when I left.

13 'This boy subsequently died tragically of
14 an overdose when he was about 18. The [REDACTED]
15 that this was the result of the breakdown of
16 a relationship. He had been living in a flat in
17 Greenock. He was really clever and he had the brightest
18 future of us all. I believe HYL robbed him of his
19 youth and of his life.

20 'I was picked up by my key worker from the train
21 station after I had been home to Inverness and taken to
22 the police station where I was strip searched. This was
23 degrading and they didn't find anything. This happened
24 twice, two months in a row, after I had been back to
25 Inverness. It wasn't me who was taking drugs into the

1 unit. They had their own staff doing that.

2 'I made a complaint about GHS after he punched
3 me. I reported it to Debbie the same day. She was the
4 unit manager in Garnock. I spoke to her in the meeting
5 room next to the office. Christine was also present
6 because she had witnessed GHS punching me. Debbie
7 wrote things down and I am pretty sure she got me to
8 sign the form. She talked to me about the complaint and
9 I told her that I wanted it to be taken seriously, but
10 I can't remember if she mentioned contacting the police.
11 I think GHS was suspended. I never saw him again
12 after that.

13 'I felt the staff had it in for me after I reported
14 the abuse by GHS. I felt singled out and constantly
15 rundown. All the staff members, except HVK and
16 Sheena, pressured me and would say that he didn't mean
17 it. One tried to get me to withdraw the complaint by
18 guilt tripping me and I thought he would have been my
19 biggest supporter because he was my key worker. He
20 would say that GHS was a nice guy and he didn't mean
21 it, and he had children. GHV was this other boy's key
22 worker as well, and he even persuaded this other boy to
23 try to encourage me to withdraw my complaint.

24 'GHU was close to GHS because they were both
25 Celtic fans and they played football together, so he

1 also put me under pressure. He was a bully as well. He
2 tried to make me feel bad about GHS . I think I told
3 the day staff the following day about what HVN had done
4 to me, because I couldn't play football as a result of
5 my chest being so sore. HVN subsequently took me into
6 the living room of flat 2 and apologised for what had
7 happened that night and started telling me about his
8 responsibilities.

9 'I was at war with a boy who had come into the unit.
10 He had stolen a purse from an old granny in Paisley. He
11 bullied this other boy, who was a gentle soul, and stole
12 his dad's gold ring, which was the only thing he had
13 left belonging to his parents. I felt nobody else was
14 going to say anything to him, so I did. He threatened
15 to stab me.

16 'I got a boy to leave the fire exit for flat 1
17 unlocked. After the staff had done the checks, I crept
18 out of my flat using the fire exit and into flat 1
19 through the fire exit. I went into this boy's room
20 where I was caught. He was trying to hit me with
21 a lamp, but I ended up leathering him. I was taken back
22 to my room that night, but was excluded from Geilsland
23 the following morning after a meeting. That was because
24 I had been caught in his room and was considered to be
25 the protagonist. Social work were contacted and I was

1 given a travel warrant and put on a train back to
2 Inverness. I think I went to my mum's that day and my
3 stepfather took me to the Social Work Department. The
4 social worker took me to the Council and then to a bed
5 and breakfast. They had to call a Children's Panel
6 shortly afterwards. I can't recall attending it. They
7 had a review, which the unit manager, my key worker from
8 Geilsland, attended. Anne Kealy, my allocated social
9 worker, was also in attendance. This was the first time
10 I had seen her since I was sent to Geilsland. They said
11 I couldn't go back to Geilsland. I felt that Geilsland
12 had kicked me out, put me in a bed and breakfast in
13 Inverness and left me to my own devices.'

14 He then stays in another place, where he stayed for
15 a short period of time. Then he deals with his life
16 after care, at paragraph 110:

17 'I got a flat from Inverness Council when I was 17,
18 but I stayed across the road with a friend in his flat
19 and my flat was used to store things. I ended up on
20 amphetamine, ecstasy, and cocaine. I was awake five
21 days out of seven. Before I knew it, eight months had
22 gone by. A friend told me I needed to slow down and
23 stop with the drugs, and this was the wake up call
24 I needed. I didn't realise how many months had
25 disappeared out of my life because I was in a drug

1 induced psychosis.

2 'One woman who worked for the Council was really
3 nice, and she tried to help me by encouraging me to live
4 in my flat, but by then I was a lost cause and couldn't
5 look after myself.'

6 Then he talks about running away to Edinburgh when
7 he was 18 and working in restaurants.

8 At 113:

9 'I moved back to Inverness in 2019 and started
10 injecting heroin a week after that. I overdosed four
11 times. I am now clear of all drugs, except cannabis.
12 I am doing voluntary work in a kitchen and I enjoy this.
13 I recognise that in terms of employment, the pressure in
14 a kitchen is not right for me and physical work is much
15 better.'

16 Then he moves on to talk about the impact being in
17 care has had on him.

18 At 115, he says:

19 'The impact of being in care has been the greatest
20 on my mental health. I don't think what went on in
21 Geilsland will ever leave me. I learnt from it, but
22 I wasn't prepared for anything. I think I would be in
23 a better position if the social work had left me alone
24 in Inverness. I was working and I was happy. I had
25 a good job in a restaurant by the time I was 20.

1 I could have been made junior chef de partie.

2 'I started a relationship with a lady at the end of
3 2006 or the beginning of 2007. I stopped working in the
4 catering sector due to alcohol and for better hours as
5 she was diabetic. I was in a good place in 2014 ...
6 things between my partner and I were good and we had two
7 small children.

8 'Then my father died. I had only tracked him down
9 again in 2012 to tell him he was a grandfather and we
10 were speaking every couple of months. He choked on
11 a piece of steak in a restaurant and had a cardiac
12 arrest. I completely fell apart and I started taking
13 legal highs. My relationship with my partner lasted for
14 more than ten years on and off, but it was a toxic
15 relationship. We were violent towards each other and
16 I spent periods in jail, social work were involved and
17 our two children were removed from our care.'

18 And then, at 121, he says:

19 'I put my addictions down to emotional baggage from
20 when I was young, from that period of my life I wasn't
21 prepared for life at all. Things weren't good at home.
22 I have never finished anything. I didn't see anything
23 through. I always felt it was my fault. I felt
24 condemned from quite a young age that I was going to be
25 a loser forever. Everything is one big regret.

1 I wasn't there for my brothers and sisters. I used to
2 tell them when they were growing up "I'm showing you how
3 not to be".

4 'I think of Geilsland every day. It could be a song
5 or somebody that looks like somebody from Geilsland.
6 When I think about football and how far I could have
7 gone, it is seriously depressing, but I have learned to
8 live with it. I was never a career criminal. I have
9 been charged with being drunk and incapable, resisting
10 arrest and assault. I am anti-establishment as a result
11 of being in care.

12 'I have had good stages in my life and then
13 something happens that sets me back. I have been
14 diagnosed with depression, anxiety and post-traumatic
15 stress disorder.'

16 Going on to lessons to be learned at paragraph 126:

17 'I think there should be independent people, aside
18 from social work and independent of any government body,
19 who should check out and monitor institutions and foster
20 care and check the welfare of the boys and girls.
21 Ideally, I don't think residential homes should exist
22 anymore.'

23 And he provides some further information. 127:

24 'My mother and stepfather are still together and
25 have been married for 25 years. I have an amazing

1 relationship with my stepfather now, although there have
2 been tensions recently. We started seeing eye to eye
3 a couple of years after I left care.'

4 At 130:

5 'My main grievance is against Geilsland, the way
6 things went in the school and the way they treated us.
7 I also feel a grievance against social work in
8 Inverness. I was placed in that school, but I was
9 getting day passes in an area I didn't know and wasn't
10 from. I was allowed to hang around, but I wasn't
11 allowed to do this in Inverness, where I was near family
12 and friends and I was working. They plucked me out of
13 a situation and dropped me into an even worse one. The
14 reasoning behind it doesn't stand up to logic at all.

15 'I didn't finish school and I never went to college.
16 I haven't done any schoolwork since the age of 13
17 because I was running away and then I was at Geilsland.
18 I have educated myself because I am interested in
19 physics, space and nature. When I was grounded by my
20 parents the television was removed from my room and all
21 that was left was encyclopaedias, which I read from
22 back-to-back.

23 'I saw KMJ [REDACTED] one day in Edinburgh about four
24 or five years ago and later that evening I saw him on
25 television. Someone who SNR [REDACTED] school like

1 the next witness, I want to do a round up of the names
2 of people whose identities are covered by my
3 General Restriction Order to whom we have already
4 referred this morning. Of course, these people can't be
5 identified as having given evidence to the Inquiry, and
6 none of their evidence can be identified outside this
7 room. That list is: HVK ; ERT ; ERW ; GHU
8 GHU ; GHV . There was a HVN referred to, and
9 that could be GPL or GRL .
10 GHS , HVW , and HYL .

11 Now we are ready for the next witness.

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
13 will give evidence using the name 'Mo'.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 'Mo' (affirmed)

16 LADY SMITH: Now, 'Mo', do sit down and make yourself
17 comfortable.

18 'Mo', thank you for coming along this morning to
19 help us with your evidence. Your evidence is already in
20 a statement that you have given to the Inquiry; that's
21 in the red folder that's on the desk there.

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that. I have been able to read
24 it in advance, so that's helped prepare me for what we
25 are going to discuss with you.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: We will also bring the statement up on the
3 screen when we are looking at different bits of it, but
4 if you don't want that, just say.

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: Okay. Otherwise, 'Mo', I know this is
7 difficult.

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: I can tell you are very anxious. There is no
10 need to be. We are not here to catch you out, we are
11 not here to put you on trial. We are just here to
12 enable you to tell us what you can tell us, which will
13 then help us in the overall work that we are doing to
14 make things, we hope, better for children in residential
15 care in the future.

16 A. I hope so.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes. So deep breaths. Let me know if there is
18 anything you need, whether it is a break or a pause.

19 A. Okay.

20 LADY SMITH: If you don't understand what we are saying,
21 that's our fault not yours, so speak up. Don't be
22 afraid to say that or tell me that or anything else that
23 would make it easier for you; okay?

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to

1 Ms MacLeod and she will take it from there.

2 A. Thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

4 Questions by Ms MacLeod

5 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, 'Mo'.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but are you able to
8 confirm to me that you were born in 1968?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You have provided a statement to the Inquiry and there
11 is a copy of that in the folder in front of you.

12 I wonder if you could turn to the final page of the
13 statement; have you signed the statement?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In the final paragraph do you say:

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

18 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
19 true.'

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. For the transcript, the reference of the statement is
22 WIT.001.002.2253.

23 Now, 'Mo', if we could turn now back to the
24 beginning of the statement, I would like to ask you
25 a little bit about your life, what you tell us in your

1 statement about your life before you went into care.

2 Were you born and brought up in Edinburgh?

3 A. I was born in Edinburgh. I left Edinburgh when I was

4 two.

5 Q. And did you have some siblings?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And in your statement, I think you tell us that you were

8 the only one who went into care?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you have an understanding, or do you have

11 an understanding of why that may have been the case?

12 A. Child abuse and child neglect from a parent.

13 Q. How old were you when you were put into care?

14 A. First time, 14 months.

15 Q. Is it fair to say, then, that you don't have memories of

16 being at home with your parents before going into care?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Is it from looking at records that you have discovered

19 that you were 14 months?

20 A. I was actually shocked, because I never knew I was in

21 care at 14 months old.

22 Q. Did you learn from your records why you were put into

23 care?

24 A. Yes, neglect and physical abuse.

25 Q. The first time you were placed in care, 'Mo', when you

1 were around 14 months; were you taken to a place called
2 St Catherine's Children's Home, Mortonhall?
3 A. That's correct. In Edinburgh.
4 Q. Thank you. And do you have any memories of your time
5 there?
6 A. I didn't have anything until about a few -- seven years
7 back when I actually received a picture of myself in the
8 care home.
9 Q. Okay. From there, in 1970; did you move to another
10 home?
11 A. In 1972, I went to one in Largs.
12 Q. And how old were you when you went there?
13 A. I must have been four.
14 Q. Thank you. And do you have many memories of being
15 there?
16 A. Yes, I had to learn to walk again.
17 Q. Okay. Why was that?
18 A. Because the same parent that the Strathclyde Regional
19 Council sent me back to had put a poker through my ear
20 and broke my balance and done other things. So I ended
21 up, at 4 years old, having to learn to walk again.
22 Q. Did there come a time when you went to live with your
23 grandfather and an uncle?
24 A. That was between 1971 and 1972, yes.
25 Q. And when you were living with your grandfather and your

1 uncle; did you attend a primary school?

2 A. No, I wasn't of age then.

3 Q. Okay. Did you spend some time attending a primary
4 school a bit later on, maybe when you were five or so?

5 A. Yes, yes, I lived -- at this time my mother was living
6 with my grandfather and we were all living there, and
7 I attended Bank Street Primary School, in Irvine.

8 Q. Okay. What kind of experience was that for you?

9 A. My school?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. The school was my saviour. It got me away from home.
12 It sounds selfish, but it was the best days of my life,
13 primary school.

14 Q. And did you get certificates at school?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. I think you tell us in your statement you never took
17 a single day off?

18 A. From primary 1 to primary 7, I had the best attendance.
19 I had my name on the board for having the best
20 attendance as a pupil, because I never had a day off in
21 primary school.

22 Q. Was your mother living with you at home for part of this
23 time?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And did the abuse from your mother continue?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You tell us about some of that, 'Mo', in paragraph 11 of
3 your statement. And you have mentioned already that
4 a poker was put through your ear and you give other
5 examples there of physical abuse from your mother?

6 A. Yes, she stuck my toes to the bars of an electric fire.
7 She -- I don't need to look at it, I have the scars on
8 my body. She put me in a twin tub. I don't even
9 remember what a twin tub washing machine was. But she
10 put me on a twin tub washing machine, she sat me in it,
11 and put me on to boil.

12 Q. And did you tell anyone at school about what was going
13 on at home?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. Who did you tell?

16 A. I told my headteacher.

17 Q. What was the response of the headteacher?

18 A. They contacted my granddad, and my granddad appeared at
19 the school with my mother. And my mother was taken into
20 the headmistress's room and I was sat outside. I will
21 never forget it until the day I die. I was sat outside.
22 I was petrified because I knew what this lady was going
23 to do to me when I got home. And she denied it all.
24 She denied -- she said I was making up stories and
25 everything. And the social work was called, the police

1 was called, and they asked me as a child, at 8 years
2 old, did I want to go back home with that lady, and
3 I told them the truth, in front of my headteacher --
4 because I loved her -- if I went back home with that
5 lady I wouldn't be at school the next day, because that
6 lady would kill me.

7 Q. Was your social worker Jean Shepherd there?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that
10 Jean Shepherd told your mum that you would be taken into
11 care for your own safety?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. At that time; did Jean Shepherd arrange for you to be
14 sent to Dalrymple Place Children's Home, in Irvine?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. When you were aged 8?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You tell us about your experiences in that home, 'Mo',
19 between paragraphs 17 and 70 of your statement. I will
20 just ask you a little about that to begin with.

21 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
22
23
24
25

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

1	Secondary Institutions - to be published later
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

21 Q. Was it after that that you were then sent to a different
22 place to live?

23 A. Newfield Assessment Centre.

24 Q. Okay. And in your statement you say:

25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2 A. Yes, because Jean Shepherd was called and she didn't
3 respond. So it was, I think, a stand by social worker
4 came in and picked me up, and I wasn't returned back to
5 Dalrymple Place Children's Home. The next time I knew
6 I was arrived at the Newfield Assessment Centre in
7 Johnstone.

8 Q. Thank you. And at the time; were you told that you
9 would be there for around three weeks?

10 A. Yes, with the new social worker.

11 Q. And who was the new social worker?

12 A. GXZ .

13 Q. And how long did you end up staying in Newfield
14 Assessment Centre?

15 A. 18 months.

16 Q. Thank you. What sort of age were you at that time,
17 'Mo'?

18 A. I think I must have been 11/12.

19 Q. I think you tell us that was an all girls unit to begin
20 with, but it became a mixed unit?

21 A. Yes. When you go in, everybody gets -- I suppose it is
22 a lie or whatever way they want to put it across. You
23 were put into a three-week assessment, and there is
24 a male unit and a girls' unit for the three-week
25 assessment, and mine was called Kilpatrick, the girls'

1 unit.

2 Q. Okay, did you continue to go out to school while you
3 were there?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Was that the end of your --

6 A. That was the end of my education.

7 Q. You mentioned there your new social worker, GXZ ?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What was your understanding at the time of why there was
10 a change in your social worker?

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
12
13
14

15 Q. And can you tell me, then, about GXZ ?

16 A. He was worse.

17 Q. Okay. In what way was he worse?

18 A. When I told him I was being assaulted in Newfield
19 Assessment Centre, he punched me right in the cheek and
20 told me that it was time that I grew up and learnt to
21 live. And punched me.

22 Q. As a result of that; did you have a burst lip and
23 a black eye?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. Did you report the assault by your social worker?

1 A. No -- yes, I did, sorry. I didn't trust social work.
2 I reported it to my key worker, Hylde McNair of Newfield
3 Assessment Centre.
4 Q. And did anything come of that report?
5 A. I don't know, personally.
6 Q. Okay. Did GXZ continue to be your social worker or
7 were you allocated somebody else?
8 A. I was allocated somebody else.
9 Q. And who was that?
10 A. KMY.
11 Q. How did you find KMY in her role at social
12 worker?
13 A. Truthfully, I went from the chip pan to the fire, from
14 the fire to hell.
15 Q. Okay. You describe in your statement:
16 'She was mental ...'
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. '... and had no respect for any child.'
19 A. Exactly.
20 Q. Did she behave in any sort of physical way towards you?
21 A. No, it was just the way she spoke to us. She spoke to
22 us like dirt.
23 Q. What sort of things are you thinking of there?
24 A. She just told me I would end up in a place that I found
25 out years later that never existed. I would end up in

1 an institution. I would end up in the Ogilvy wing.
2 I don't know where the Ogilvie wing is. I would end up
3 in a place for the rest of my life because I keep
4 running away from my problems instead of standing up and
5 facing them.

6 Q. Now, if we can just look at the staff within Newfield
7 Assessment Centre; do you have a recollection of some of
8 the staff there?

9 A. Yes, there was one called KHQ .

10 Q. What was his role?

11 A. Woodwork teacher.

12 Q. What are your memories of him?

13 A. Getting assaulted with bits of wood every two days.

14 Q. What would he do to you?

15 A. Well, I am a female, and woodwork wasn't going to be
16 an education that I wanted. But you had to do what you
17 were told and, if you did something wrong, he would hit
18 you over the head with what I would call a two-by-two
19 right now. But it was hardwood and I was a young lassie
20 getting hurt with wood all the time. I think I can
21 describe it. It was a metal thing. It was like a file
22 for filing wood. I had that put over my hands a few
23 times from Mr KHQ . Trying to tell a -- I suppose
24 I was being wrong. But woodwork wasn't for me.

25 Q. How was discipline managed at Newfield?

1 A. Put into a unit called the Lomond Unit, and it had
2 a mattress with no sheets, no blankets, no pillows. We
3 wore pants and wore vests on, and we were fed in there
4 and everything. And that's the way we were treated.

5 Q. Is that the room you refer to in your statement as the
6 'punishment room'?

7 A. The Lomond Unit, yes.

8 Q. Can you help me, 'Mo', with what sort of thing would
9 lead to you being in that room?

10 A. Running away. Not turning up for ... I cannot say
11 exercise, because I liked it.

12 Turning up for certain things. Like Alcoholics
13 Anonymous, they wanted you to go and listen to people
14 doing Alcoholics Anonymous meetings because your parents
15 were alcoholics. I never had any parents who were --
16 I didn't need to go to an -- Alcoholics Anonymous
17 meetings. And because I didn't go to these things --
18 you were punished. If I ran away, I was put straight
19 into this unit and that.

20 Q. Was that staff who put you there?

21 A. Yes, Christopher Warbrick.

22 Q. Who was he? What was his role?

23 A. He ran Newfield Assessment Centre.

24 Q. And when you were in the punishment room; were you there
25 on your own or were there other children in there?

1 A. No, you were in there on your own.

2 Q. Were there different rooms that were used?

3 A. No, four rooms. It was called Lomond Unit, but it was
4 a punishment unit.

5 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that you would
6 be in there for as long as the staff said so?

7 A. The longest I was in it was seven days.

8 Q. Okay. And you tell us that you had to bang on the door
9 if you wanted to go to the toilet?

10 A. You had to bang on the door if you needed to go for
11 a number 2, but they gave you a plastic pot if you
12 needed for a -- a pee.

13 Q. Was food brought to you when you were there?

14 A. Yes, and you had to actually eat in there and pee in
15 there, in this room.

16 Q. You have mentioned that while your schooling ended when
17 you went into Newfield, you have mentioned there was
18 woodwork and classes like that. But that that didn't
19 interest you.

20 A. No.

21 Q. Was something that you spent some of your time doing --
22 engaging in sports?

23 A. Yes, that's when I decided that I didn't care what
24 KMY had said, I was going to be a PT
25 instructor in the army. And it is in my social work

1 records that's what I was aiming to be. I didn't know
2 about a thing called ADHD at the time. I was too full
3 of energy, and I wanted to go to the army and be a PT
4 instructor.

5 Q. In that regard; were you doing running and playing
6 badminton?

7 A. Running, badminton. I swam for Newfield Assessment
8 Centre. I swam for the West Coast of Scotland. I was
9 quite chuffed with myself. And I went to play badminton
10 in Houston and Johnstone. I was running four miles
11 every night. I suppose it gave me the energy to -- as
12 I realised -- to run away. That I had the energy
13 that -- but to take my steam out on things, yes. Sport
14 became my thing.

15 Q. Was it ever said to you that your schooling side of
16 things, that kind of education, would come to an end or
17 was any reason given for why you weren't provided with
18 any more schooling?

19 A. No.

20 Q. From Newfield Assessment Centre, then; were moved to
21 another place to live?

22 A. Yes, I was quite -- well, I was happy at first because
23 I heard I was going to a school for girls. So the word
24 'school' excited me, because I hadn't been to school for
25 a couple of years in Newfield Assessment Centre. So

1 I am going to a school, and the only school I know,
2 because I am from Ayrshire, was Wellington School for
3 girls, and I am going to a school for girls. So I am
4 going to -- I have done my sporty bit. I am going to
5 get an education bit, because I am going to a school for
6 girls. But, yeah.

7 Q. How old were you when you were told that this --

8 A. 12 and a half.

9 Q. And were you given any reason that you can recall as to
10 why you were being moved after the 18 months?

11 A. Yes, because my three weeks was up.

12 Q. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: A long three weeks.

14 A. A very long three weeks.

15 MS MACLEOD: And where were you sent to then, 'Mo'?

16 A. Langlands Park, and it was an Approved School, not
17 a school.

18 Q. And is that in Port Glasgow?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And was that an all girls?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Institute. And what was the age range of the girls
23 there?

24 A. There was a girl younger than me there, so I would say
25 she -- was probably about 12 upwards.

1 Q. Okay. So sort of 12 to 16?

2 A. 12 to 16.

3 Q. Was there a particular organisation who ran --

4 A. Church of Scotland.

5 Q. And were you aware of that at the time?

6 A. No, I thought it was a school.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I didn't hear about the word 'Approved' until I got

9 there.

10 Q. When you got there, 'Mo', and you heard about the word

11 'Approved'; what were your first impressions of the

12 place?

13 A. 'Approved' to me, being that age, was somebody approved

14 that I could actually go to -- that I was well enough to

15 get educated. I was going to a girl's school. So I was

16 approved for something. I am okay to go here. So,

17 okay, I picked it up the wrong way, obviously, by the

18 time I got in.

19 LADY SMITH: So nobody explained to you what it was it had

20 been approved for?

21 A. No.

22 MS MACLEOD: 'Mo' would you be willing to look at

23 a photograph of the school?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay, could we put INQ-000000-847 on the screen? Do you

1 recognise that building?

2 A. Yes, I do. It is the West Wing and the East Wing and
3 the main Unit of Langlands Park.

4 Q. Okay. Are you able to help me, 'Mo', then with that
5 angle of the building? You have mentioned the wings,
6 but with what those rooms might be or where the entrance
7 was, that sort of thing?

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Could you tell me, looking at that, where the
10 entrance -- can you see the entrance there?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Is the entrance on the other side?

13 A. No. The entrance is where the small building is at the
14 very end, and then the next building, the entrance was
15 in between them.

16 Q. I see.

17 A. That's the picture that's online. But where the small
18 building is in the next building, where the steeple
19 thing is, the entrance door was there.

20 Q. Is that the far right of the photograph?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Do you have any recollection of what -- sort of
23 the window that's the sort of main feature in the centre
24 of the photograph; do you have any recollection of what
25 that might have been?

1 A. The offices at the top.

2 Q. I see, okay.

3 LADY SMITH: You say the offices at the top?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: On the upper floor?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: What about below?

8 A. No, the top one.

9 MS MACLEOD: And what was below the office?

10 LADY SMITH: Yes, what was below it?

11 A. The dining room.

12 LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: Thank you.

14 A. No worries.

15 MS MACLEOD: You can take the photograph down.

16 So the East Wing and the West Wing; is that where

17 some of the dormitories were --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- in the school. And you tell us in your statement and

20 we have seen on the screen; was it a big, old fashioned

21 building?

22 A. Yes, that was an old fashioned school -- well, some of

23 the school building. That was everything in there, and

24 it also had new builds inside the grounds as well.

25 Q. So there were other buildings on the premises?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what were these other buildings used for?

3 A. Staff homes. Erm, there was a house built with three
4 bedrooms and a sitting room and a kitchen and
5 a bathroom. That was for six privileged girls. And
6 three classrooms.

7 Q. And the six privileged girls; how were they deemed to be
8 fit for --

9 A. Well, I don't know, because I must have been good at one
10 time, I was one of them. I was one of them.

11 Q. Okay, were you just told that you were going there?

12 A. Er, well, no. This house was built and names were
13 picked out a hat. And I can honestly say three of us
14 girls didn't actually -- we were surprised that three
15 names -- out of six of the names, three, we walked away.
16 No chance any of us three are going to be pulled out,
17 but us three names were pulled out together.

18 Q. Do you remember much about your first day at
19 Langlands Park?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What do you remember?

22 A. A girl telling me to keep my trainers on, so I could run
23 away with her.

24 Q. And did you have the same social worker or did you have
25 another change of social worker?

1 A. No, I had KMY [REDACTED] all the way through.

2 Q. Was there a particular person in charge of

3 Langlands Park?

4 A. Yes, we called him MSH [REDACTED] but now I know his full name was

5 MSH [REDACTED].

6 Q. Was he SNR [REDACTED]?

7 A. Well, he was something.

8 Q. He was SNR [REDACTED]?

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. I think you mention another staff member called Kathy?

11 A. Yes, Kathy Farrell.

12 Q. Who was she?

13 A. She was one of the staff members.

14 Q. In the units or --

15 A. She worked in the West Wing, with us.

16 Q. Okay. And did you have a key worker?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. Who was that?

19 A. Her name was Isobel Mason.

20 Q. Was she also a worker in the units?

21 A. She was a worker, and she was a very good -- too good to

22 be working in the place.

23 Q. So what made her good?

24 A. She listened to the girls. She understood us. She did

25 her best for us. Whatever -- I still call her

1 Mrs Mason, because it is the respect I have for her.
2 She tried her best for us. She got me to get my running
3 started again and things like that. And it was all
4 to -- when things didn't work out, some certain people's
5 way, privileges were taken away.

6 Q. Okay. Were you allocated to a particular room when you
7 arrived?

8 A. Yes, I was in the West Wing.

9 Q. And was this a dormitory with other girls?

10 A. Yes, with another five girls in the room.

11 Q. Girls of your own age?

12 A. No, we were all different ages.

13 Q. Mixed ages, okay. And I think you tell us that you
14 would have pillow fights and hang out the window
15 smoking?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You tell us about the routine in the school; that you
18 got up; you were breakfasted; when bedtime was and
19 lights out.

20 Who was in charge of that sort of routine and making
21 sure that was complied with?

22 A. Staff members.

23 Q. Okay. And how did you find those staff members in their
24 treatment of the girls?

25 A. Some were nice, some were -- I can politely say they

1 were nasty.

2 Q. Okay. And those who were nasty, then; what made them
3 nasty?

4 A. Well, they would make you strip. I mean, a bunch of
5 girls wouldn't strip, and then we would all have to wash
6 together in one shower or two showers. And you are
7 talking about there were 30 to 40 girls in the West Wing
8 at one time, so we were all made to stand like soldiers
9 to be inspected. That's not -- no dignity to cover you
10 for your self-respect.

11 It was a privilege get moved up to the house unit
12 for so long, but we were treated like animals; that's
13 what we were.

14 Q. Did some staff treat you in that way in relation to the
15 showers and other staff treated you in a different way?

16 A. Different. We actually all looked forward -- I have
17 already mentioned this, in this building. We actually
18 got into a routine, that we actually knew what staff
19 member was coming on. So we knew when we were going to
20 be safe and somebody could jump in the shower for
21 five minutes, somebody could jump into the shower for
22 five minutes, because certain staff, you don't shower
23 together, that's not right.

24 Q. So it depended, really, on the staff who were on as to
25 whether you got showers one after the other or made to

1 strip --

2 A. Yes, made to strip together.

3 Q. -- all together and shower together?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And is this something that happened before you were
6 moved up to the privileged part, you mentioned?

7 A. Yes, it happened after that. But, yeah, that happened
8 before I moved up to the house unit.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. That was how the house unit run, because there was the
11 East Wing and the West Wing. So it was the same on both
12 sides. So everybody looked forward to it, if they got
13 a chance to go to the house unit.

14 Q. So, just so I am clear on that: was there an East Wing,
15 a West Wing and a house unit?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Yes. And when you were moved to the house unit; that
18 was a smaller group?

19 A. That was six of us. Well, five. Including myself six.

20 Q. And how were you treated there by the staff?

21 A. Actually nice. We felt as though we were privileged to
22 go there.

23 Q. You have told me already that the names were picked out
24 of a hat --

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. -- for who was going to go there?

2 A. MSH [REDACTED] picked who was going to go there.

3 Q. How did he pick them?

4 A. Out of a hat.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I am not silly. I am older, and I realised he probably

7 had the names in his hands before he picked them out of

8 a hat.

9 Q. Do you have any understanding or thinking as to why you

10 were moved from one place to the other, why those

11 particular six girls were chosen in that way?

12 A. Because they were -- well, I think it was maybe because

13 we had stopped running away or -- I don't understand why

14 we got moved to the house unit, a house unit.

15 Probably to make us look good to social workers or

16 people coming from Greenock, Inverclyde area or things

17 like that. They had opened a house unit, so -- I was

18 definitely not a privileged child to go to the house

19 unit, and I cannot name the girls. But neither were the

20 other two, and we were actually shocked when our names

21 were pulled out. So we knew there was going to be

22 a ploy behind it to pull us.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How long did you spend at Langlands Park?

1 A. Until the day I turned 16 years old.

2 Q. Okay. And when, during that period, were you moved to
3 the house unit?

4 A. I can't remember, sorry.

5 Q. Okay, that's fine. You tell us in your statement that
6 you had to keep your rooms clean and that was something
7 that was checked?

8 A. It was like being a soldier. Your beds had to be made
9 a certain way. I mean, I can do it now, it's great.
10 I learnt my daughter to do it. I've still that -- it's
11 called the regimental way. That you actually put your
12 pillow cases into an envelope. We never had quilts or
13 things like that. But everything had to be specific,
14 a certain way, folded in a certain way.

15 I feel bad. I am coming 56 and I have a quilt now,
16 but I still do my pillows and my sheets the same way.
17 And I have learned my daughters that's how you make
18 a bed.

19 Q. Was this work checked?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who checked it?

22 A. Staff members.

23 Q. And would anything happen if it wasn't seen to be up to
24 scratch?

25 A. Yes, every girl -- whatever room you were in or whatever

1 dorm you were in, every bed was stripped. We were all
2 made to remake them.

3 Q. Could you be given extra chores as punishment?

4 A. No, we got bullied. I would call it badness. We --
5 a room this size was -- our punishment, it was
6 a toothbrush with a bucket of water to scrub one end of
7 the hall to the other end of the hall with a toothbrush.
8 And if there was two of us, half the size of this
9 building here, was called the 'laundrette', and the
10 other person would have to scrub the laundrette and the
11 steps down to the laundrette. So it looked as if it
12 was the same size, with the toothbrush. That's what our
13 punishment was.

14 Q. What would that be punishment for?

15 A. Running away.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Now, we have discussed that your education stopped
18 when you moved to Newfield.

19 What was the position with education and schooling
20 at Langlands Park?

21 A. Typing. That was it. Typing. We didn't -- they didn't
22 even call it secretarial studies; it was just a typing
23 class.

24 Q. So do I take it from that there was no opportunity to
25 learn subjects like maths, English, science?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Art. Sorry, we got art.

4 Q. Did you at any time ask why you weren't being provided
5 with schooling?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Who did you ask?

8 A. My social worker. I also asked my key worker,
9 Mrs Mason, when we were going to get educated, and she
10 said this is the education that they have been told to
11 provide us with.

12 Q. And did you specifically ask one of your teachers if you
13 could go to Greenock Academy?

14 A. Yes, I did. That was Eva McCallum asked. I remember
15 asking -- because it was the typing teacher -- which was
16 strange -- that took me running to Greenock. And when
17 I was running along the podium in Greenock, I was
18 meeting other people that was from Greenock and they
19 were telling me, 'Why are you here running all the time?
20 Why don't you come to Greenock Academy and get
21 an education and do your running with us? Because we
22 can't keep up with you. At least if you come to our
23 school you can run with us as company'. So, yes, I did.
24 Eva McCallum.

25 Q. And what was the response from the teacher when you

1 asked her?

2 A. No, I wasn't good enough.

3 Q. Were there other girls at Langlands Park that went to
4 Greenock Academy?

5 A. Yes there was, a couple. It was called outdoor -- oh,
6 God.

7 It was called an outdoor education thing at the
8 time. You could go outside to get educated and you had
9 to go back to the home at night time after the school.

10 Q. You have mentioned there that you continued your
11 running; did you continue your interest in sport
12 generally while you were at Langlands Park?

13 A. No, I wasn't allowed to.

14 Q. Were there music lessons offered at Langlands Park?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did you play a musical instrument?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Where did you learn to play the musical instrument?

19 A. Greenock Academy, through Isobel Mason.

20 Q. What was the instrument you played?

21 A. Violin.

22 Q. Was that Isobel Mason arranging for you to go to
23 classes?

24 A. Violin lessons and singing lessons.

25 Q. And you tell us in your statement that you learned to

1 play the violin and that your granddad bought you
2 a violin?

3 A. Yes. And I left Langlands Park without it.

4 Q. Was that something that you were able to focus on, that
5 you enjoyed while you were there?

6 A. If I was allowed to. The staff members would take it
7 off you. It must have been taken off me for a long
8 time, because I never left Langlands Park with anything,
9 except a bus pass to go back to Irvine, to
10 KMY .

11 Q. Did you have visitors when you were at Langlands Park?

12 A. I did so.

13 Q. Who were your visitors?

14 A. My granddad and my auntie, my uncle and my cousin.

15 Q. Were there inspections of the school?

16 A. Oh, all the time, but we had to play nice.

17 Q. And what do you mean by that, 'We had to play nice'
18 'Mo'?

19 A. We always had to make sure our beds were straight. But
20 we always had to -- well, us lassies didn't like flarey
21 jeans, so we would take the flarey jeans in a wee bit
22 tighter, but we had to go to the staff and ask for the
23 real school uniform, which was baggy tights, baggy
24 jumpers, horrible trainers. We had to make sure that
25 the bins were emptied. We had to make sure that the

1 staff quarters were all cleaned, as well. We had to
2 make sure that everything was shiny.

3 Q. Thank you. So do I take it from that, the staff told
4 you when there were going to be inspectors coming?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Were you given the opportunity to speak to any of the
7 inspectors?

8 A. We did, once. The guy told us that he was going to go
9 back and speak to somebody at the Council, and the next
10 time we were punished. Somebody obviously came back and
11 told Mr MSH that there was a report made about us,
12 one of us had made a report. And I am sorry, I still
13 don't do it. But none of us would grass in who spoke to
14 the -- 'grass' is the word -- we wouldn't tell who the
15 girl was who spoke to the person, so the lot of us were
16 punished.

17 Q. So did a girl speak to an inspector?

18 A. It was me.

19 Q. What did you tell the inspector?

20 A. That this was a show. I told him it was a show. And
21 I told him that we were up -- and, truthful, we were up
22 until 2.00 in the morning, scrubbing the place from top
23 to bottom because we knew they were coming. And the
24 reason we did it is because we were girls. Nobody was
25 allowed a cigarette while the inspectors were in, so

1 everybody was missing -- you were only allowed three
2 cigarettes a day and they were missing out a cigarette
3 while the inspector was in, because even the staff
4 weren't allowed to smoke. So the girls were being a bit
5 rebellious and they asked: will somebody talk to him,
6 tell him the truth?

7 Q. And what did the inspector say in response to what you
8 were telling him?

9 A. He told me that he would go back and make a report on
10 the way we were being treated.

11 I do believe that Inverclyde Council were giving
12 them money for food, sports, education. It was all part
13 of Strathclyde. But we weren't getting half the stuff
14 we were supposed to get.

15 Q. In relation to that report you gave to the inspector,
16 then; what was the next thing you knew, the follow on
17 from that? Was there a follow on?

18 A. Me?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Actually, getting thrown down a -- in that building, at
21 the East Wing, there was a sewing class where we took
22 our jeans up. There is a stairwell that goes down in
23 a funny shape and, above the stairwell, there is a door
24 and this is where the assembly unit was. And MSH

25 MSH was off on one: who spoke to the guy for the

1 Council? Who did this? Who did that?

2 And he told everybody: everybody would be punished
3 if nobody came forward.

4 And I still did it. I stepped forward, told the
5 truth: it was me who did it.

6 And he grabbed me and he threw me down the stairs to
7 the bottom.

8 Q. Were you injured?

9 A. Yes, I have quite a few scars on my head from
10 Langlands Park. I had pictures. I don't have Facebook.
11 I lost my phone. I had my hair all shaved off a couple
12 of years back, hoping for this Inquiry then. But
13 because of Covid, everything was cancelled. And I had
14 my hair all shaved off because I have scars from
15 Langlands Park all over my head.

16 Q. And after you were thrown down the stairs in this way;
17 were you aware of any follow up of what you reported to
18 the inspector?

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. Were you given any advice by staff as to what you should
21 say to inspectors or how you should speak to them?

22 A. Yes, told to be good girls. We were to tell them that
23 everything was fine. That we would get one course for
24 breakfast, we had a two-course lunch, and we would sit
25 down to a two-course meal at night time, at tea time,

1 and we had diluted juice instead of our milk; that was
2 our choice. It wasn't, it was water, which I can't
3 drink to this day, because I drank enough water in
4 Langlands Park to last me a lifetime. Everything
5 was: water with breakfast; water with lunch; water --
6 they just kept throwing water at you.

7 But we were to tell them lies. We were supposed to
8 tell them we had tea and toast for supper. No, we had
9 water and toast, water and a biscuit for our supper.

10 Told them that there was a teacher coming in from --
11 I don't know if I am allowed to mention this place? We
12 were told to tell them, this guy, that there was
13 a gentleman who came from Balrossie -- oh, I can say
14 it -- it's a boy's residential -- Approved School,
15 sorry.

16 LADY SMITH: I know about Balrossie, yes.

17 A. Yes. There was a school, a teacher coming from there
18 and he was giving us English lessons. No, he wasn't.
19 There wasn't such a teacher.

20 There was a teacher coming from another boy's
21 Approved School, which was Kibble at the time. I think
22 there still is a Kibble. But there was a Kibble.
23 I know them all because I grew up in them. There was
24 a Kibble Approved Boys' School in Paisley, and he taught
25 us art. So I gather the Council was lying because this

1 guy was a teacher at The Kibble, but he was coming one
2 day a week to Langlands Park to give us art. So
3 obviously somebody was telling lies that they were
4 coming from Balrossie.

5 Q. And who was it at Langlands Park who was telling to you
6 say all this information?

7 A. MSH [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED].

8 Q. You have mentioned running away from Langlands Park; did
9 you run away on a number of occasions?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did anybody ask you why you were running away?

12 A. My granddad. He was the only person that ever asked me
13 why I ran away.

14 Q. What did you say to him?

15 A. I told him lies. I told him I was running away to come
16 and see him, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
17 stuck up for me all through my life. I didn't want him
18 turning up at Langlands Park and then he wouldn't be
19 allowed back there to see me. He had already been to
20 see me doing the violin, so I couldn't tell him what was
21 happening. I just told him I was running away to see
22 him.

23 LADY SMITH: So sorry, 'Mo', are you saying to me that you
24 didn't want to get him into trouble again?

25 A. Aye.

1 LADY SMITH: Okay.

2 A. He was my hero.

3 Q. At paragraph 108 of your statement, 'Mo', you tell us
4 a bit more about you playing the violin?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. And you tell us about an occasion where you played live
7 in front of 500 people?

8 A. At Greenock Town Hall. I don't need to read that. Yes.

9 Q. And was your granddad there?

10 A. Yes, my granddad and my auntie was there. My mother was
11 invited. I didn't invite her. My mother was invited by
12 KMY, the social worker, and my grandfather
13 told my mother she wasn't going near because she didn't
14 deserve the honour. So my auntie brought my granddad
15 up. And I was in the string orchestra at Greenock
16 Academy. And I didn't know I was doing it until the day
17 before, and we played the Highland Cathedral with
18 a choir.

19 Then my head teacher went on the middle of the stage
20 and told everybody there was a pupil as a surprise
21 coming on to do a soloist. I knew by then I was coming
22 on, and my granddad was sitting in the front row. I was
23 quite impressed with myself. I did 'Amazing Grace'
24 because it's a family song and it was my granddad's
25 favourite song. So I did 'Amazing Grace', and I got

1 a standing ovation in Greenock Town Hall.

2 Q. Was it in the newspaper?

3 A. Yes, it was in [REDACTED]. Isobel Mason

4 brought it in to me. Because she stayed in Bishopton,

5 so -- which was probably under the same area. She'd

6 actually brought the newspaper cutting in to me, and

7 I never got to bring that achievement home with me

8 either.

9 Q. Did one of the girls, the other girls at Langlands Park,

10 see the newspaper?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And did that have any repercussions for you?

13 A. Yes, I was bullied.

14 Q. In what way were you bullied?

15 A. I was assaulted. I was -- I was hardly spoken to

16 because I was classed as Isobel Mason's favourite.

17 That's what the other girls called her. But I never,

18 ever called her that. But, 'You are Isobel Mason's

19 favourite'. I was going singing, which -- I wasn't her

20 favourite. I wanted to do something with my life.

21 Q. And was there an occasion where one of the girls

22 interfered with your violin?

23 A. Yes, she broke the strings.

24 Q. And how did she do that?

25 A. Because the staff member gave her it. I know for a fact

1 the staff -- because it was kept -- there was a thing
2 called -- I have seen it in other homes. There is
3 a thing called the Staff Unit, where the staff members
4 sit behind the desk at night time, and it is like a wee
5 locked bit that they keep themselves safe in. And my
6 violin was kept in there. And she gladly -- she showed
7 me the violin broken, and the only way she could have
8 got it was a staff member gave her it.

9 Q. Was it ever fixed?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And were there any other occasions where the violin was
12 involved in any --

13 A. No, no.

14 Q. No, thank you.

15 A. My granddad asked for the violin to come home with
16 several things, and he was told I would receive
17 everything on my way out the door.

18 Q. Did you get the violin?

19 A. I never got anything.

20 Q. Now, in paragraph 109, 'Mo', you go on to tell us about
21 something that happened to you on an occasion when you
22 ran away from the home?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And I know you don't want to go into the details of
25 this; is that right?

1 A. I would rather not, but it is so true. It is all
2 written there.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 A. On the Virgin Mary.

5 Q. So on one of the occasions; what happened to you?

6 A. I ran away and it was Saltcoats, down in Ayrshire, and
7 I was sexually assaulted. I did -- I feel stupid now.

8 I went to my mother's door and she told me to beat
9 it, obviously, because she didn't want to know me.

10 I went to my social workers and they took me to
11 a police station in Kilmarnock, and it was a horrible
12 experience. And the police -- the police officer -- it
13 was the police officer -- that's a lie; it was a police
14 doctor or a police surgeon, she called herself. Spoke
15 to KMY [REDACTED] outside and KMY [REDACTED] took me back
16 and me slapped me across the face and told me I had
17 wasted her time, that I hadn't even been touched.

18 Q. And did you tell Isobel Mason?

19 A. She was the only person that listened to me, yes.

20 Q. And did you tell Isobel Mason that you thought you might
21 be pregnant as a result of the attack?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How did she respond?

24 A. She took me to find out everything.

25 Q. Did she arrange for you to see another doctor?

1 A. Yes, Inverclyde Hospital.

2 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Mo', in your statement that
3 some months later you gave birth to a baby boy?

4 A. As a miracle I did, aye. I wasn't touched, but I gave
5 birth, aye.

6 Q. Was that in 1985?

7 A. [REDACTED] 1985.

8 Q. And were you living in Langlands Park?

9 A. When I gave birth?

10 Q. You were still a resident?

11 A. Yes, I was still a resident in Langlands Park.

12 Q. Were you taken to a hospital to have the baby?

13 A. No, not from Langlands Park. No, I was thrown out of
14 Langlands Park by the time I gave birth. I was left --
15 [REDACTED] 1984, I left Langlands Park, pregnant, with no
16 belongings and a bus pass.

17 Q. So while you were still at -- you were pregnant while
18 you were at Langlands Park?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. During the latter part of your time?

21 A. Yes, I was put in a mother and baby unit in a place
22 called Kilwinning.

23 Q. While you were pregnant and living at Langlands Park;
24 were you offered support by the staff in relation to
25 your pregnancy?

1 A. No, Isobel Mason had a daughter, and she brought me in
2 a big dress. And MSH told me that I was
3 going to take the dress off because there was a uniform
4 of jeans and a jumper. So I think I was supposed to
5 still wear jeans, yes.

6 Q. And was your pregnancy showing by this time?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Were you subjected to any kind of physical punishment
9 while you were pregnant?

10 A. Yes, in the same hall there was -- God, I still see it
11 as massive. But right now I would say it is 12-foot by
12 12-foot, all the way round, a table tennis table, and
13 I was put in front of that several times and at the side
14 of it there is a wee screw thing that opens. I mean,
15 I am not a table tennis player, but I remember how you
16 do it. There used to be a wee screw thing at the side
17 of this great big table tennis table and he used to go
18 plop, right down on my head.

19 Q. Who did that?

20 A. That was MSH.

21 Q. So did the table then close down on your head?

22 A. Yes, one half. Seemingly, it comes down in a half. And
23 I was told to stand -- I was told to stand in front of
24 it. You knew it was coming and you knew the minute he
25 turned this. It's like a nut and a bolt thing at the

1 side, obviously it opens a table tennis table up. And
2 it used to just come down and you weren't allowed to
3 move. If you moved, he put it back in and it came down
4 harder on you twice.

5 Q. Was this done while you were pregnant?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And what happened to you when that -- when the table
8 fell on your head?

9 A. Well, I got concussion a few times, and I remember
10 getting sore heads. And this is the thing I can't
11 remember, but I do remember getting taken to hospital,
12 and it was the first time I had ever stepped in Paisley
13 Gilmour Street and I was took into -- I don't know why
14 I was taken to a hospital in Paisley, especially when
15 there was a hospital just along the road in Greenock.
16 But I was taken to a hospital in Paisley.

17 So I think it was more to do with -- it was a severe
18 head damage.

19 Q. You mention a staff member, a teacher, called GYJ

20 GYJ ?

21 A. That's the typing teacher.

22 Q. And did he engage in any physical --

23 A. He used to grab us by the hair and make us sit in our
24 seat and type, stick our fingers in the type thing, to
25 learn us to type, yes. I seen him assault other people

1 as well, but that's the kind of things he did to me,
2 aye.

3 Q. Did that carry on when you were pregnant?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. With you pregnant, 'Mo', at that time; did you get moved
6 on -- were you moved on from Langlands Park?

7 A. Yes, I was put to a mother and baby unit at -- I called
8 it at the time -- it was called St Fraser's.

9 Q. Can you remember how many months pregnant you were at
10 that time?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you go on to have your baby boy, as we have
13 discussed?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you continue to have input from a social worker at
16 this time?

17 A. Any support?

18 Q. Did you have a social worker?

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. After your baby was born; were you given information
21 about the baby?

22 A. No.

23 Q. What were you told?

24 A. I was told he had passed away.

25 Q. Who told you that?

1 A. KMY .

2 LADY SMITH: Were you still in hospital after he had been
3 born?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: When you were told that? How many --

6 A. I never met my son.

7 LADY SMITH: At the time he was born -- how long after he
8 was born were you told he had passed away?

9 A. About three days.

10 LADY SMITH: So it was very early days?

11 A. Yes. But I have met my son. But KMY also
12 told me a lie while I was in Langlands Park that my
13 granddad died.

14 My granddad didn't die until I was out of care. But
15 I have got a letter, it is in my social work records,
16 and my advocate is sitting there.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Mo', don't get me wrong, I am not doubting
18 that you had a son. You covered that in your statement,
19 I know. I am just wondering how early it was that you
20 were told this?

21 A. Three days.

22 LADY SMITH: How were you at that stage?

23 A. A teenage mess. I knew I had no family to come out to.
24 I had no support.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 A. No worries.

2 MS MACLEOD: How long did you remain in hospital, 'Mo'?

3 A. A week.

4 Q. And where did you go from there?

5 A. A hostel in Kilwinning, she put me.

6 Q. Is that KMY that put you there?

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Were you offered any support by KMY in
9 relation to your baby?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Later in life, 'Mo'; did there come a point in time
12 where you found out that your baby had not passed away?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. When did you find that out?

15 A. Specifically? 17 years passed in .

16 Q. So, many, many years --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- after the event? How did you find out?

19 A. My daughter. My daughter, sorry, she found him.

20 Q. Since finding that out, that your baby hadn't passed
21 away; did you also find out what had happened to your
22 baby? And did you find out that he had been adopted?

23 A. Strange thing was he was adopted two miles away from
24 where I lived.

25 Q. How did you find out that he had been adopted?

1 A. My daughter.

2 My daughter is sitting there, and I told my daughter
3 all about my past; that's why she is here to support me.
4 And I told her about my son and things like that. And
5 my daughter has only ever told me one lie, once, and it
6 was a white lie, as I call it. And 17 years ago my
7 daughter took me to meet my son.

8 Q. And was that quite shortly after you had learned --

9 A. Shocking. Well, we didn't realise at the time, my
10 daughter was at the same school as her brother and she
11 didn't know that. We were coming to Glasgow to meet her
12 brother.

13 Well, that's a lie. I didn't know I was coming to
14 Glasgow to meet her brother. I got on the local bus and
15 my daughter sat beside me, and her friend and her
16 boyfriend got on the bus. She was talking away to them,
17 so I just sat on the bus, and I was quite rude to my
18 daughter -- and I will never forget it -- and said, 'Are
19 you with me or with them?' And she said, 'I will come
20 up and sit beside you'. We got off the bus at Bosworth
21 Street, walked along to the King's Lodge. We met this
22 couple again, and they were talking to my daughter.
23 I started getting argumentative with my daughter: where
24 are we going? Where are we going? I am getting fed up
25 with meeting this couple. We got to the Skypark

1 McDonald's, Finnieston, in Glasgow, I was sitting
2 outside having a cup of coffee, and this couple comes
3 again. And this boy asks me, 'Can you give me
4 a cigarette, Mrs?' I said, 'See if I give you
5 a cigarette, will you get out of my face today? Because
6 all I keep seeing is you two'. He's like, 'Aye, no
7 worries'.

8 We walked into this building, my daughter said to
9 me, 'Mum, I need to tell you something', just as this
10 lady came out and she shouted, [REDACTED]. The woman's,
11 name was [REDACTED]. She asked [REDACTED] the same as what you're
12 looking, 'Does your mum know why she is here?' and she
13 said, 'No, I was just about to tell her'.

14 She took us into this room and there is this young
15 couple that we have been talking to all the way to
16 Ayrshire, to Glasgow. Everywhere we went we met them.
17 And she said, 'This is your son', and I went, 'No, it's
18 not', and my words were -- my daughter will tell you --
19 'Where's Jeremy Beadle? This has been a joke of a day',
20 and I took one look at my son and my daughter's hands,
21 and I knew exactly. It was him.

22 And the reason I remember the date is because my
23 grandson was due that day, [REDACTED], and that was the
24 day I met my son. But my grandson wasn't born that
25 day. It was nearly, by the time I was finished.

1 That was the day I met my son through my daughter.

2 Q. Are you able to describe for me, 'Mo', what it was like
3 for you, in that [REDACTED], learning, after all
4 those years, that your son hadn't passed away and that
5 he had been adopted and was still alive?

6 A. I think my mental health went haywire then, and it is
7 still a bit haywire.

8 Q. You tell us in your statement, 'Mo', that after leaving
9 care you presented as homeless?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were you given any support for leaving care from your
12 social worker or from anybody else?

13 A. No.

14 Q. How old were you at the time you presented as homeless?

15 A. [REDACTED] 1984. I was 16 years of age.

16 Sorry, when I became homeless after my child, the
17 week after my son would have been born, so [REDACTED] -- well,
18 between the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I went to the Council.

19 Q. So you would have been 16 then?

20 A. Still 16.

21 Q. And I think you tell us that you got a flat and applied
22 for a job --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- at the time? And that you met a man and that you
25 went on to have your daughter?

1 A. Yes, I met a gentleman and had my daughter.

2 Q. And you tell us that you brought your daughter up --

3 A. Myself.

4 Q. Now, turning to that part of your statement, 'Mo', where

5 you talk about the overall impact that you think your

6 time in care has had on your life, something you mention

7 is that you get flashbacks?

8 A. Very much so.

9 Q. Is that to anything in particular or to different things

10 that happened you to over time?

11 A. Well, I am 55 years of age and last night I had to make

12 my daughter sleep with the light -- the bathroom light

13 on. I still sleep with a light on. The only time I use

14 water is if I wash my clothes or I am washing my body.

15 I can't drink water. I don't know what it is. To me,

16 it is not disgusting because it cleans your clothes and

17 cleans -- but, to me, I can't drink water. It is

18 horrible.

19 I am dressed in black today, and the reason I am

20 dressed in black is because this is getting buried

21 today. This is funeral for my past. This is the end.

22 The only time I have ever had a dress on is --

23 because I got made to wear a dress -- the day my

24 daughter got married. And I made sure I wore tights

25 because I can't even wear shorts or dresses. I am

1 scarred from head to toe. Between my mother, growing up
2 in care, I am scarred everywhere. This is my funeral
3 outfit, by the way. And today me and my daughter said
4 this is the funeral for this. This ends today.

5 So, yes, I do get a lot of bad memories with it.

6 Q. Thank you. I think you mentioned, in terms of your
7 siblings, that you don't have much contact with them,
8 that it has affected your relationship with your
9 siblings?

10 A. Very much so. The only sibling I have now -- the only
11 people I have in my life now is my daughter, my three
12 grandchildren, and my son in law. That is the smallest
13 family I have got.

14 Q. We have mentioned during your evidence education. You
15 have told me that your schooling stopped at a young age,
16 and what you say in this part of your statement, at 132,
17 is:

18 'If I had followed a different path I could have
19 become a PE teacher or something to do with history.'

20 A. That's correct. She calls me a history freak.

21 Q. Is that another main impact you feel your time in care
22 has had on you, that you haven't been able to fulfil or
23 pursue what you would otherwise have been able to do and
24 pursue?

25 A. I think I would have been better -- I can't get a job.

1 I can't get a job as what I want to be. I can't get
2 a job anywhere.

3 I have a job. I am a cleaner and I clean other
4 people's homes. But the minute you mention that you
5 don't have an education to places -- I do and it's
6 affected me. It is more than 25 years ago, a lot more
7 than 25 years ago. I can't go to Florida on holiday
8 because I shoplifted, okay -- which was wrong -- when
9 I was young, but it was to survive, to eat. I paid
10 a holiday to take my daughter to Florida, nobody told me
11 that I needed a special Visa. I went to Thailand for
12 a Visa to be told, 'Oh, you have a criminal record from
13 when you were a teenager'. What?

14 So my daughter got me a job. My daughter will tell
15 you, they did a PVG check, at the top, Children's Panel,
16 they want to know your past. They don't give you a job.
17 So I am getting by as a cleaner.

18 I would like my life back.

19 Q. In terms of lessons, 'Mo', which you think could be
20 learnt, you provide some evidence about this in
21 paragraph 141 of your statement. In your view, you say:

22 'Children should be seen and not heard is the worst
23 saying I have ever heard --'

24 A. I have ever heard in my life.

25 Q. You mention that children should be heard.

1 A. I think children should be -- these were -- people are
2 all talking and they decide what people -- well, for
3 instance, the Children's Panel, they don't now, which
4 they have obviously listened to us.

5 When I grew up, in a Children's Panel, the kid was
6 sat outside and their life is discussed behind the door.
7 If the child goes to the social worker or the police --

8 I went to the police when my daughter was 13 to
9 report this, because I was teaching my daughter how to
10 report abuse. The police chased me and told me, 'There
11 is nothing we can do. It is in the past', that was me
12 teaching my daughter you do not let anybody do it
13 because my daughter's words were: what did you do about
14 it?

15 I couldn't do nothing. I went to the police, they
16 turned me away.

17 Don't ever turn a child away. They should be
18 listened to and heard. Children don't lie. That's
19 a horrible thing to say. You can tell if a child is
20 lying.

21 There is a gentleman -- there are places I
22 couldn't -- tell people it is sad growing up in care.
23 I tell my daughter who is a bad person, who is not
24 a nice person, you can't give me anything. I can see
25 through people. I can tell a police officer -- which is

1 bad -- a mile away. And it is nothing to do with where
2 I grown up looking at his shoes. I can tell them a mile
3 away. And it is because we weren't heard and things
4 like that, that we just -- we know every -- we're like
5 radars, kids, and they are radars. They need to be
6 listened to.

7 Q. Thank you. 'Mo', thank you very much for answering my
8 questions today.

9 A. You are welcome.

10 Q. Is there anything else that you would like to add before
11 we finish your evidence?

12 A. There is only two things I would like -- I would like
13 the Church of Scotland to provide medical books.
14 I would like for an example to know any medical problems
15 I had as a child. Because when I go to a doctor's,
16 I can't say I had this and I had that, to pass on to my
17 daughters and my grand kids. There is nothing to say
18 I had mumps, chickenpox, what I went to hospital in
19 Paisley for, what I went to Inverclyde for, there is
20 nothing like that. I can't give my daughter any
21 information, because I don't talk -- my mother's not
22 here, there is nothing that I can pass on to my
23 daughter. Again, it is a bit silly, I would like the
24 Church of Scotland to answer where is our Christmas
25 presents? My granddad held birthday presents, Christmas

1 presents in for me. I am sure there are other kids'
2 families as well. Stuff, okay, we made to look good to
3 Strathclyde Regional Council, going to big Christmas
4 parties, and your Ma and that were there, get Christmas
5 presents. The staff members were at doors with black
6 bags, "put it in there, you will get it Christmas
7 morning". We made a joke about it, where is our gifts?
8 So somebody has to answer where our medical books are.

9 I want my violin back. I am 55, I want it back.
10 Okay it's old, there were presents held in for me,
11 I would like somebody to say it.

12 I phoned personally, I have a witness, it wasn't my
13 daughter, I phoned the Church of Scotland and I asked
14 a question how long this minister had been here, and the
15 woman was really nice and she said "why?" I said I am
16 thinking of getting married. I told a white lie; I am
17 thinking of getting married, how long's your minister
18 been here? "Since the 1980s." That's him I am looking
19 for. Could you possibly ask him to give me a call?
20 "Yes". Within ten minutes, the minister phoned me. The
21 minute I mentioned Langlands Park, he put the phone down
22 on me. He didn't want to ... he thought he was getting
23 a wedding out of it until I mentioned Langlands Park.
24 His words were "don't call back" and put the phone down.
25 Okay, that's your attitude. But to get him to talk to

1 me I had to tell that white lie; I was looking for an
2 old minister to marry me. I was looking for a minister
3 there in the 1980s.

4 Q. Do you know the minister's name by any chance?

5 A. I can't remember it.

6 Q. No problem.

7 A. I was intrigued he was still there. The woman was
8 really nice, "oh, you want a really good minister for
9 your wedding", no, I wasn't getting married.

10 Because we were told, Lady Smith's probably heard
11 this in several cases, records were lost in fires,
12 floods. I want my records, I want my medical records to
13 send to my daughter and my doctor.

14 MS MACLEOD: Thank you for that, 'Mo'.

15 A. No worries.

16 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I can confirm I have no applications
17 for questions of the witness.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 'Mo', let me add my thanks, you have engaged with us
20 for quite a while this morning, you've been very patient
21 with our questions. It has been much a help to hear
22 from you in person, it has brought to life what was in
23 the cold black and white of your statement.

24 I hope you are able to put this into a different
25 place in your memory, and move on to something better

1 after today, or even this afternoon, as I am now able to
2 let you go.

3 A. Thank you.

4 (the witness withdrew)

5 LADY SMITH: Now, before I stop for the lunch break, some
6 more names of people whose identities are protected by
7 my General Restriction Order. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published
8 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
9 [REDACTED] GXZ ; [REDACTED] MSH , known as [REDACTED] MSH ; and [REDACTED] GYJ
10 [REDACTED] GYJ . Please remember that they are not to be
11 identified.

12 So I will stop now for the lunch break and I will be
13 sitting again at 1.45 for the next stage of today's
14 proceedings. Thank you.

15 (1.00 pm)

16 (the luncheon adjournment).

17 (1.45 pm)

18 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. We move now to reading in some
19 evidence. The first one, Ms MacLeod, who is that?

20 MS MACLEOD: The first one is an applicant using the name
21 'Richard'.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS MACLEOD: And his statement can be found at

24 WIT-1-000000905.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

'Richard' (read)

MS MACLEOD: My name is 'Richard'. I was born in 1991.

I was born and grew up in Inverness. I was in the first year in high school when I went into care. My resentment built towards my father, who I have since learnt was my stepfather. I began to rebel. It came to a head when I went to school one day with a carpet burn across my face. He had been restraining me.

'I'd had multiple support workers over the years. I believe it was respite for my mother. They would pick me up and take me out for the day. I had a support worker for as long as I could remember. I had also been in a number of respite places for a number of weeks at a time before I actually went into care.

'I was about 12 years old when the incident with the carpet burn happened. I was taken for a medical examination and I had bruises where I had been grabbed, and things like that. I told them I was throwing punches back. I believe there were three people there at the examination. I felt ashamed because I had no choice. They thought it wasn't safe for me to go back home, even though my dad told them he was only restraining me. The police were involved and he got community service, I believe. I didn't give evidence as I was in care and wasn't allowed.'

1 Between paragraphs 10 and 26, the witness describes
2 his experiences in two separate foster placements.

3 Between paragraphs 27 and 31, the witness describes
4 his experiences at two residential institutions, one in
5 Alness and one in Inverness.

6 Between paragraphs 32 and 35, the witness speaks
7 about a secure placement he spent in an institution in
8 Dumfriesshire.

9 I will move to paragraph 36, where the witness
10 begins to describe his experiences at Geilsland.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS MACLEOD: The understanding is that the witness may have
13 attended Geilsland from around 2005 to 2008.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MACLEOD: 'I went to Geilsland for an overnight stay to
16 begin with. On the overnight trip, I did the run about
17 with the boys, so that you could get a smoke. The
18 grounds were so big, so everyone would run around, out
19 of the way of the staff, to get a smoke. The staff
20 would be out chasing you. They had these candlelight
21 torches and radios, so it was a buzz as well. It was
22 a List D borstal-type place. There were three units,
23 the Mansion House and the school. It had the worst name
24 back in the day as a borstal, before it turned
25 semi-secure. You could walk out the door, but there

1 were always eyes on you, people following you. If
2 I managed to get halfway across the field, they knew
3 I was off. I would get the train over to Glasgow
4 Central and over to Queen Street and get the train up to
5 Inverness. I ran away a lot, almost every week.

6 'I would be taken to the police station, put in the
7 cells and waited on the secure drivers that would come
8 up. The doors would have the child locks on. They
9 would come up with food because you had been on the run
10 and you would be weak. Geilsland can look so good, like
11 one of these holiday parks in the brochure, but if you
12 get a medium rare ticket --'

13 LADY SMITH: Medium rate ticket.

14 MS MACLEOD: Sorry:

15 '... a medium rate ticket you are going to get
16 a medium rate quality care.

17 'SNR [REDACTED] KMJ [REDACTED]. He kept saying he was
18 only there for the kids, but he never spared me more
19 than five to ten minutes.

20 'There were about 40 boys there. 15 to 20 were on
21 a home leave pattern, so they were only there Monday to
22 Friday. There were loads of staff on at any one time.
23 The music teacher was Alex Ferguson, I used to think he
24 was a bit funny, a bit handsy. There was Agnes Welch
25 who was decent. HNL [REDACTED], who was old school

1 quality, very good. Diane McQueen and Dominic
2 Harrogate. There was a member of staff called HVP
3 HVP, he was very authoritative.

4 'When I first went there I smashed him with a plasma
5 lamp and he tried to room base me. He got me charged.
6 He eventually became my key worker and over my last six
7 or nine months there we became very close. There were
8 some staff members who tried to instil wisdom into you.
9 They were good. I would be 15 and a half when he became
10 my key worker. I was 14 and a half when I went there,
11 and I left when I had just turned 17.

12 'We went to chapel every morning, then we would go
13 to education until about 12.30. We had lunch, then back
14 to education. If you didn't go to education you would
15 lose the TV out of your room.

16 'There were three separate units in Geilsland,
17 Cunningham, Garnock and Lomond. I was in Cunningham,
18 which had all the top boys in it. There were
19 Glaswegians there who tried to live up to their family
20 name. Then they found out what their family was like.

21 'You were likely to get a smoke or a drink there.
22 I was there the whole time. You don't get moved unit,
23 but the boys in Garnock came up to Cunningham after
24 a while as there weren't enough boys there to keep it
25 open. Each unit had sleeping rooms, a kitchen, a dining

1 room with five tables and a hatch. They had their own
2 chefs. There was a laundry, staff office, staff smoking
3 room and a recreation room with a pool table. I was in
4 a few of the flats there. There were four boys in each
5 flat.

6 'A couple of months before I turned 17, I moved into
7 flat 4, which was an independent living place. Lomond
8 was for boys with mental health issues. It is probably
9 where that foster boy should have been [that's somebody
10 the witness mentions in his evidence relating to Foster
11 Care]. We always kept ourselves to ourselves.

12 'Geilsland was run by CrossReach,
13 Church of Scotland, so it was quite religious. If you
14 didn't get up for chapel your TV was taken from your
15 room. After chapel you got your breakfast. But, if you
16 went to home economics, I could make cheese toasties at
17 10 o'clock. The food was great, you couldn't want for
18 better. We were spoilt rotten.

19 'You would get a clothing allowance, toiletry
20 allowance and a haircut allowance. You got £150 a month
21 for clothes. You could save it for a couple of months
22 and have £300 to spend. They took to us Braehead
23 Shopping Centre. You could get a Lacoste tracksuit for
24 £170, tops, trainers. But this lulls you into a false
25 sent of security. When I left there I had a tracksuit

1 for every day of the week, so you think life is easy.

2 'Education wasn't as challenging as it could have
3 been and I wasn't applying myself as much as I should.
4 I was the only one who wanted to learn about plumbing
5 and I learned to solder and things like that. There
6 were electrician classes, plumbers, mechanics, painter
7 and decorators, and woodwork classes. I enjoyed all of
8 that.

9 In my last year, at 16, I got a job with the school
10 gardener, Old Charlie, as I didn't have an education
11 anymore. I had to remind him to take his heart pills.
12 I helped build the go kart track there. During our
13 downtime we could play pool or watch TV in the
14 recreation room. We all listened to the same tunes on
15 the PC. They had sports day. I won the sportsmanship
16 of the year award, I held the high jump record and I was
17 one of the shortest boys there. There was a five-a-side
18 court too. We played long shooty. We went to Arran
19 three times for short holidays. It is beautiful. I did
20 a five-mile sea kayak around there.

21 'There were lots of summer activities. We went to
22 Aberfeldy. We did lots of things I wouldn't have
23 otherwise done.

24 'One day I punched a window after arguing with
25 HVP, they took me to hospital. I didn't

1 even need a butterfly stitch. But, when I was assaulted
2 by staff members and my nose was all over my face, they
3 just put me in my bed.

4 'We didn't celebrate our birthday. Christmas was
5 done in such a way so that my sister got the normal
6 family experience, I was allowed to go home. It was my
7 ticket to get up the road to Inverness and bolt.
8 I think I spent Christmas in Geilsland once. I can't
9 remember it being celebrated.

10 'My mother and my uncle came down to see me once.
11 They stayed in a hotel. My uncle raided the mini
12 fridge. They were down for two days. They took me to
13 Braehead for a tracksuit. I was raging, as I felt
14 filthy because there was a storm and all the boys who
15 could go home did go home. I was stuck there.

16 'The only time I could go and get a wash was when we
17 went swimming, because there was no electricity or
18 anything at Geilsland. The only good thing was that we
19 got Chinese meals every night for about two to three
20 weeks.

21 'When my family were there, a member of staff
22 dropped us at Braehead. Mum brought her new boyfriend,
23 too. There were bail conditions for my dad to stay away
24 because of the assault charge. I couldn't be bothered
25 going with them to Braehead and my mum said, 'I have

1 come all this way', and I said, 'You didn't pay for it'.

2 'I got a rare visit from a social worker from
3 Inverness. I would call up their office every now and
4 then and ask for my social worker and told I had a new
5 one. I had nine different social workers in my last
6 year in care. I had lots of panels whilst I was in
7 Geilsland, two to three members of staff would bring me
8 up to Inverness to attend them.

9 'If you did something wrong they would take your TV
10 out of your room. There was also flat basing and room
11 basing. If you were mucking about at the pool table or
12 demanding supper early, they would tell you to go into
13 a flat for ten minutes to cool down. This was flat
14 basing. If there was only a couple of staff and they
15 felt threatened by us, they would flat base us until
16 they got up. If you kicked off for being flat based,
17 you got room based. That's where the dirty stuff
18 happened.

19 'On one occasion me and two other boys smuggled
20 a bottle of Morgan's Spiced Rum. I remember one of the
21 boys names; I can't remember who the other one was. We
22 were drunk and getting told what to do, and you are in
23 a place of authority, where you constantly getting told
24 what to do, and the drink brings the child part of you
25 out. I should have known better for acting up.

1 However, there was nothing malicious in what we were
2 doing, just saying things like 'What are you going to
3 do?' We were all little guys, so we were going out to
4 get thrown about no matter what. The male staff were
5 all 16/17-stone guys. If they didn't want you out of
6 your room, all they would have to do was stand across
7 your door, fold their arms and lean back. You wouldn't
8 get out.

9 'I could tell the atmosphere of the place changed
10 instantly the minute I was taken to the ground. I did
11 make a complaint and nothing was ever done about it.

12 'I was taken to the ground and I would be lying if
13 I told you what staff members were there. The other two
14 boys adhered to the flat based rule and seemed to sober
15 up when it started to kick off. I didn't adhere to
16 this. **ERY** and **ERT**, night shift workers, were asked
17 to come up. They were in Garnock Unit and renowned for
18 their tactics. Straightaway I was room based. They
19 were on their way across the little car park. They came
20 in and said, 'Hi, how are you doing?' and I immediately
21 had my arm pulled back. They were restraining me and
22 put me to the ground. I think just to have a bit of
23 fun. They did everything by the book, but slammed my
24 face into the floor twice. It was absolutely
25 deliberate. I think one took a shot, then the other

1 took a shot, because there was a lot of activity behind
2 me. They were big guys. ERY had dark hair, ERT
3 was bald. They ended up at Kibble. All of the staff at
4 Geilsland ended up there.

5 'My nose burst when my face was slammed into the
6 floor. I immediately felt the back spray coming off the
7 carpet into my face in that slippery(?) way. I was
8 filled with a rage and felt my body coiling up.
9 I looked over my left shoulder and at my room door was
10 another night shift worker called zHVL standing at
11 the door, keeping watch for them. I didn't care about
12 ERY and ERT I hadn't built a relationship with
13 them, but I had with her and I was annoyed when she
14 said, 'It's all right, son', as those would were saying,
15 'Where's your mum now?'.
16

17 'One of them had his forearm into the back of my
18 head, my face straight into the ground, my arms pinned
19 in front of me. They took my shoes off, as they classed
20 them as weapons. They then picked me up and threw me on
21 to my bed. These guys were professionals and I could
22 tell they had done it before. I got no medical
23 attention. I woke up feeling rough and was made to feel
24 I was out of order because I was making a complaint
25 about it.

'The unit manager at the time was a woman. I can't

1 remember her name. She had a lot of freckles. I told
2 her what had happened. For weeks on end I complained.
3 When they have their main staff meeting, when everyone
4 comes in every fortnight or so, I would stand at the
5 door from the get go. I was always told they would get
6 to my complaint, but they never did. I had made the
7 complaint to the unit manager and remember wording it.
8 It would have been put on my notes. It was a brief
9 summary. So every fortnight I would stand outside the
10 door of the staff meeting to make my complaint official,
11 but I kept being told that they hadn't got it. The
12 police were never told. There were no repercussions for
13 ERY and ERT They were nice to me to my face
14 thereafter, but I just acknowledged them. They gave me
15 two major slams into the floor, so to my mind it was
16 deliberate. It was around the middle of my time in
17 Geilsland.

18 'I do think Alex Ferguson, the music teacher, was
19 too handsy, touchy-feely. I threw a chair at him one
20 time. He used to annoy all the boys by putting his
21 hands on their shoulders. Some of the staff -- I don't
22 know names -- were a bit enthusiastic in their
23 restraining tactics. All staff restrained us. It was
24 different when you were restrained by women. There
25 could be one guy who was a bit enthusiastic, but if it

1 was two women you were already calming down when you see
2 they are hurting themselves when trying to restrain you.

3 'I left Geilsland when I was 17, about the end
4 of [REDACTED] that year. HVP [REDACTED] came to my door
5 with a 14-inch portable TV with a built in video. He
6 was brutally honest with me because he liked me and
7 I liked him. He told me that the Highland Council had
8 cut their funding and I was going. I said my goodbyes
9 to everyone that day, some even came in on their day off
10 to say goodbye. I was given £45 and taken up to a bed
11 and breakfast halfway house in Inverness.

12 'About three weeks after leaving I went to
13 an emergency Panel and begged them to take me back, but
14 they wouldn't do it. The whole of my 20s were spent in
15 bed and breakfasts. You are only meant to be in them
16 for two years before you are offered a house. I was
17 told it was because my time was split by going into
18 jail, but all together I was in jail for only four
19 months. So I spent seven years and several months in
20 bed and breakfasts.

21 'I got a job in a bar.

22 'From 16 to 25 I was in and out of jail. The last
23 time I was in was because someone robbed my grandad in
24 hospital and I went looking for them.

25 'I have had my own flat for a number of years.

1 I hate it. It was on the ground floor and people just
2 kept tapping on my window. I have stopped taking drugs,
3 but where I live they are constantly there.

4 'I reported the incident at Geilsland to the unit
5 manager and tried to make an official report every two
6 weeks at the staff meetings. They never got round to
7 it. The police weren't informed at the time and I have
8 never reported it to them since.

9 'For people who were meant to stabilise me, they
10 threw me about from pillar to post too much and I never
11 got a grasp of what stabilisation felt like. They
12 caused abandonment issues, because staff members you got
13 to know were taken from you. You can't build trust in
14 people in the care system.

15 'When I go into the doctors I feel like I am going
16 into battle to keep my diazepam prescription. I don't
17 compare myself to anyone else. I compare myself to who
18 I was yesterday. I put a wall up, a barrier, not
19 allowing people in. It has affected my relationship
20 with my mum, as I have told her she could have taken me
21 back.

22 'When I went into care I was meant to go to
23 a production in Edinburgh, because I went to drama and
24 done theatre. My drama teacher put my name forward for
25 an Equity card, but the social work didn't want to pay

1 for it. This is when I was 12. I believe you are set
2 up to fail when you are in your mid-teens in care.

3 'I know my records will be sitting in that mansion
4 house in Geilsland. I am trying to get them.
5 I contacted the Highland Council, but I was told I would
6 need a Subject Access Request form to get them.
7 I wouldn't know where to get that.

8 'I know staff should have solidarity between each
9 other, but they shouldn't underestimate the fact that
10 a child always tells the truth, and if they tell you
11 something they have to listen. I had a loss of
12 connection with the social work and had abandonment
13 issues with them, like I was on a waltzer in the system.

14 'When I was with the sound members of staff it was
15 good. But then they acted up when other members of
16 staff were about and couldn't be themselves. If you

17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18
19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 I have been
21 told they are now using children who were in care in
22 Children's Panels now. That's a good idea because they
23 have lived that life, even though I think they are
24 mollycoddled in care today.

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

1 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
2 true.'

3 'Richard' signed the statement on 8 February 2022.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this next statement is about
6 lady whose pseudonym is 'Jane', and she has provided the
7 statement on behalf of her former partner, 'Keiran' for
8 these purposes. 'Keiran' applied to the Inquiry
9 in August 2016 to participate in the Inquiry, but sadly
10 died prior, before he gave a statement.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: So this statement, really, is on his behalf by
13 his former partner.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Jane' (read)

16 MR MACAULAY: She says at paragraph 2:

17 'My boyfriend was 'Keiran'. He submitted
18 an application --"

19 Before I carry on, of course, I should give the
20 reference. WIT.001.002.2223.

21 To move on, he submitted an application to the
22 Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry in 2016:

23 ''Keiran' was in prison at that time and we were no
24 longer together, but we were in a relationship for
25 many years, from around 1991. He often spoke to me

1 about his time in care and the abuse he was subjected
2 to.

3 'Keiran' died in [REDACTED] 2018 before making
4 a statement to the Inquiry. I then contacted the
5 Inquiry and asked if I could speak on 'Keiran's' behalf,
6 because I knew how much giving a statement meant to him.
7 I am therefore providing this statement for both
8 'Keiran' and our son, who also has things he wants to
9 say, but just isn't able to do so right now.'

10 And then she provides some information about
11 'Keiran's' life before care:

12 'Keiran' was born in the Vale of Leven Hospital in
13 1976. He had an older brother and a younger sister.'

14 At paragraph 5:

15 'Keiran' was brought up in Clydebank, Glasgow. The
16 family then moved to another area of Clydebank. His mum
17 and dad are still there. He said his parents drank
18 a bit and went out a lot to country and western clubs,
19 and that his childhood wasn't very good.

20 'Apparently when he was a baby he was always crying
21 and his parents tried to get him help from the social
22 services and other organisations. They thought he
23 possibly had ADHD.

24 'He went to primary school and he said he did okay
25 in the classroom, but he was always wanting to fight in

1 the playground with other kids. His dad encouraged him
2 to fight and not allow people to bully him, to stand up
3 for himself.

4 'He said other children would make fun of him
5 because his family didn't have much money. He wore
6 plimsolls to school and he even had to wear old football
7 boots with the studs taken out. He remembered walking
8 along floors at the school and the boots making a funny
9 noise and that he was embarrassed.

10 'When he was 6 his sister was born and 'Keiran' said
11 he seemed to become the family scapegoat after that,
12 getting the blame for everything. Another thing was
13 that 'Keiran's' favourite uncle died when 'Keiran' was 8
14 or 9, and 'Keiran' was very upset about that, as they
15 were very close. 'Keiran' couldn't cope with his uncle
16 dying. It was like he had never been loved by anyone
17 else. Maybe he felt unloved by his parents, I don't
18 know. He started setting fires and stealing stuff and
19 his parents couldn't control him. He told me he stole
20 sweets and gave them to his brother and sister because
21 they had nothing and he felt sorry for them. Then
22 'Keiran' would get hit by his mum and dad for stealing.'

23 And at 13 she says:

24 'It was a combination of everything that led to
25 'Keiran' going into a home.'

1 Then she relates what she was told by 'Keiran' about
2 Ballikinrain:

3 ''Keiran' went into Ballikinrain in [REDACTED] 1987,
4 when he was 11. That was his first care home, and he
5 was there for about 12 weeks, but he kept running away,
6 so he went to other homes. I don't have the names of
7 all the homes 'Keiran' went to.

8 'He was in care for about eight years, and it was
9 always being extended because he was always getting into
10 trouble and running away. He went to a care home in
11 Falkirk and another one in Cardross. I can't remember
12 the names. His sister told me she remembered visiting
13 'Keiran' at Cardross on a family day and he was about 13
14 then. He also went to a young offenders place. I know
15 he certainly spent most of his time between Ballikinrain
16 and Kerelaw. The Social Work Department should have all
17 those details.

18 ''Keiran' described Ballikinrain as being like
19 a castle in the middle of nowhere. He didn't go into
20 detail about the place, so I don't know how many kids
21 were there or stuff like that. I know it was mixed,
22 boys and girls.'

23 And there is clearly some confusion there:

24 'He did say his parents and his sister would go and
25 visit him now again, but not really that often. When

1 they did visit they were always with the social workers.
2 I know one of his social workers was a Margo Kidd and
3 there was also a man called Jim and a woman called
4 Christine.

5 'It was all ex-army types that were in charge and
6 they did a lot of bullying and making the kids fight
7 with one another. 'Keiran' never said any names to me
8 and he told me this quite a few years back. There was
9 a man that abused him at Ballikinrain. He would twist
10 and cross 'Keiran's' testicles, and 'Keiran' ended up
11 having to go to hospital. This was when he was about 12
12 or 13. The hospital put a peg thing put inside his
13 testicle to treat it. The home must have known about
14 that, surely they would have been told.'

15 He then goes on to talk about girls, and again,
16 clearly, that was not during the time in Ballikinrain,
17 but I will read that paragraph:

18 'He also said they were two girls that were abused
19 as well. The person that did it went into their rooms
20 at night. The same person that abused 'Keiran' abused
21 the two girls. I'm not sure how 'Keiran' knew about the
22 two girls and I don't know what the male member of staff
23 did to them, but I recall 'Keiran' saying something
24 about hearing the girls screaming in their room and the
25 man then going into 'Keiran's' room. I think the girls

1 must have spoken to 'Keiran' about it.

2 'The abuser was a male member of staff, but 'Keiran'
3 didn't go in to much detail. He just said the man had
4 crushed his testicles with his hands. That was in
5 'Keiran's' room and I presume it was at night.

6 ''Keiran's' testicles did swell up from that, but
7 the staff did nothing. Then 'Keiran' had appendix
8 problems and had to be taken into hospital. It was then
9 that they dealt with his testicle problem. He was about
10 13 or 14 when he had his appendix problem.

11 ''Keiran' told me he was always running away from
12 all the care homes he was ever in. That was before and
13 during the sexual abuse. He would sometimes run quite
14 a distance from home or go to friends in Clydebank. He
15 would steal cars and get into trouble, get caught by the
16 police and then get returned to the homes by the social
17 work or the police.

18 'He took acid when he was 11 or 12, committed
19 an armed robbery and crashed a stolen car. That's when
20 he broke his leg. That was all when he was in care and
21 always when he was running away. He hid away and stayed
22 in places like toilets in Glasgow City Centre.

23 ''Keiran' certainly told me there was a lot of
24 physical, emotional and sexual abuse at Ballikinrain.
25 He said they did gruelling physical exercises, got hit

1 a lot and were made to fight a lot by these army types.
2 Boys were also hit with bats if they weren't doing
3 sports right, things like that.

4 'I know 'Keiran' named two sexual abusers,
5 HTH and GOU, on his application form to
6 the Inquiry. I'm not sure what home that was in. It
7 might have been Ballikinrain. 'Keiran' has also told
8 both me and his sister the names of two other people who
9 sexually abused him as a child. They were John Muldoon
10 and ...'

11 Your Ladyship may recognise that name.

12 LADY SMITH: Indeed, from Kerelaw.

13 MR MACAULAY: '... and KBE. I don't know where
14 they were from or what they were responsible for and
15 I don't know if they were the same ones he told his
16 sister about.

17 'I think 'Keiran' found it hard to speak about.
18 I think he did tell staff, but he wasn't believed and
19 they just called him a telltale. The impression I got
20 was that he did tell people, but no one ever believed
21 him, so he kept it to himself and didn't tell anyone
22 until he was a bit older.

23 'I am not sure why or exactly when 'Keiran' was
24 moved on from Ballikinrain, but I think he might have
25 gone on to Kerelaw. It was a young offenders place.'

1 And then there is some information provided about
2 Kerelaw, and I will read that:

3 ''Keiran' was at Kerelaw from about 1988 until about
4 1993. He says it was about five years, from aged 12 to
5 15. It was the only place he received any education and
6 he did all right in some exams. I think he struggled
7 with English. He certainly sat some exams and did some
8 YTS work. I know he worked for about six months as
9 a commis chef in 1992.

10 'When 'Keiran' was in Kerelaw I think he may have
11 had a girlfriend and something was done to her by one of
12 the staff, an art teacher. 'Keiran' told me the art
13 teacher was a right pervert and that he touched up all
14 the girls in class. I think he may have gone to their
15 rooms as well.'

16 That may chime with other evidence.

17 LADY SMITH: Indeed.

18 MR MACAULAY: 'The art teacher was called Matthew George.
19 Apparently he was well known for touching up the girls
20 at the school.

21 ''Keiran' knew what was going on and he was trying
22 to help her, so he would go to her room and call her
23 away when the art teacher was there. 'Keiran' certainly
24 spoke of physical and emotional abuse towards himself at
25 Kerelaw. He said there was hitting and beating if

1 anyone stepped out of line. I can't give you any
2 specific examples ... I don't know any more about
3 Kerelaw. 'Keiran' just said it wasn't very nice.
4 'Keiran' didn't have a very nice life at all.

5 'Keiran' started taking drugs at Kerelaw, to block
6 out the abuse and to drown all the feelings. He was
7 quite young when he was doing that. He must have been
8 11 or 12.

9 'I am not sure exactly when 'Keiran' left Kerelaw,
10 but he did the commis chef training and he got a job as
11 a go-kart marshal at [REDACTED]. He was in
12 a homeless place for a while, but then he got a flat
13 when he was about 18.

14 'Keiran' lived in Ireland for a while with an aunt
15 and uncle. They were also drinking a lot, so he got
16 moved to another uncle in London.

17 'In 1996, when 'Keiran' was about 20, he was
18 admitted to a psychiatric ward [REDACTED] and that's where
19 I met him. I was there for about three weeks for
20 anxiety and depression. I got to know him and I was
21 trying to get him help. He had a drink and drug problem
22 and had been suicidal.

23 'I think I was about 26 and when he came out we got
24 together and he moved in with me. He was still taking
25 drugs and self-harming a lot, cutting himself [REDACTED]

1 ██████. He just wasn't happy. The hospital treated it
2 as a drug psychosis without looking at any possible
3 underlying problems.

4 'I didn't know then what I know now about the abuse.
5 'Keiran' only told me little bits at a time. He was in
6 prison a lot and would never have talked about it during
7 visits. I didn't know about all the abuse until years
8 later, and the names of those responsible would only
9 have been in August 2017.

10 'I got pregnant and decided to stay with 'Keiran',
11 because that's what people do; they stay together. He
12 was in and out of prison a lot, had drug addiction
13 counselling, but he was always having problems. The
14 psychiatrists could never do much as 'Keiran' was always
15 under the influence of drink or drugs. He was
16 eventually diagnosed with post-traumatic stress
17 disorder, schizophrenia, and a personality disorder by
18 a prison psychiatrist, but that was after he had
19 disclosed the abuse he suffered as a child. I don't
20 know exactly when that was or what detail 'Keiran' went
21 into. He did self-harm a lot, so he was seeking help.

22 'So we stayed together and I would visit him in
23 prison. But, when he got out, he became even stranger
24 still. He was injecting heroin and I couldn't handle
25 that with my depression. Eventually the relationship

1 ended, but we always maintained contact and I stayed his
2 friend.

3 'I had my son with him, so I still tried to help him
4 as much as I could. 'Keiran' missed his son as he was
5 in prison all the time. Even when he was out, if he had
6 nowhere to live, I would let him stay at our home,
7 although that may have made things worse as he might
8 have thought we still had a relationship.'

9 And then moving on to paragraph 48:

10 ''Keiran' died in [REDACTED] 2018. It was at the
11 [REDACTED] where he was staying at the
12 time. There was a post mortem and they said it wasn't
13 a suicide, but multi-drug toxicity, the effects of all
14 the different drugs that were in his system. 'Keiran'
15 also had pneumonia, an enlarged heart, and COPD
16 (Coronary Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). He wasn't the
17 most healthy. He was obese and had all these breathing
18 problems.'

19 And then looking at the section on impact:

20 ''Keiran' was a loving person, but he had this side
21 to him that was always worrying about things. He
22 worried about money, then committed crime. He also
23 really struggled when people were being nice to him. He
24 couldn't handle that. 'Keiran' spent a lot of time in
25 prison, in fact he sometimes did things deliberately

1 just to get put away, because prison was where he seemed
2 to get the best help.

3 'Many years after the abuse at Ballikinrain,
4 'Keiran' had problems down below. When he was in prison
5 he kept finding lumps and getting scans of his
6 testicles. That will surely be linked to the abuse he
7 sustained. I don't know how often that was.

8 ''Keiran' always said he wished he could be like
9 a normal father and just go out and play football with
10 his son. He just couldn't ever do that. He was just
11 never able to lead a normal life.

12 'The abuse just ruined his life. He had such an
13 unstable background what with going into care, being
14 abused and getting out of control with the drugs.
15 I think he did all the bad things he did because he just
16 wasn't leading a happy life.'

17 And at 56:

18 ''Keiran' was a lovely person, but he had a side to
19 him that if anything good was happening he couldn't
20 handle it. He would have to do something to compromise
21 that, and I think that is down to his personality
22 disorders.'

23 And she then goes on to talk about their son. She
24 says at 58:

25 'My son is still coming to terms with the death of

1 his father and although he wanted to speak to the
2 Inquiry about his dad, he just isn't up to
3 a face-to-face interview, certainly not at this moment
4 in time. He has written out a statement which he gave
5 to me and which I have given to the Inquiry.'

6 And at 59 and 60, she summarises that statement, and
7 I will just read these two paragraphs:

8 'The statement describes how the system failed his
9 father and affected [the boy's] life. He refers to the
10 importance of a child having a father's influence and
11 how the lack of that in his life has hindered some of
12 his social skills, particularly his confidence.

13 'He also refers to crying and wondering "Why
14 me?" but as he got older he began to understand that it
15 was his dad that had to endure the inhuman situations he
16 was placed in. He feels the system failed his dad as
17 a child, and that when his dad suffered abuse as a child
18 he received more rejection than support.'

19 And then lessons to be learned:

20 'I think the abuse completely ruined 'Keiran's'
21 life. He went from an unstable family to a place where
22 he had all that abuse and then he didn't trust anyone
23 anymore. That is why he had such a difficult life and
24 went to drugs, to try and hide the pain, being out of
25 control and his chaotic lifestyle.'

1 At 64:

2 'Lessons need to be learned from places like HTK
3 was at and justice needs to be done. There needs to be
4 stricter control in these homes. That is what 'Keiran'
5 wanted.'

6 And the final paragraph 'Jane' says:

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

11 'Jane' has signed the statement on 6 November 2018.

12 LADY SMITH: Can I just confirm with you who or where in the
13 family relationships the person whose name -- pseudonym
14 is HTK fits, the one you have just referred to?

15 MR MACAULAY: Sorry, did I refer to?

16 LADY SMITH: You mentioned HTK; did you mean 'Keiran'?

17 MR MACAULAY: Yes, I did.

18 LADY SMITH: Or did you mean HTK?

19 MR MACAULAY: Yes, I meant 'Keiran'.

20 LADY SMITH: I couldn't see where I was with the pseudonyms.

21 That should be 'Keiran' as well.

22 MR MACAULAY: That was a misstatement on my part.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms MacLeod.

24 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next read-in is a statement of an
25 applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Alec'. The

1 statement can be found at WIT.001.002.3489.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 'Alec' (read)

4 MS MACLEOD: 'Alec' provided evidence to the Inquiry as part
5 of the case study looking into an institution run by the
6 Christian Brothers, St Ninian's, Falkland, that was
7 Day 132, on 11 June 2019. Part of 'Alec's' statement
8 has already been read-in during other parts of Inquiry
9 hearings and I will highlight those as we go through the
10 statement:

11 'My name is 'Alec'. I was born in 1966. I was born
12 in Ireland. My father was an alcoholic. My mum and dad
13 left each other. I came to London when I was about
14 a year old. I moved to Glasgow with my mum, brother and
15 sister when I was about two years old. Eight of us
16 lived in a council house. It was a one bedroom tenement
17 flat. I was put into care at the Good Shepherd in
18 Edinburgh when I was four years old.

19 'My mother's husband didn't like that my name was
20 mentioned around the house because it was my real
21 father's name. My mother's husband had alcohol and
22 gambling issues and there was violence towards my
23 brother and me. I was running away from the house and
24 getting picked up by the police. The social work felt
25 that my mum and her husband weren't keeping a clean

1 house, and were involved with that. The social worker
2 was Jean McDonald. Mrs McDonald was in my life
3 for years. She was the family social worker. I was
4 taken into care by the social work for protection as
5 a Child on Protection. It was Rule 54 or 53. I was the
6 only one put into care. My brother and sisters stayed
7 with my mum.

8 'Jean McDonald came to visit my mum and took me to
9 a beautiful town house in Atholl Terrace in the middle
10 of Glasgow. It was a drop-in resource centre for kids
11 with special needs. The nuns there did an assessment on
12 me. I went there loads of times. Then I got moved to
13 Ladymary School run by the Good Shepherd Convent in
14 Colinton, Edinburgh. I knew I was being taken into
15 care. My social worker from Glasgow City Council, Jean
16 McDonald, and the Nuns in the assessment centre told me
17 that was happening. I spoke to Jean McDonald about the
18 household, the alcoholism and the violence. I was
19 really close to my brother. Knowing that I was going to
20 be taken away was quite sad, but I understood why I was
21 getting taken away. I blamed myself for being taken
22 into care; I thought it was because of my unruly
23 behaviour.

24 'I'm not certain of the order of my staying in
25 various institutions because there were so many. My

1 recollection may not accord with official records.'

2 Between paragraphs 9 and 66, the witness speaks
3 about his time spent at Ladymary School in Colinton,
4 Edinburgh.

5 I will read from 67:

6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

7

8

9 Secondary Instit When I was about 11 years old I was taken
10 back to Glasgow. I stayed at home for five or
11 six months. My mum had moved to a new place. Her
12 husband was being drunk, disorderly and violent towards
13 me, my mum and my brothers and sisters.

14 'I started absconding [REDACTED]. My mum was liaising
15 with Margaret Mitchell, who was keeping a close eye, and
16 the Social Work Department were involved. I went to the
17 Children's Panel for absconding and minor offences. The
18 Children's Panel said I had to go back into the care of
19 the Social Work Department. I went to Ballikinrain
20 Boys' School. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 Secondary Institutions - to be pu.

22 'I had two social workers, Jean McDonald and Harry.
23 I can't remember Harry's second name. Harry worked for
24 Glasgow City Council. I was to be in Ballikinrain for
25 six months and then was to go back to the Panel for

1 review. I was on a Care and Protection Order with
2 Offences. I stayed at Ballikinrain for about eight
3 months. I think it was the only institution that was
4 available for me to go to.

5 'Ballikinrain was a beautiful, gothic building with
6 huge court yards, pebbled stones, ash and oak. It was
7 much more beautiful than Ladymary. It was like a huge
8 castle. There were gargoyles, stained glass windows and
9 mahogany panels on the walls. Ballikinrain was a school
10 for kids who had referrals from the Social Work
11 Department. There were lots of unruly and dangerous
12 kids. The kids were maladjusted, including myself.
13 I don't think it was a List D School. There were three
14 units, bottom, middle and top, on the first, second and
15 third floor. There were about 40 boys at Ballikinrain.
16 Each unit had a residential area for staff, next to the
17 boys. It was all dormitories.

18 'The routine at Ballikinrain **Secondary Institutions - to be publishe**
19 **Secondary Institutions - to be publishe**. The lads who were in there
20 were much older than me, aged 12 to 16. The youngest in
21 Ballikinrain was ten years old. I was 11. The 15-year
22 olds were big lads. They were in for tough crimes.

23 'I had a good rapport with the staff at
24 Ballikinrain, like Mr Davies. Nothing ever happened to
25 me in Ballikinrain. Apart from a few fisticuffs with

1 some of the boys. The staff were good. Secondary Institutions -

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3 The staff were nice guys. The staff were quite rowdy
4 and powerful because there were kids in there for more
5 serious crimes than theft. The staff gave you a clip
6 round the ear. It was nothing that you didn't feel you
7 deserved.

8 'I got a slap across the face from MHQ
9 MHQ, for stealing a tin of glue out of the
10 workshop. I deserved it. I didn't want to steal the
11 glue. I got bullied into it. The glue was used for
12 solvent abuse. MHQ was the groundsman. He
13 had a workshop where we made garden forks, that sort of
14 thing. The workshop was good. I was quite hardened to
15 being hit, by this time; I had been hit by the other
16 residents. We were allowed a half ounce of tobacco to
17 smoke. The staff would let you have a quarter ounce and
18 cut it with a knife. You would make that last for
19 a couple of days. Everything was about smoking, being
20 allowed to smoke. It was a craze. It was stupid.
21 I can see the reality of it. It keeps the kids quiet.
22 It kept me quiet, being able to smoke.

23 'Ballikinrain concentrated more on outdoor pursuits
24 rather than national curriculum. There was an education
25 block. But, being an unruly child, I was more into the

1 outdoor pursuits, like canoeing, hillwalking, abseiling
2 and working with maps. You would be away overnight
3 doing these things, and then the next day you would be
4 in the classroom. The staff would want you to write
5 about what you had been doing. We did technical drawing
6 in the classroom. I enjoyed that. There wasn't maths,
7 English and history.

8 'I went back to the Panel for a review and my mum
9 was there. There were four Panel members and my social
10 worker, Harry. Harry asked my mum how she felt about me
11 coming back to the house. My mum just shook her head
12 and said, 'We can't have him back in the house'. After
13 the Panel finished, I went outside with Harry. I opened
14 the door and ran away. I knew had to go back to
15 Ballikinrain because my mum didn't want me.

16 'I would hear from Jean McDonald now and again. She
17 was in her 50s, very small and had a false leg. I took
18 advantage of the fact she couldn't run after me. There
19 were so many times that I ran away from her. The older
20 I was getting, I think Harry had more to do with me.
21 Harry came to see twice at Ballikinrain, once was to
22 take me to the Panel; second time was to say he was
23 asking for me to go to another children's home. I was
24 caught three weeks after I had had run away from the
25 Children's Panel. I was caught shoplifting. I stole

1 some food. I had been sleeping in old houses in rolled
2 up carpets.

3 'I knew how to drive, so sometimes I would steal a
4 car and sleep in it. I was well known to the police in
5 Glasgow because of all the times I had run away.

6 'I ran away from Ballikinrain a couple of times
7 because my mum wouldn't take me and I was being bullied
8 by the other boys. I didn't want to be in care.
9 I wanted to be moved. I said I would keep running away
10 until they moved me.

11 'It wasn't that I wasn't happy in Ballikinrain, that
12 I left. I left because I was bullied a lot by the other
13 boys. I was abusing solvents and my behaviour was
14 maladjusted, everything was chaotic. I ran away from
15 Ballikinrain and when I was caught I was sent to
16 Larchgrove Assessment Centre.'

17 Between the paragraphs 88 and 93, the witness speaks
18 of his experiences at Larchgrove. That was read-in on
19 Day 428, on 25 March this year.

20 Between paragraphs 89 and 131, the witness speaks
21 about his time at St Ninian's, Falkland, and that was
22 read-in on the day I mention in the Christian Brothers
23 case study on Day 132, on 11 June 2019.

24 In paragraph 132, he mentions a short readmission to
25 Larchgrove.

1 Between 133 and paragraph 174, the witness speaks
2 about his time at St Joseph's School in Tranent. That
3 was read-in as part of the De La Salle chapter of
4 hearings, on Day 411, on 23 January 2014.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS MACLEOD: Then paragraphs 175 to 234, the witness speaks
7 about his time spent at St Mary's Kenmure in
8 Bishopbriggs.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS MACLEOD: From paragraph 35 onwards, the witness speaks
11 about his time -- his life after being in care. That
12 evidence was mainly covered in the main by 'Alec' when
13 he provided oral evidence to the Inquiry.

14 LADY SMITH: 35?

15 MS MACLEOD: 235 onwards, yes. Paragraph 235 onwards.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS MACLEOD: Of his statement. He discusses his life after
18 care and other matters, including the impact he
19 considers his time in care to have had on his life. And
20 also, of particular note, that he provided evidence in
21 relation to three separate trials in the High Court
22 relating to matters to do with three separate placements
23 in which he was.

24 Finally, I will move to paragraph 291, which is
25 where 'Alec' moves on to look at lessons to be learnt:

1 'Anyone who works in the care setting should be
2 properly trained and vetted. Children must be protected
3 from abusers, whether at school, football clubs, or in
4 residential schools. Children must be nourished, loved
5 and cared for. Children should be given the chance to
6 grow up and make something nice of themselves. Children
7 shouldn't grow up without a voice.

8 'People should face responsibility for what they
9 have done and what they have contributed to people's
10 lives, whether that is a positive or negative
11 contribution. People should face how they have messed
12 up other people.

13 'I can't understand why, when Glasgow Social Work
14 Department and charities employed people to work in list
15 D schools, the people weren't trained. A lot of
16 violence was inflicted by the staff on unruly kids
17 because the kids would wind them up and the staff would
18 snap. I would always put my hands up to things I had
19 done. When I spoke to the police or was at court I was
20 honest. I want the abusers to be honest. I thought
21 they would be. When the police went to speak to them,
22 I thought I wouldn't have to go to the High Court.

23 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
24 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
25 I don't wish my name to be published in any document.

1 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
2 true.'

3 'Alec' signed the statement on 18 January 2018.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this next statement is also by
6 an applicant who wants to remain anonymous, and he wants
7 to use the pseudonym 'George'.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 'George' (read)

10 MR MACAULAY: The statement is at WIT-1-000000575. The
11 applicant was born in the year 1976. It begins by
12 telling us that he was brought up in Glasgow with his
13 two brothers and his sister. At 3, he says:

14 'My earliest memories of living in Drumchapel,
15 I remember going to primary school there. I remember
16 Primary 1 and 2. My dad didn't live with us in
17 Drumchapel. I don't know what he was doing. My dad was
18 quite old. He was drinking all the time. He would
19 visit us from time to time.

20 'At that time it was obvious my mum was struggling
21 to look after us all. I imagine we were a bit of
22 a handful. I think there was a separation between my
23 parents, even though they weren't living together. We
24 moved out of Drumchapel to Ayrshire. My dad was from
25 Ireland originally. I remember the school I went to was

1 called Cairnhill Primary School. I have some memory of
2 moving into a flat with my dad. I don't remember my mum
3 being around too much. My sister took on more of that
4 role, looking after myself and my brothers. My mum
5 would disappear for a week or two at a time.'

6 Then, in the following paragraphs, he discusses some
7 unhappy experiences in primary school. If I can move on
8 to paragraph 9:

9 'My mum shouldn't have had children. She wasn't
10 a bad person, but a lack of education meant she couldn't
11 tell the right kind of people you should have around
12 children. My sister knew that's what my mum was like,
13 which is why my sister wanted me to stay with her rather
14 than my mother. There was a bit of a tug of war between
15 them and I was caught in the middle. They had
16 an argument and my mum then basically told me she didn't
17 want me. However, my mum took me back to Glasgow. We
18 were going about different places and then she dumped me
19 with my dad. My dad wasn't a bad guy. It was basically
20 me living in his flat and looking after myself.'

21 He then goes on to set out how he came to the
22 attention of the police and was taken to a police
23 station. At paragraph 12:

24 'Some social workers came in and intervened at the
25 police station. They couldn't get hold of my mum or my

1 dad, so they got an emergency supervision order for me
2 and that's when they took me to ... [a children's home
3 in Glasgow]. It was a big shock to me because there
4 were things there I wasn't used to. I wasn't used to
5 being fed regularly, not since I had lived at my
6 sister's. My dad never really had any food in the
7 house.'

8 Then he talks about that particular children's home
9 in the following paragraphs.

10 If we move on to paragraph 20, when he came to leave
11 that home, he says:

12 'My mum took me out and told me that this was going
13 to be a new start. She took me to this place, which was
14 like a privately run place for homeless people and drug
15 addicts. Straightaway it was uncomfortable. There were
16 guys drinking, smoking, taking drugs, and playing poker
17 for money. I felt responsible for my mum because she
18 was vulnerable. She didn't see danger. I could see the
19 dangers, but it was like she blocked them out. There
20 was one other kid in the place. He was the son of the
21 guy who ran the place. He had loads of pirate videos.
22 My mum thought it would be a good idea for me to get
23 pally with this boy.

24 'I had only been staying at the place for a few
25 weeks when we came back and the whole place was boarded

1 up.'

2 And it would appear that there had been some form of
3 police raid on the premises.

4 Moving on to paragraph 22:

5 'My mum got us in some other homeless place around
6 about Possil. We were in there a few weeks, but
7 something happened there and we ended up going to my
8 dad's. I did have a social worker at this time, but
9 I hardly ever saw him because we were always moving
10 about and my mum never took me to see him. I think the
11 social worker's second name was Jenö or something. My
12 mum got a house in Castlemilk. By that time I was
13 a prolific shoplifter, I was in and out of the police
14 station like a yo-yo. All the policemen knew my name
15 and face. Social workers were talking to me sometimes
16 when I went into the police station, but nothing was
17 happening. No one was taking any action.'

18 Perhaps I can move on to paragraph 26:

19 'After that I got into more trouble and somehow
20 I ended up in front of a Children's Panel. I can't
21 remember the address of the Panel, but it was in
22 Glasgow. My brother was staying in England by that
23 time, but he came to the Panel and he told me they were
24 going to take me away. He told me to get in his car and
25 he would take me to England. I thought about it, but

1 I didn't do it. I can't remember exactly, but, at the
2 Panel, I think my mum said she didn't want me or she
3 couldn't cope with me.

4 'I was taken from the Panel straight to
5 Ballikinrain. I don't think they trusted me to go back
6 home from the Panel.'

7 He then talks about Ballikinrain, where he spent
8 about two years, between 1990 to 1992, which means you
9 would have been about 14 when he got there. It begins
10 by saying, as others have said:

11 'Ballikinrain was a castle. It was all boys and was
12 divided up into different units.'

13 He goes on to describe the units, a description
14 I think we have already heard to some extent. Then, at
15 paragraph 30, he says:

16 'I was 14 years old when I first went to
17 Ballikinrain. I went in the social worker's car. I had
18 been in social workers' cars before, but that was always
19 to be taken back to my mum or dad's houses, not being
20 taken to a children's home. I thought it would be just
21 like the previous children's home. It was quite a long
22 drive to Ballikinrain. I remember we drove up the
23 driveway and it was dark. I remember seeing all these
24 owls with their eyes lit up. It was quite a scary
25 place. The castle looks dead spooky at night.

1 'I went in. I was introduced to someone. It wasn't
2 the person who ran the place; I think it was the person
3 on duty. I can't remember the name of the person in
4 charge. I went up the stairs. I think it was the first
5 night that the other boys dropped in to see me.
6 I remember getting stuffed into a quilt cover. I was
7 scared, some of the boys were bigger than me and these
8 were not boys that I was used to. They said it was
9 an initiation and I had to do it. I felt like I had no
10 choice, so I got in the quilt cover and they hung the
11 quilt cover out of a window. After that, I was accepted
12 as one of the boys.'

13 And he goes on to describe aspects of the routine.

14 At 34, he says:

15 'The food wasn't that good, apart from when you were
16 in the leavers unit, then could you pick your own stuff.
17 In the main unit the food was just crap. The mentality
18 was quite simple: if you didn't like the food you were
19 given, you didn't eat.

20 'There was one time we complained about the food and
21 went on a hunger strike. A couple of the staff couldn't
22 handle the situation. One of the male staff, [ITK],
23 couldn't control us and he called in [HHZ],
24 another member of staff. He came in and I thought he
25 punched a boy, although he didn't. He hit the seat the

1 boy was sitting on and the seat went flying back. It
2 was sort of like a warning. He told us to move. We
3 moved pretty quickly, so the hunger strike was diffused
4 pretty quickly.

5 'HHZ [REDACTED] was like that. He didn't have much time to
6 talk about things. He was an enforcer. However, after
7 the hunger strike, the headteacher did come up and say
8 they were going to do something about the food. They
9 said they were going to start getting better things on
10 the menu, but nothing changed at all.'

11 Then moving on to paragraph 36:

12 'Within the first three or four weeks of me being at
13 Ballikinrain there was one incident with a guy called
14 [REDACTED] in the showers. I called him [REDACTED], but I don't
15 know if that was his real name. He was maybe a year or
16 two older than me and he used to try and bully me.
17 I thought he was going to beat me up. He asked me, or
18 bullied me, to expose myself to him. The shower curtain
19 opened and he pushed me on the shoulder. It ended up
20 that I was lying on my back and he had his foot on my
21 chest, just staring at me. I managed to get up and
22 pushed past him and got out. There was another time
23 I got a kicking in the shower, but I can't remember any
24 more. I don't know if it was [REDACTED] or not. I just
25 remember crawling under a sink and this person booting

1 me. That was about all that happened in the shower.

2 'I always found it really weird that we had to wear
3 their clothes. When I first went to Ballikinrain they
4 took me to a big cupboard full of clothes. I found that
5 weird. When you needed fresh clothes, you took them
6 from the big cupboard. The clothes you had been wearing
7 would get washed and would be put back in the big
8 cupboard for anyone else to choose to wear. I just
9 found that really strange. I don't remember any of the
10 clothes having name tags. I just remember wearing
11 whatever fitted you.

12 'There was someone who spoke to me in the morning
13 after my first night in Ballikinrain and explained that
14 I would have to go to school. I got into a fight on my
15 first day and got kicked in the genitals. That gave me
16 a taste for what the school was going to be like. The
17 school was separate from the building we were staying.
18 It was outside the castle, but it was still in the same
19 grounds. There were separate teaching staff for the
20 school.

21 'It was the strangest school I have ever been in
22 because we didn't do anything. We spent most of the
23 time watching videos. I think it was in the English
24 class we watched "The Italian Job". There was about
25 five minutes where we were told to copy down a written

1 paragraph.

2 'As far as I was concerned, there was no education.
3 If there was, I would be educated. My spelling would be
4 better and I would be able to do things.

5 'I wouldn't square up to anyone, I wasn't a fighter.
6 I would rather take a kicking than stand up to anyone.
7 There was a guy who used to teach us sign writing. One
8 time [REDACTED] was winding me up outside the classroom and
9 the Signwriter heard the commotion. He shouted at me to
10 come in the classroom and shut the door. He asked me if
11 [REDACTED] was winding me up. He told me I needed to be
12 careful with that boy, because he was known for being
13 a bit of a pervert. I knew what [REDACTED] was like, but it
14 was just speculative by the Signwriter.

15 'I got to the point where I was in with the woodwork
16 teacher [and he refers to him as GPB]. He had the
17 perfect view and he had seen me getting smacked about by
18 [REDACTED]. GPB came up to me and asked me what was up. He
19 said he knew it was [REDACTED] and that I had to stand up to
20 him. GPB basically advised me to beat [REDACTED] up, but
21 I was scared to fight back. GPB knew that I felt safe
22 in his class, so he told me to get [REDACTED] to go there.
23 GPB said he would go in the back, out the way, so [REDACTED]
24 would think I was alone. GPB told me to grab [REDACTED] and
25 hit him repeatedly on the side of the head. [REDACTED] did

1 come down, and I grabbed him and gave him three rapid
2 punches to the side of the head. He wobbled a bit and
3 held on to the table. Then he walked away upstairs to
4 the unit. I felt like Rocky. But then
5 I thought: I have got to go up to the unit where he is
6 and the people he is pally with.

7 'I explained this to GPB . He said not to go up
8 there all scared. He told me to go up and admit that
9 I had battered and to tell people why I had done
10 it. I went up and as soon as I did the other boys were
11 on me straightaway. I said I had had battered
12 because he was a pervert. That's when I got a wee bit
13 of freedom. I realised that I did need to fight back;
14 I couldn't just let things happen to me.'

15 Then moving on to paragraph 45:

16 'You didn't have to do any chores at Ballikinrain,
17 except for when you were in the leaving unit. You were
18 encouraged to do everything there. The leaving unit was
19 run by a Danish woman ... she was really good.'

20 He then looks at trips and holidays, and in
21 particular he describes at some length a trip to Denmark
22 that culminated in a thieving spree for which, as he
23 tells us at paragraph 48, he ended up taking the blame,
24 with the result, if we go to paragraph 50:

25 'Before I went to Denmark I got some sympathy from

1 some of the staff because they knew I had been getting
2 a couple of smacks in my classrooms and a couple of more
3 smacks at the home. When I came back from Denmark those
4 staff didn't care anymore because I was such a disgrace.
5 I went deeper into myself and started staying in my
6 room.'

7 Then, going on to 53, when he is looking at visits
8 and inspections:

9 'The only visits I remember was from my social
10 worker, Anne Marie Walker. She was my social worker in
11 Castlemilk, and I think she stayed my social worker at
12 Ballikinrain. I didn't see her very often. Her visits
13 were few and very far between. She never really came
14 into the building. I would come down the stairs and be
15 told she was there, then she would say we could go down
16 the road for a pub lunch and she would drop me off back
17 at Ballikinrain.

18 'One particular time I had a big massive black eye.
19 It was ridiculous looking. She turned up and took me
20 for a pub lunch. It was a really nice day and we were
21 sitting outside on benches. There were other people
22 sitting outside as well. She was sort of looking at me
23 and said, 'How did you get the black eye?' In all
24 honesty, I can't remember what I said to her, but
25 I think I might have given a description that something

1 was going on. I remember that the thing that struck me
2 as strange was that I was trying to explain to her what
3 had happened with getting the black eye, and she was
4 more concerned with me saying that I had a wee drink at
5 my sister's house. That was the thing that she was most
6 concerned about.

7 'I also had a key worker called HVC and he
8 was good. I didn't see HVC do anything wrong, but he
9 wasn't as aware as he should have been about what was
10 going on. One of my brothers said that he came and
11 visited me, but I don't remember that. My mum also said
12 she came up and visited me, but I don't remember that
13 either. The only time I remember her coming up was to
14 a Panel when she wanted me to stay in there.'

15 Then moving on to paragraph 60:

16 'Another boy and me started running away a lot. We
17 ran away quite a few times. We would run away for two
18 weeks and disappear. We would go to Butlins for two
19 weeks, because that's what we were looking for:
20 a holiday away from Ballikinrain.

21 'There were always consequences with the staff when
22 we got back. There were also consequences in the towns
23 near the school. There was a big carry on about cars
24 that had been stolen. We used to nick the school van
25 and staff cars. When the the other boy came in, that's

1 when crime really took off. The other boy was used to
2 it. His mum was a heroin addict, his dad was the same,
3 and the other boy was left to get on and do whatever.

4 'Within the first few days of me being at
5 Ballikinrain we were coming back from school and all the
6 boys running up to the top unit. They were all looking
7 over the banister and there was a member of staff on
8 duty on the bottom unit supervising all the boys going
9 up the stairs. I looked over and saw the member of
10 staff at the bottom and then I was aware of all the
11 other boys jumping back from the bannisters. I noticed
12 that someone had spat over the bannisters at this member
13 of staff. He was bald and the spit landed on top of his
14 head. His name was **GOU** something. He was average
15 height and had hair round the sides and back, which was
16 a mixture of grey and black.

17 'When he looked up, all he saw was me. He shouted
18 at me not to move. He grabbed me by the scruff of the
19 neck and the seat of my pants and rammed me by the head
20 through a door that led us to the bit before the main
21 hallway and there was another staff member there, **ITK**
22 standing against the radiator, supervising the boys.
23 The guy who had hold of me just launched me at the wall
24 at a point where there was a bed against the wall.
25 I hit my head off the solid wall and blacked out. It

1 was like getting hit in the head with a mallet.

2 'I came round and I was lying on the floor in
3 a weird position. I looked up and I could see the door
4 I had been pushed through head first and my immediate
5 thought was: why am I not on the bed?

6 'As I should have landed on the bed against the wall
7 at the point I hit my head. The guy who had hit my head
8 off the wall was standing above me and he had his leg on
9 my ribs. I think that he was booting me while I was
10 unconscious and I had ended up on the floor. Then he
11 disappeared and I was left feeling sick.

12 'Then this other kid walked in and said, "All right
13 wee man? Don't worry, you will get used to it".
14 I couldn't believe that this kind of thing was
15 considered normal. The kid then pointed out that GOU
16 watch strap had broken. It was the kind of elasticated
17 metal watch strap. This kid said GOU loved that watch.
18 I thought he was winding me up. He said I would have to
19 take the strap down to GOU I was busy wondering about
20 the other member of staff who had seen my ... being
21 pushed through the door, head first, and then slammed
22 into a wall, but he was just looking about as if nothing
23 had happened. He didn't want to look at me.

24 'The other kid kept going on about the watch strap.
25 I think the other kid might have been [REDACTED]. I took the

1 watch strap down to GOU and he went crazy again. The
2 only grace I had was that all the younger boys were
3 around, otherwise he would have split me in two. He
4 told me to go and get my stuff, as I would be moving
5 into his unit, even though it was for younger kids.
6 I went back up for my stuff and complained to ITK
7 about being told by GOU to move down to the young kids'
8 unit, but he said "If he says you go down, you go down".
9 'The first or second night I was in GOU unit he
10 had made me sit in my underpants with the other boys.
11 I have a memory of sitting on a seat in my underpants
12 and people laughing at me. I was paralysed with fear
13 any time I was near GOU because I knew what he was
14 capable of. He made a lot of threats against me. And
15 after the first time he assaulted me I was terrified of
16 him. He didn't assault me again, he didn't have to.
17 I got a lot of abuse from the boys. I would sit in my
18 room and, when I was alone, it was like sanctuary. GOU
19 would come in and sit on the bed. I don't remember too
20 much more because he paralysed me with fear. I got to
21 the point that I was almost like a caged animal.
22 I never spat on GOU that's what infuriated me the most.
23 I confided in a trainee woman, but I think she didn't
24 want to be part of it. I can't remember her name. It
25 was a vague description that I gave her, but she got the

1 idea. She seemed sympathetic and she tried to coerce me
2 into being more explicit in explaining what I was
3 saying, but I couldn't. I just felt upset. Shortly
4 after I spoke to her, I was pissed off with what was
5 happening and started shouting at random about staff
6 members' hitting boys. HHZ [REDACTED] was walking
7 upstairs and heard me. He came over and asked me what
8 I was talking about and I repeated that staff members
9 were hitting boys. HHZ [REDACTED] told me to tell the
10 headteacher what I had been saying about staff abusing
11 boys. He dragged me up to the headteacher, who had
12 already decided I was making it up. I said, "If a boy
13 was getting beaten by one of your staff would he get
14 moved out of here immediately?" I couldn't say anything
15 more. I was worried about saying anything if I was
16 going to be stuck in the bottom unit with GOU [REDACTED]

17 'The headmaster had already made up his mind that
18 I was lying. I asked him again if he would move someone
19 out if they were being beaten by a staff member. He
20 said things would have to be investigated, but the boy
21 possibly could be moved, possibly not. He also said the
22 boy could get moved to a place he possibly wouldn't
23 like. That was it, after that I didn't feel I could say
24 anything, not even to HHZ [REDACTED]. I had to go back down to
25 the bottom unit.

1 'As time went on, I realised that HHZ was
2 a muppet. I realised the headteacher went along with
3 things. He didn't have the guts to stand up to people
4 like GOU and tell them they couldn't be that way with
5 children.

6 'At some later point I got told I could move back to
7 the top unit, but then I had other things to deal with.
8 There was a lot of bullying, particularly from [REDACTED].
9 I have never been a big fan of football. I don't really
10 like watching it. Despite this, the headmaster always
11 made me play football. I was always getting injured in
12 the process of playing it, but it was like he enjoyed
13 it. HHZ was a bit like that, too.

14 HHZ only ever called me "Spamhead". He was
15 very demeaning. He used to take us down to the gym to
16 sort out problems. If you were arguing with another boy
17 about something, he would tell to us go to the gym, he
18 would get us to box it out. What he didn't realise was
19 that some boys were getting into that situation in order
20 to bully boys. They would pick arguments deliberately.
21 I remember one time getting sent down to box and a boy
22 who had been bullying me anyway was hitting me and
23 hitting my head off the wall. HHZ had ducked out of
24 the room for a second and then ducked back in. He
25 didn't even know it had happened.

1 'There was another teacher who was a canoe teacher,
2 he was the cruelest guy I have ever met in my life.
3 I think it may in fact have been GOU [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]. When I first went
5 canoeing, he put me in a canoe and booted me off the
6 jetty. The canoe turned up side down. The rubber seal
7 that goes over your waist when you get into the canoe
8 was supposed to come off, but I couldn't get it off.
9 I was drowning and he was sat there laughing. One of
10 the boys had to jump in, dive under and get me out the
11 canoe. It was almost like he got satisfaction out of
12 your fear. I saw the same thing happening to other
13 boys.

14 'He took us caving as well. I said to him I was
15 afraid of small spaces, but he still forced me to do it.
16 I was terrified.

17 'There was a maths teacher who was a bit of a weird
18 character as well. I don't remember his name. He had
19 some other duty in the school, I can't remember what.
20 He would give you biscuits. He always had a packet of
21 Digestives open on his desk. He would ask who wanted
22 a biscuit, and there were always plenty of takers. He
23 would get you to stand in front of him and get you to
24 curl your fingers round the fingers of your other hand,
25 like they were hooked together, and he would squeeze

1 your hands really hard. It was really painful. Once
2 you had done it a few times it was easy to get used to.
3 I thought it was maybe his way of getting back at all
4 the annoyance of the boys. It was one of the weird
5 things that shouldn't have been going on, but it was.

6 'There was another time when there was quite
7 a surreal situation with another two boys. I think
8 I was trying to evade somebody and I walked into a room.
9 This boy was lying down and the leg of the bed was on
10 his head. One of the other boys was holding the leg of
11 the bed in place on this boy's head and the other boy
12 was bouncing on the bed. When I walked in they shouted
13 for me to get out. One boy was quite hard, but these
14 other two were harder than him. There was blood on this
15 boy's ear and he was all dazed or concussed. The reason
16 I refused to leave was the boy had saved me a couple of
17 days before. One of the boys came over and was going to
18 smack me, but then the other boy came off the bed, as if
19 to stop him. I told them that I just had come to the
20 room, I hadn't seen anything. That was it. We got the
21 bed off him and got the boy up. His head was bleeding
22 and his balance was off. His eyes were glazed. I can't
23 remember if this boy got any medical treatment. I can
24 remember him sitting in the living room next to the two
25 boys who had done it. The boy actually said about the

1 incident "Shit happens".

2 'It was common knowledge amongst the boys and the
3 staff that [REDACTED] was an absolute pervert. There was
4 another boy in the top unit, all he did was sit in his
5 room and listen to The Doors. Nobody hassled him. Due
6 to a lack of supervision, I was forced to run into this
7 other boy's room to get some sanctuary from [REDACTED]. This
8 other guy was angry, but he saw [REDACTED] standing outside.
9 I think his room had been converted from a cupboard as
10 the window looked out on to whoever was outside the door
11 of the room. He questioned what [REDACTED] was doing and told
12 him to beat it, and [REDACTED] left. He told me to keep away
13 from [REDACTED]. I explained that's what I was trying to do
14 when I ran into his room, but he wanted his own space
15 and I complied with that. I told staff members about
16 [REDACTED], but it depended on who was on, some of them didn't
17 get it. They didn't do anything because they didn't
18 understand what was going on.

19 'HVC [REDACTED] was my key worker all the way through
20 my time at Ballikinrain. It might not have been him at
21 the start. It took me a long time to open up and talk
22 to HVC. I did talk to him about my mum, but I couldn't
23 talk to HVC about the abuse I suffered because HVC was
24 part of Ballikinrain. He actually lived on the grounds,
25 I spoke to his wife and kids. I think that was part of

1 the reason I didn't want to disclose things to him.
2 I didn't want to disrupt his perfect life. He was
3 straight down the line. I am confident that if he had
4 seen any abuse, he would have stopped it. I never saw
5 HVC do anything wrong or say anything wrong, but I think
6 he just wasn't aware like he should have been. I just
7 don't think he knew what was going on.

8 'I did have regular meetings with HVC. We would go
9 downstairs and he would ask me how I was getting on, but
10 to me he was just a guy with dark sunglasses on. It
11 took me a long time to talk to him, but I don't think he
12 believed anything I said, so I adopted the mentality
13 that he wasn't going to believe what I said. It was
14 only when he started listening to what I was saying
15 about my mum, and stuff like that, that he started to
16 get it. I can remember him writing things down when we
17 had these meetings. It is possible he made notes.

18 'I think when I was taken to the headmaster's office
19 with HHZ that was a day after GOU had done me in and
20 I was still on his unit. My plan was that I wasn't
21 going to say anything about what he had done. I was
22 going to treat it like put up and shut up. The only
23 reason I said anything is because there was this girl
24 who was a trainee on the unit, she had been talking to
25 me and trying to get me to be explicit, and it made me

1 very upset and loud, and that's why, when I went to the
2 end of the unit, I shouted about staff beating up kids.
3 It was a cry for help. Otherwise I wouldn't have said
4 it.

5 'When HHZ took me up there he dragged me up,
6 denying that staff would hit boys. He went in first and
7 I was stuck outside. When I went in, I kept it vague,
8 talking about a staff member hitting a boy, not hitting
9 me, and would that boy get moved straight away.
10 I didn't want to say anything and then get flung back in
11 GOU unit, and I thought that's pretty obvious that's
12 what I was really saying. The headmaster said there
13 would have to be an investigation and there was no
14 guarantee that the boy would be moved straightaway.
15 When he asked me, 'Is that it?' I couldn't really say
16 anything more. If I had got a bit of reassurance, maybe
17 I would have come to a different conclusion. For me, it
18 wasn't really possible to say anything about. It was
19 an outburst. I had to get it out, once I was in it.

20 'I was taken back downstairs by HHZ and there
21 was a short delay before I went back to the top unit.
22 They must have spoken to GOU. If I had thought about it
23 at the time, I could have told them that ITK had seen
24 HHZ ramming me through the door and maybe ...'

25 I think it should have been ITK had seen GOU

1 ramming me through the door.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MR MACAULAY: '... and maybe got moved for that reason.

4 Even if he didn't see it he must have heard it; he was
5 standing right outside the door at the radiator.

6 I didn't know [ITK] and he had the mentality like [GOU]
7 a screw.'

8 Then he talks about leaving Ballikinrain, when he
9 eventually went to live with his sister for a period.

10 If I go to paragraph 86, that's where he says he
11 went to live with his sister in Castlemilk for a few
12 months and then he moved down to England. He says,
13 looking at life after care:

14 'I moved to Preston when I was 16 years old. I had
15 just put it all behind me. I stopped doing all the crap
16 I was involved in and moved on. I lived with my brother
17 for two or three months, but he was a bit of a madman.
18 Our relationship broke down and we didn't get on. I met
19 my partner. She had been in care. Social work services
20 had got her a flat and were paying for her to stay in it
21 until she was 18. To cut a long story short,
22 I basically moved in with her. We have been together
23 ever since. We have five children. My eldest has just
24 got a degree from university.'

25 At 89, he says:

1 'My mum is in supported housing very near where
2 I live and I still see her. Forgive and forget, that's
3 what I say.'

4 Impact. He says:

5 'I think my time at Ballikinrain had a big impact on
6 me. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

7 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** when I went to
8 Ballikinrain it was all at once. It felt to me like one
9 thing happened and then another thing happened and it
10 became normal. Violence became normalised. At least it
11 did when you had teachers taking you down to box and
12 telling you that you had to hit the other guy. But I am
13 glad they did because it taught me to stand up for
14 myself. I thank the guy in every way because I would
15 still have been getting kickings for a while after that
16 if I hadn't stood up for myself. It has made me very
17 withdrawn. I have never worked or tried to educate
18 myself. I have just spent time at home with my family.

19 'My dad never cared for me, but to any sensible
20 person the care of your children is your first priority.
21 That's common sense. So when I look back at my parents,
22 I don't know what to think. I have a child who is the
23 same age as when I went to ... [the children's home].
24 It makes you think.'

25 Then lessons to be learned, at 95:

1 'We must listen to kids and safeguard them. The
2 things that I noticed was that the bullying was the
3 biggest part. That thing that happened with **GOU** that
4 was something I got over because the bullying with the
5 boys soon took over. The biggest problem for me was
6 that I couldn't talk to anybody. There was nobody
7 I felt I could talk to, but there should have been. The
8 only one that I ever felt I started to talk to was the
9 woman who must have been on a placement or something.
10 I don't know if she was training to be a staff or a
11 social worker or what, but she definitely had some
12 quality that spoke to me a wee bit.'

13 Then hopes for the future, in paragraph 97:

14 'I like to imagine that everything is alright now
15 for kids that are in care. I would like to know that
16 instead of imagining it. We are talking about the 1990s
17 that I was in care, not the 1980s, that for me is a bit
18 weird. I know there were some crazy things that went on
19 the further back you go, but the 1990s is modern
20 society, you would think they would have learned the
21 lessons of the past by then.

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

1 'George' has signed this statement on

2 15 December 2020.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

4 Now, it is 3.15. I don't know whether,
5 realistically, we can fit in anything else this
6 afternoon? What's the plan, and whether we should have
7 a very quick five-minute break?

8 MR MACAULAY: I suppose it may depend on the length of the
9 statement, that was quite a long statement I read.

10 LADY SMITH: Yes. Just check with Ms MacLeod.

11 MR MACAULAY: The next one is also long, my Lady. It being
12 a Friday afternoon.

13 LADY SMITH: We have achieved a lot.

14 MR MACAULAY: Oh yes.

15 LADY SMITH: I can't sit beyond 3.45 pm, so let's stop where
16 we are now. But, before I rise, some more names of
17 people whose identities are protected by my
18 General Restriction Order: HNL ;
19 HVP ; ERT ; ERY ; a teacher, his name was
20 Ferguson; HHZ ; a teacher referred to as GPB ;
21 HVC ; a member of staff, just referred to as
22 GOU ITK , and also a boy who was in residential care
23 as well called .

24 So that's it for this week. I sit again on Tuesday.

25 Can you help me with the plan for Tuesday, Mr MacAulay?

1 MR MACAULAY: On Tuesday, we have three oral witnesses.

2 LADY SMITH: Very well. Starting at 10 o'clock as normal?

3 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: On Tuesday. I hope you all have a good

5 weekend, and maybe the weather will continue to be a bit

6 kinder to us and we won't get drenched. Thank you.

7 (3.15 pm)

8 (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Tuesday, 30 April,

9 2024)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1	Alexander McLean (read)	1
2	'Sean' (read)	26
3	'Mo' (affirmed)	52
4	Questions by Ms MacLeod	54
5	'Richard' (read)	113
6	'Jane' (read)	127
7	'Alec' (read)	141
8	'George' (read)	150
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

