

1 Wednesday, 1 May, 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

4 MR MACAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The first item on
5 the agenda this morning is a video film.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR MACAULAY: This is the first of three parts of a series
8 called 'The boys of Ballikinrain' all broadcast on
9 BBC Two. This particular film is the 'Boys of
10 Ballikinrain: stolen childhoods', that was broadcast on
11 12 February 2002.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR MACAULAY: I am sorry, 2007.

14 LADY SMITH: 2007, right.

15 ('The boys of Ballikinrain' played)

16 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, that's 11 o'clock, we could have
17 a read-in if that would be --

18 LADY SMITH: Let's go on and do that. Can I just check:

19 I know that was broadcast in 2007; are we able to tell
20 when it was filmed?

21 MR MACAULAY: We don't have the dates. We can maybe carry
22 out some investigation.

23 LADY SMITH: We can check, yes. I would be surprised if it
24 wasn't either 2007 or 2006.

25 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: You would hope it was around that time. But we
2 probably ought to know, if possible. Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: Very well, my Lady. This witness is
4 an applicant. He wants to remain anonymous and to use
5 the pseudonym 'Jason'.

6 'Jason' (read)

7 MR MACAULAY: The witness statement is at WIT-1-000000865.
8 'Jason' was born in 1982 and he begins by telling us
9 about his life before care and about his family
10 background.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes, this is the statement I erroneously
12 referred to yesterday as being from 'Jason', it was
13 somebody else who had given evidence that we were
14 talking about, I realised later. We hadn't yet read
15 this one. But I have it now, thank you.

16 MR MACAULAY: He goes on to talk about the fact that he went
17 to a few primary schools:

18 'I was quite a naughty, hyperactive kid and used to
19 truant a lot. I went to a particular secondary school
20 and I was still truanting and not going to school.

21 'I don't remember any social work involvement or
22 anybody talking to me about going to school. I was just
23 told one day that I was going to a Children's Panel.
24 I went with my mum. Nobody even told me why I was there
25 and the Panel made a decision to send me to Ballikinrain

1 Residential School. Nobody told me why. I presumed it
2 was because I hadn't been going to school and had
3 a couple of charges for petty things like shoplifting
4 sweeties, but nobody explained the reasons to me.'

5 Then, at paragraph 6, he says:

6 'I was taken to Ballikinrain in 1995, when I was
7 12-years old.'

8 Records suggest it may have been [REDACTED] 1996, when
9 he just turned 16:

10 'I was there for about 18 months. It was
11 a residential place and you stayed in Monday to Friday
12 and got home at weekends.'

13 He talks about the first day, at paragraph 8:

14 'I was given a guided tour of the place by a member
15 of staff. I was then told I would be staying there and
16 then my mum and social worker left. That was me, out of
17 my comfort zone. I remember being quite emotional. It
18 was quite daunting and scary. I will never forget it.'

19 At 10:

20 'The staff gave me a couple of fags because I was
21 upset and didn't want to be there. They just tried to
22 settle me in. I was taken to my room and introduced to
23 other boys my age.

24 'The age range for boys in Ballikinrain was about
25 11 years old up to 14 years old. I don't really know

1 why boys were sent there. I presumed they were there
2 for not going to school, the same as me, or picking up
3 a few charges and going through the Children's Panel.

4 'There was a hierarchy in there amongst the boys.
5 That was quite obvious and you just fell into place.'

6 He then goes on to describe the layout and the
7 building.

8 At 16, he talks about the units that we have already
9 heard about, and he tells us a bit more about these at
10 paragraph 17.

11 Moving on to paragraph 19:

12 'I was put into a room with another boy when I first
13 went in. He was the same age as me, but it was quite
14 terrifying because other boys told me he was in there
15 for hitting his mum with a hammer and he looked quite
16 intimidating. Nothing bad happened with him, but
17 I think he had mental health issues and was a bit of
18 a loner. He left after a while and another boy was put
19 in with me, who was about a year younger than me. That
20 was better and we became friends.'

21 In reference to the staff, at paragraph 22:

22 'I think Mr KKM was SNR

23 SNR He was usually the one greeting people when
24 they came in. I don't really remember seeing him doing
25 anything else. There was also a man called Greg, who

1 I think was some sort of manager, but I don't know for
2 sure. His office was just past reception.'

3 At 24:

4 'There were usually two members of staff working in
5 one unit at any one time. The staff never did anything;
6 they just watched us and sat about drinking tea. They
7 would sometimes play games of pool and table tennis with
8 us.'

9 Moving on to paragraph 26:

10 'The staff who ran the home were different from the
11 teachers who came into teach in the educational part of
12 the building during the week. The teachers I remember
13 are a lady called Glenda, who was the maths teacher,
14 a guy called Bill took the science class and GOS took
15 a computing class.

16 'It wasn't uncommon to see one of the teachers also
17 in the home doing a care-type role during the week.'

18 He then goes on to talk about the routine.

19 At paragraph 34:

20 'I never wet the bed, but there was a boy in the
21 room next to me who did. The cleaning lady, zHZC, was
22 responsible for changing his bed. The other boys
23 bullied him a bit for it.

24 'Most boys went home at the weekend and everyone
25 looked forward to it. We gathered in the assembly hall

1 every Friday. We were given £4.50 in a brown envelope,
2 which I guess was our pocket money, and then driven in
3 the minibus to Port Dundas in Glasgow, which was the
4 drop off point. Then we would come back on Monday.

5 'When we came back on a Monday we had to change into
6 their clothes and we also got told what chores we had to
7 do for that week. You could get something different
8 every week, like cleaning the kitchen or bathroom.
9 Nobody was really bothered about it and not all the boys
10 did it. I think they just tried to give us a bit of
11 structure.

12 'Sometimes boys would be made to stay in
13 Ballikinrain at the weekend as a punishment or just
14 because their home situation was different. I was kept
15 in over the weekend quite a few times as a punishment
16 for running away. There would always be two or three
17 boys there at the weekend in my unit.'

18 And then moving on to 39:

19 'I think the place was run by the
20 Church of Scotland, but I don't remember any religious
21 people around or having to go to church on a Sunday.'

22 And dealing with the food, at paragraph 42:

23 'The food was standard and was fine. There was no
24 choice, you had to like it or lump it. But you weren't
25 forced to finish your food. It was up to you if you ate

1 it or not, but you would go hungry if you didn't.

2 'When you went back to Ballikinrain after being home
3 for the weekend, you had to wear their clothes. You had
4 to change out of your own clothes and wear the crap that
5 they had for the week. Then you put your own clothes on
6 again when you went home at the weekend.

7 'There was a cupboard with clothes in it in every
8 unit, where you had to go on a Monday morning and pick
9 something to wear for the week. It wasn't a uniform;
10 they just had a pile of basic jogging bottoms and tops.
11 They were secondhand from charity shops or
12 hand-me-downs.

13 'It was first come, first served for whoever got to
14 the cupboard, so there was always a bit of a race and
15 fight to get there first on a Monday morning. It was
16 all crap, but some things were more crap than others.

17 'We had to do that every week. It meant you didn't
18 have your own set of clothes to wear every week and
19 everything had been worn by loads of people before you.
20 I am guessing they washed them at the weekends when we
21 weren't there.

22 'There was an educational bit in the school, which
23 had been added on to the main building. There were just
24 portacabins that were used as classrooms.

25 'The home was quite strict about making you go to

1 school. If anyone tried to get out of it or say they
2 were ill, they would still be made to go to classes.

3 'The teachers who took the classes were different
4 from the staff who ran the home side of things. They
5 came in from outside to take the classes. Looking back
6 now, I can see it wasn't a proper school and wasn't fit
7 for purpose. They were just sticking us in there for
8 the day. I don't think the teachers were properly
9 qualified because I don't remember learning much.

10 'My reading and writing was below average for my age
11 in there. I know now that I am dyslexic, but nobody
12 knew that then. We weren't getting educated properly,
13 so nobody noticed.

14 'I remember a conversation with a teacher called
15 HVZ, and I told him that when I see a word written
16 down, I jump to conclusions about what the word is, but
17 it can be a different word with similar letters, and he
18 said that I was dyslexic. Nothing more was done about
19 it. I think HVZ taught religious education. He was
20 in the very first portacabin at the front.

21 'GOS took computing, but we just went in and
22 played video games. Most of the classes involved
23 playing video games. It was like they were just people
24 pleasing the boys. The only time I remembered learning
25 anything was in the maths class. Everyone enjoyed

1 physical education because it just meant playing
2 football outside.'

3 And he then provides some further information about
4 shower times and healthcare and, at paragraph 62, about
5 trips and visits.

6 At 63, he says:

7 'I don't remember any visits from anybody. My mum
8 only came the one time when she dropped me off there.
9 I was seeing her at the weekend anyway, so she didn't
10 need to come and visit. I don't remember my social
11 worker visiting me there or anybody coming to inspect
12 the place.

13 'I went to about five or six children's hearings
14 when I was at Ballikinrain. My key worker would take me
15 and my mum would be there. They would be sat around
16 a table with the Panel members, social workers and
17 sometimes even a police officer.

18 'I just felt like they were all talking amongst
19 themselves and I was just there. They would talk about
20 things that I had done. The only person who I felt was
21 talking on my behalf was my mum. The Panel members
22 would then ask me questions, but I wasn't really
23 interested because I thought they were all against me
24 and I just wanted it to end. I didn't feel like I could
25 tell them about what was happening at Ballikinrain.'

1 And then moving on to the heading 'Discipline and
2 punishment', at paragraph 71:

3 'I don't remember ever being punished by being given
4 chores or having pocket money held back.

5 'In Ballikinrain you were punished by not being
6 allowed home for the weekend. They would do that if you
7 picked up charges while on home leave and appeared
8 before a panel. This would be for things like
9 shoplifting or breaking into places, so you would get
10 charged by the police and appear before a panel for it.
11 Then Ballikinrain would also punish you by taking away
12 your home leave the following weekend. This happened to
13 me a few times.

14 'You also got home leave taken off you for running
15 away from the home. This happened to me a lot because
16 I ran away a lot.

17 'I used to run away regularly, maybe about 40 or 50
18 times while I was there. I just didn't want to be
19 there. It was a long way back to Glasgow and I didn't
20 know the way at first, but I learned it over time. It
21 took hours to walk back. Sometimes it would be pitch
22 black at night and it was really scary in the
23 countryside, with the forest and trees, but that was how
24 much I didn't want to be there.

25 I would go to my mum's house and ask her not to tell

1 the home I was there. The police were always round at
2 my mum's house looking for me when I ran away, so
3 sometimes I would go to a pal's house.

4 'If the police found me, they would take me to the
5 police station and call an out of hours social worker
6 and they would come and get me and drive me back to
7 Ballikinrain. I would be plotting my next escape on the
8 way back.

9 'When I got back, the treatment would depend on what
10 staff were working. Some were horrible and would shout
11 at me, which didn't make me want to be there. Other
12 staff were more understanding and would talk to me on my
13 level. I would be punished for running away by not
14 being allowed home the following weekend.

15 'Sometimes I would run away as soon as I got back.
16 The standby social worker would take me in the front
17 door and I would run away straight out the back door.
18 The staff started taking my trainers off me as soon as
19 I was brought back. I still ran away once without my
20 trainers on.

21 'My key worker was a nice man and would try to talk
22 to me, but I never opened up and spoke to anybody.

23 'When we went back after home leave, we got picked
24 up at Port Dundas in Glasgow and driven back. Sometimes
25 we would be searched for cannabis because a few boys

1 used to run into the woods and smoke it when they were
2 meant to be in class.

3 'Sometimes, when I went back, I was taken to
4 an office by a guy called Greg [this is clearly
5 Gregor Dougal]. He was some sort of manager, I think.
6 You had to walk through reception to get to his office.
7 You could also get to it if you went right from the
8 assembly hall. He would pull me into his office to
9 search me. Greg would make me stand facing the wall
10 with my legs open and would touch me everywhere. He
11 would pull my trousers forward and have a look inside.
12 It was a really intimate search and his hands were all
13 over me. He would touch me over and under my clothes
14 with his hands going right into my butt cheeks.

15 'He searched me like this regularly and there was
16 never anybody else in the room. I knew it was wrong
17 when he was doing it because I had been searched by
18 other staff members and they just checked you normally
19 and turned your pockets out. I can see now that Greg
20 was just searching me as a front to touch me
21 inappropriately.'

22 And can I say that one of the convictions for which
23 Mr Dougal was convicted of related to this sort of
24 incident with 'Jason'.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR MACAULAY: And he was convicted of that on the basis of
2 a libel that read on various occasions.

3 'There was also a mental side to the abuse. While
4 Greg would be searching me and touching me
5 inappropriately, he said that if I played up they would
6 make one phone call and I would be taken to the secure
7 unit, where I wouldn't get out at all and wouldn't be
8 able to see my family. He knew that going home to my
9 family was all I looked forward to.

10 'Greg probably did this to other boys, too, but
11 nobody mentioned it. He was a monster. He always
12 shouted at boys as well. I hated him. He was tall and
13 skinny, with grey hair. He was a bit of a fitness freak
14 and used to go running in these high visibility vests.
15 I am not too sure, but I think he was maybe in charge of
16 the education department. I think he was maybe in his
17 50s, but I can't be sure.

18 'zHVJ [REDACTED] and me took another boy out for a bike
19 ride in the countryside. They went ahead and I got
20 lost, so I made my own way back. I stopped a car to try
21 to get a ride back, but my bike wouldn't fit in the car
22 so I was stuck. Hours later, a member of staff passed
23 me as I was trying to get back and gave me a lift back.

24 'When I got to the home Mr GOU [REDACTED] [I think that's
25 [probably Mr GOU [REDACTED]] started screaming and shouting at

1 me to get upstairs in the Leddy Unit and get a shower.
2 It was next to the room where all the boys were playing
3 pool.
4 'I went to get a shower and five minutes later
5 Mr GOU came in and pulled the shower curtain back and
6 started screaming and shouting at me, calling me
7 'a little bastard' and saying I stole the bike and ran
8 away. I was standing there naked and crying, covering
9 my private parts with my hand. He stopped shouting and
10 just stood growling at me. He looked like he wanted to
11 kill me. I think if there was nobody else nearby he
12 would have hurt me or done something to me. I will
13 never forget it. I was just a wee boy standing naked
14 and trying to cover up. I think he was getting off on
15 it, and the fact I was crying. He left after a while
16 and I just closed the curtain and carried on showering.
17 He was a bully and picked on people by shouting and
18 swearing at them. He picked on me quite a lot and would
19 call me a 'wee bastard' and other names. I saw him
20 shout at other boys as well. Mr GOU was one of the
21 staff members that worked on the lower landing and
22 usually stayed down there. That was the only time I saw
23 him come upstairs. He was a baldy man with a black
24 beard. He was in his 50s, I think, and always wore
25 black trousers, a shirt and a waist coat.

1 'There was a member of staff called 'James' who was
2 the woodwork teacher. He would carry a conker tied to
3 a piece of string, which he called 'the bobble', and
4 kept it tucked into his belt. He would walk up behind
5 people in class and smack them over the head with the
6 conker. He would dish that out as a punishment every
7 day in his class for little things, like if a boy came
8 back from the toilet smelling of smoke or just for small
9 daft things. It happened to me a few times and I saw it
10 happen to other boys. It was really hard and was very
11 sore. It made me cry every time he did it to me and
12 left lumps on my head, so I dreaded going into his
13 class. Any boy at Ballikinrain at the same time as me
14 would remember him and the bobble.

15 'When I was about 12 or 13 years old I was up in the
16 treehouse one day and refused to come down because I was
17 upset, but I can't remember why. The treehouse was
18 built on three skinny trees. 'James' came out and
19 started swearing at me and calling me a 'wee bastard'
20 and threatened to cut the tree down if I didn't come
21 down. I didn't come down, so he went back in and got
22 an axe and started hacking the tree with it. I was just
23 sat up there crying. I came down because I was
24 terrified and it would all have collapsed in on me if
25 I hadn't. When I came down I was dragged upstairs.

1 'The staff used to restrain boys if they needed it.
2 Other staff did it to stop you from running away and did
3 it normally. When 'James' did it, he would bend your
4 arm behind your back and bend your thumb back to cause
5 you as much pain as he could. He did that to me and to
6 other boys. It was really sore.

7 ''James' was one of the teachers who would also work
8 in the home on weekends. He was just another bully. He
9 was a skinny, lanky man that had a motor bike. He lived
10 in the house [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]. He lived there with a woman who
12 I think was his wife. She had a motor bike as well.

13 'I never told anybody about what was happening in
14 there. I don't know why. I didn't feel like I could
15 tell social workers or police. I felt like I couldn't
16 trust anybody in authority.'

17 He then goes on to talk about leaving Ballikinrain:

18 'None of the staff ever spoke to me about my
19 progress or how long I was going to be in there. I was
20 sitting in the TV room one day and one of the staff came
21 in and asked me to have a word with him. He took me to
22 the assembly room and told me to get my clothes together
23 because I was going to St John's Approved School. It
24 was as quick as that. I started crying because I was
25 worried and panicking and didn't know what to expect.

1 I had heard bad stories about that place from other boys
2 and I didn't want to go. I felt like I was going from
3 one bad place to another. I wasn't told why I was being
4 moved.'

5 And he is moved to St John's, on the
6 [REDACTED] 1997, when he was still 14. This is in the
7 post-De La Salle years at the time.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MR MACAULAY: So, if I move on to paragraph 114, after being
10 at St John's he is then sent to St Mary's Secure Unit in
11 Bishopbriggs, and the date for that in the record is
12 [REDACTED] 1998. This will be part of a chapter that will
13 be considered later --

14 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

15 MR MACAULAY: -- in this case study.

16 LADY SMITH: So [REDACTED]?

17 MR MACAULAY: 1998.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MR MACAULAY: Moving on, then, my Lady, to paragraph 126:

20 'As soon as I turned 16 all the Children's Panels
21 stopped. It was like they just decided that I was
22 an adult now and I was to be charged for everything
23 I had done as an adult.

24 'I was charged for a lot of things that I had done
25 when I was under 16, which had mounted up, like stealing

1 the car, thefts, being drunk and disorderly and police
2 assaults. When I was in the police station, I thought
3 I would be out in a few hours like I usually was and
4 taken back by a standby social worker. Instead, I was
5 hauled into Glasgow Sheriff Court. All the things I had
6 done that I hadn't thought too deeply about at the time
7 had now come back to bite me.

8 'I pled guilty and got bail. I breached bail and
9 appeared before the court again. This time the judge
10 remanded me in custody in Longriggend until he got my
11 social work reports and until the date for my
12 sentencing. That was a sharp shock to the system.'

13 And he then spends short periods of time at
14 Longriggend and Polmont and also in Glenochil.

15 I move on to paragraph 140:

16 'I remember being released from Glenochil and the
17 police were waiting for me outside when I walked out,
18 which is called being gate arrested.'

19 'The police took me in their van to Govan Police
20 Station. On the way there they were saying I could go
21 home in no time if I admitted to committing some other
22 crimes. When I got to the police station they came to
23 me with a file of all these unsolved crimes from my
24 area. They said I could leave the station in an hour
25 and go home to my mum if I admitted them, but I would be

1 kept in the cells and taken straight back to court if
2 I didn't admit them. They said I would be sent to
3 prison again without even getting the chance of going
4 home. I was young and silly and just wanted to get out,
5 so I admitted to all these crimes I hadn't committed.
6 I didn't have any lawyer present.'

7 'The police charged me with all these crimes and let
8 me out.'

9 It then transpired he was sentenced to 12 months in
10 Polmont and he deals with that at paragraph 144 to 146.

11 And then 'Life after care', at 147, he says:

12 'I started stealing bottles of hooch and kept
13 getting charged for alcohol related offences, like being
14 drunk and disorderly or police assaults. The police and
15 courts treated me like an adult after I turned 16. All
16 through my teenage years I had probation officers and
17 community service sentences. Alcohol continued to be
18 a problem in my life.'

19 He then goes on to talk about certain jobs that he
20 had, and he had a relationship and had a son and also
21 two step daughters, but drink was still a problem.

22 At 149, he says:

23 'I had a job tarmacking roads, but had an accident
24 in 2017 when I was in a vehicle with my boss. Since
25 then, I have a prolapsed disk. I can't even walk

1 straight now and I am in a lot of pain, so I can't
2 work.'

3 And then at 151 onwards, he talks about the impact
4 having been in care had on him. He says, at 151:

5 'I didn't like anybody in authority when I was in
6 Ballikinrain because I thought everyone was against me.
7 This included all the staff in the home, social workers,
8 children's panel members and the police. I have always
9 been suspicious of authority throughout my life.

10 'Life has been horrible for me since I went into
11 care at 12 years old. I will never forget the things
12 that happened to me in Ballikinrain. The things that
13 happened to me were stressful and that is why I started
14 drinking. I don't want to think about it, but it crops
15 up in my head from time to time. I use drink as
16 escapism.'

17 Once again, he talks about drinking and that he has
18 had psychological problems, at 154 and 155.

19 At 156, he says:

20 'I never got an education after going into care at
21 12 years old. The only thing I learned was playing
22 consoles and video games.'

23 And 158, he says:

24 'I am currently in contact with Future Pathways for
25 support and they have helped me with getting things for

1 my flat, like my bed, carpets and other things I needed.
2 I was sleeping on the floor before I got in contact with
3 them.'

4 Then, although he says, at 160, that he hadn't
5 spoken to the police or a lawyer, of course that's been
6 overtaken by the criminal prosecution.

7 And then 'Lessons to be learned', at 162:

8 'Taking a child away from their family and putting
9 them in the care system is not a good decision for
10 a child's life. There must be better options than that.

11 'When a child is put in care, they should get
12 support and an education. Life could have been very
13 different for me if I had gotten that.

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

18 And 'Jason' has signed the statement on
19 2 December 2021.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Well, it is 11.30. I think we
21 should have the morning break.

22 MR MACAULAY: That's good timing, yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Then we will plan what happens after that.

24 MR MACAULAY: Indeed.

25 LADY SMITH: Two names of people whose identities are

1 protected by my General Restriction Order, one is GOS
2 and the other is GOU . They are not to be
3 identified outside of this room. I will rise now for
4 the morning break and come back at about a quarter to.

5 (11.30 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (11.45 am)

8 LADY SMITH: Now, Ms MacLeod, I am advised we have a witness
9 in person who is now ready to give evidence; am I right?

10 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady, we do. The next witness will
11 give evidence using the name 'William'.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, this is a witness who should probably
14 be warned.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you. You said 'William'?

16 'William' (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: 'William', do sit down and make yourself
18 comfortable.

19 'William', thank you for coming along this morning
20 to engage with the Inquiry. As you know, we think you
21 have evidence to help us with the work we are doing here
22 and we will take you through some questions in a moment
23 or two.

24 But, before we do that, I know that bringing you
25 here, into a public place, to suddenly take your memory

1 back to, particularly, things that happened when you
2 were much younger isn't easy. You may find it difficult
3 to deal with the stress of it, the anxiety that it might
4 cause you. If at any time you want a break, just say.
5 We will have a break with you sitting there or if you
6 want to leave the room for a short while. If you have
7 any questions, please speak up, that's not a problem.
8 If at any time there is anything that I can do to make
9 the whole process of giving evidence more comfortable
10 for you, let me know. What I want is to help you give
11 your evidence as well as you can and as clearly as you
12 can.

13 A. Okay.

14 LADY SMITH: Now, one other thing, 'William', it is
15 important that you understand: this isn't a courtroom;
16 it is a public inquiry. But there are rights that you
17 have here that you would have in court in a trial, for
18 example, or in a civil litigation, and one of those
19 rights is that you don't have to incriminate yourself.
20 Now, what I mean by that is if you are asked a question
21 and your answer could mean you are admitting to having
22 done something wrong, you don't have to answer it. But,
23 if you do answer it, obviously I expect you to answer it
24 fully.

25 Now, if you are wondering whether anything we ask

1 you is that sort of question and you are not sure, just
2 check. There is no problem about that. Or if at any
3 time you just don't understand what we are asking you,
4 that's our fault, not yours, so do let us know and we
5 will try to do better; okay?

6 A. Your Honour, I have never been charged, convicted or
7 stood in front of a judge --

8 LADY SMITH: Okay.

9 A. -- for anything, in all my 53 years of life --

10 LADY SMITH: Okay.

11 A. -- apart from an insurance -- my insurance got mixed up.
12 It was flung out straight away because I had fully comp
13 for my other car. So that's the only time I ever stood
14 in a court.

15 LADY SMITH: Fortunately --

16 A. I have been to every court in Scotland through my work
17 at Geilsland, but never for myself.

18 LADY SMITH: Well, fortunately, I don't think I need to
19 investigate your insurance affairs.

20 A. No, thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: There are some things we think you can help us
22 with about Geilsland, which it has probably been
23 explained to you we are particularly interested in that
24 in this part of our work here. If you are ready, I will
25 hand over to Ms MacLeod and she will ask you what we

1 need to know; okay?

2 A. Okay.

3 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

4 Questions by Mr MacLeod

5 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. Good morning, 'William'.

6 A. Good morning.

7 Q. I don't need your full date of birth, but could you
8 confirm for me: were you born in 1970?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In this part of the hearings we are looking at
11 Geilsland, which we understand was run by the
12 Church of Scotland?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So I am going to be asking you questions about that in
15 particular.

16 Did you work at Geilsland?

17 A. I did indeed.

18 Q. When did you work there?

19 A. I was an apprentice welder in there. I had a great
20 interest in the outdoors. My friend's elder brother
21 taught winter mountaineering and climbing and ice
22 climbing and canoeing, and kayaking, windsurfing, water
23 sports of every type. Hillwalking. Just every kind of
24 outdoor sport. And he was taking away a large group and
25 he asked -- like, I always went with him all the time,

1 and he was working at Geilsland. He was, like, hired,
2 brought in as a -- he would invoice them for himself and
3 he cleared it with the headmaster. They done a check on
4 me, Police Scotland check. Come back totally clear, as
5 I would expect it to. And we took a group of about ten
6 to Loch Doon, I think it was.

7 And then the next one was Cobbler. And I just seen
8 a different part to life that I had never seen before.

9 I met young men through Castlemilk that had never
10 seen a cow, let alone touched the hairs on its nose or
11 clapped a horse or gave a horse a bit of bread or -- and
12 changing -- just changing their lives.

13 It was coming into summer season and the headmaster
14 asked me if I would like to help David out -- he is in
15 Canada now -- help David out if he needed me, and it
16 could possibly move on to, like, paid, like,
17 non-contract kind of thing, you know? And again, that's
18 how I kind of got into being around Geilsland and
19 whatnot then.

20 LADY SMITH: How old were you at that time, 'William'? Can
21 you remember?

22 A. I would be about 21.

23 LADY SMITH: And you had been working as a welder, did you
24 say?

25 A. Apprentice welder, steel erector.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mrs MacLeod.

2 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

3 So having had that introduction in that way to
4 Geilsland and the work that was done there, and the boys
5 who were there; did you then -- having spoken to the
6 headmaster; did you have a role based at the school?

7 A. A lot of staff didn't appear for their work; they were
8 off with stress or things like this. Picking staff in
9 residential establishments for education, over time it
10 changed to more the type of young man that had family
11 problems to a type of young man that was a serial
12 rapist, very dangerous to society.

13 Q. So are you speaking there, 'William', about some of the
14 boys who were at the school?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Okay. And it changed the kind of staffing.

17 LADY SMITH: 'William', we may want to come back to your
18 thoughts about how to staff a school like Geilsland.

19 I wonder if at this point Ms MacLeod can start
20 a little bit earlier on in your career there? I think
21 she is probably interested at going on to when you had
22 just started; am I right about that?

23 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

24 'William', I am really trying to ascertain if you
25 can remember -- you said you were about 21, so the early

1 1990s that you started working at the school?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What was your role when you were working at the school?

4 A. A residential worker, residential childcare worker.

5 Then, after building up experience doing a few courses,

6 starting SVQs a bit later. We were the first -- I was

7 one of the first ones to go through them and do them.

8 And you kept getting them back and back and back,

9 because the trainers were training to do them as well.

10 Q. So, when you started as a residential care worker in

11 around the early 1990s; who was SNR [REDACTED] at

12 Geilsland?

13 A. Er, KMJ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED].

14 [REDACTED] and KMJ [REDACTED], I would

15 say, done [REDACTED]. And the,

16 probably, the brokerage and the deals made, you know,

17 for clients, who is suitable, who can help, because

18 there was some parties there that were -- that scared

19 the life out of me.

20 Q. So, looking, then, 'William', to your role, when you

21 started there as a residential child care worker; could

22 you just tell me what that role was? What was your job?

23 A. My job was -- you would be allocated -- after a couple

24 of years of doing, like, the outdoors and getting to

25 know your way around the school and how it worked and

1 knowing everybody and everybody's place, and getting to
2 know who was interested in their work, who was just
3 there for wages, who was there -- you understand what
4 I mean? Any work place there is people that -- not
5 everybody works at 100 per cent. I would like to think
6 that I was very, very up there. I loved the place, the
7 best job I ever had. My references were impeccable.

8 Two years I planned to go to Australia with my girl.
9 When she finished her nursing degree, we were off to
10 sunny Australia. I was made in Scotland, born in
11 Australia. So two passports. So that was our plan.
12 The second she got her degree we were off to Australia.
13 And I broke my heart in the headmaster's office and
14 I got my references and told that the second I come back
15 there would be a job waiting for me. And when I come
16 back and the place was shut and ...

17 Q. And as a residential childcare worker, 'William'; were
18 you allocated to a particular unit in Geilsland when you
19 started?

20 A. When I started I was in the old wing that was called,
21 I think, the White House for a wee while. Then I forget
22 what the old ones were called. It was a wooden one next
23 to the PE hall.

24 Q. Okay. And in the unit that you were working in; did you
25 have certain duties in relation to the boys who lived in

1 that unit?

2 A. Even when the new units were built, you were allocated
3 a certain amount of caseload. And depending on your
4 ability, your interest, how hard you worked, how good
5 you were, that showed on the amount of care given to
6 certain young men, young boys, you know? And I always
7 had a high amount, always had a high load, because I was
8 trusted. I was -- I fought tooth and nail. I never let
9 them down.

10 Trust is so, so, important. You break trust once,
11 let them down once, you have lost them forever. They've
12 never had anybody they can trust, they've never had
13 anybody that would be there for them and never let them
14 down or fight for them tooth and nail.

15 Q. When you started at Geillsland; were you provided with
16 training about how to interact with the boys and deal
17 with the boys?

18 A. Yes, you were shadowed -- given a person to shadow, for
19 quite a time. As I said, at first it was outdoor stuff.
20 So you would pack the van up in the morning and you
21 would be back in the early evening, knackered. Unload
22 the van, tidy everything away. Then get stuff ready for
23 the following day.

24 Q. And, 'William', how long did you stay at -- you have
25 told us about the circumstances in which you left and

1 that you moved away from Scotland, you mentioned. But
2 how long were you working at Geilsland?

3 A. Roughly, I think, with voluntary work and that as well,
4 that I never counted, I would say about ten years.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And a lot of people burned out after four. Three to
7 five was average. And that was for, like, social work
8 qualified staff, because they were very highly, highly
9 motivated to be unruly, possibly. And that was kind
10 of -- that was like finding the Karma, or the magic -- a
11 magic pool that was to keep -- mine was to run the legs
12 off them, play soccer all night or take them up a hill,
13 or away along the shore, and then you would have a very,
14 very quiet night. They would be very, very quiet.
15 There would be no stolen cars. None of the boys would
16 get into any bother and the police wouldn't be at the
17 school either.

18 Q. While you are talking there about the boys, I will just
19 ask you a couple of questions about your memories.

20 What do you remember the age range of the boys
21 being?

22 A. I would say 14 to -- some up to hitting 18.

23 Q. And what about the number of boys in the school?

24 A. The last five years, say when we had the new-new units,
25 we had three semi-independent living quarters with four

1 bedrooms in each one, and each client had a key to his
2 room. Each staff had a master key; you had access to
3 any room, where the clients never had access to the
4 kitchen or it would be emptied, or the laundry or
5 whatnot. You know, they only had access to their own
6 room and the bathroom. But there was a lock inside the
7 bathroom that they could lock when they were doing ...

8 Q. Okay. And you mentioned earlier in your evidence that
9 the boys were there for a variety of reasons. I just
10 wondered what your recollection is of what the purpose
11 was of the school and what the aim of the school was in
12 relation to the boys?

13 A. The aim of the school was to try to give -- I seen it as
14 a -- because of some of the terrible, terrible lives
15 that the kids, growing into young men, had went through,
16 the judges, through social work help and intervention,
17 had kind of -- it was last chance before you are going
18 to the big league, you know.

19 But then we had to be like a holding pool for some
20 very, very, very, very serious characters because of
21 Scots law ages, and putting a 15 and a half year old boy
22 into Bow House, although he had raped 15 women on the
23 south side of Glasgow and battered them nearly to death.
24 I still can't grow a full beard just now, and this
25 fella, I watched him eat three hard extruded plastic

1 remote controls in less than five minutes while I am
2 talking to him and trying to build a relationship with
3 him.

4 And when he grew a bit older and left us and went to
5 jail, I never, ever wished anybody to go down that road.
6 But, for the female members of staff, even some of the
7 male members of staff, it was -- even myself, it was
8 a terrifying existence. I mean, I have been cracked
9 across the head with a pool cue full force and kind of
10 coming to on the ground. You are lost until your
11 computer reboots, you know? And you know that.

12 Q. And how was behaviour managed? How were boys
13 disciplined, if that was deemed to be required?

14 A. What I try to put into context is 25 years ago -- what's
15 the date? I was in Sydney for the millennium, so we
16 only had a couple of months before the millennium.
17 I was at Sydney Harbour Bridge and had a great time.

18 A lot of the kids would have been now ADHD and all
19 the newfangled names. A different mind -- mental
20 diseases. All the -- help me out here. What am
21 I trying to say?

22 They would have been -- a doctor would have sent
23 them to a mental health, high up consultant, and he
24 would have said, 'Right, you have this, that and the
25 next thing', and medicated them, because a lot of them

1 never had medication, but they were so highly strung and
2 legitimately didn't know right from wrong a lot of the
3 times.

4 Some did know right from wrong, and really, really
5 used it to their advantage, extreme, master
6 manipulators. Shoplifting and kidding on, acting mad,
7 'oh, you're from Geilsland?' 'I didn't mean it', and
8 knowing they would get away with it.

9 Q. And within the school; were there ways in which children
10 were disciplined? For example, were staff told 'These
11 are the ways, these are the options available to you in
12 terms of disciplining boys', or --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- deprivation of privileges; was that kind of thing
15 used?

16 A. No, not with us. They got their pocket money. They
17 maybe, if they had done something and they were due
18 a pair of training shoes, instead of getting them on
19 Thursday you not got them until Friday.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I never done that. But I remember an older lady, she
22 done that. That was her kind of thing. And it worked
23 for her.

24 LADY SMITH: What about docking their pocket money? Did
25 that ever happen?

1 A. No, no.

2 LADY SMITH: I am not suggesting you did it, but did anybody
3 else do it; do you know?

4 A. No, no.

5 LADY SMITH: Or stopping their home leave at the weekend?

6 A. No. Not -- no. Some leave gets stopped because of --
7 I stopped home leave once, with one of my clients,
8 because he had raped his little sister and a friend, and
9 said that Santa would come and take their bikes back.
10 And the reason he didn't get home leave the following
11 weekend was because his mum had took her son that was
12 a manic rapist, predator, who looked extremely young --
13 you know, he was 16, but he looked 10 -- to a swing park
14 to play with 3-year olds. You can't have that.

15 I am sorry, my Lady. I am sorry for --

16 LADY SMITH: Don't apologise. You know what happened, not
17 me.

18 A. I couldn't have that. I couldn't have somebody's kid,
19 no way.

20 LADY SMITH: When you say he had raped his little sister and
21 a friend; how did you know that?

22 A. I was his key worker.

23 LADY SMITH: Right. So how did you find out about that?

24 A. I had his file. I had access to his social worker.
25 I had access to his family. I had to know everything

1 about him.

2 Geilsland was very, very, very, very thorough. When
3 I got a new client, I sat down with the head of my
4 house, deputy head of my house, SNR -- like,
5 [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED] the school, or
6 KMJ [REDACTED], and we went through, totally, from
7 beginning to end, the client. Where he would be best
8 suited, where he would be best positioned, within what
9 unit, how much a risk he was to other residents, staff,
10 himself, and what umbrellas or what other -- did we have
11 to put ... I mean, they just didn't come in and then get
12 out on leave straightaway. There was a lot of time
13 period to be learned about the clients.

14 LADY SMITH: Of course.

15 A. And the clients learned about us, as well. You had to
16 build a relationship. You had to build a trusting
17 relationship or you lost them, you know? I would have
18 jumped in front of a train for them. I would have
19 fought like a lion for them.

20 LADY SMITH: Okay, Ms MacLeod.

21 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, my Lady.

22 Was physical punishment ever used on the boys in the
23 school?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. So you never saw that happen?

1 A. No, no. I seen boys being restrained, and I have helped
2 restrain boys. But, like, restraining boys, it is
3 not -- restraining a boy -- when you say 'restrain'
4 everybody things you are fighting on the ground and it
5 is chaos.

6 Restraining a boy can be taking a boy out of the
7 unit and walking round the grass and calming him down
8 and saying, 'Listen, come on, they are only winding you
9 up. They are trying to get you to act up. You're
10 letting them get to you, like don't. Be a bigger man,
11 be a better man. Just laugh, just show them it is not
12 bothering you at all. Sit in your room, get a good DVD
13 tonight and enjoy yourself' or 'Would you like to phone
14 your family?' and let them have a phone call to their
15 mum, dad, family member.

16 So, when you say that word, everybody automatically
17 thinks it is a hellish thing where it is all up in the
18 air, but it is not like that at all.

19 Q. As far as you were aware; were boys ever injured in the
20 process of restraint?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: 'William', you have just described what you
24 might do with a boy in those situations; how did you
25 learn to do that?

1 A. Through -- I was a doorman for a long time, when I was
2 18, and the best way to stop fighting is to have no
3 fighting and talking people down, very, very calmly.
4 I was a doorman for all the years and not being --
5 standing in front of a judge, my Lady, is a very special
6 attribute to have.

7 LADY SMITH: Was that doorman in a nightclub?

8 A. Yes, and pubs. In Glasgow and here and --

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 A. Some of the biggest, baddest, roughest -- and see if you
11 just take somebody and give them a bit of compassion and
12 empathy and listen to them, and it is a fallout with
13 a girlfriend or a wife, or a best pal. It is nothing
14 major. Listen to them and you will walk them out.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 A. You walk them out and they will be shaking your hand,
17 and they will get in the following week.

18 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

19 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

20 Was smoking -- were the boys allowed to smoke at
21 Geilsland?

22 A. They were, but I believe at the end it was starting to
23 get cut down, because about 99 per cent of the staff
24 smoked and they had stainless steel smoking boxes at the
25 entrances to the doors. And outside, if you were

1 smoking -- you weren't allowed to smoke in the building,
2 I remember now. But, if you smoked, you were allowed to
3 smoke outside the building.

4 Q. Who provided the boys with cigarettes?

5 A. The boys -- it is probably like Barlinnie. The weird
6 and wonderful ways how they get stuff in is -- I don't
7 know if the law back then, if they could buy cigarettes
8 at 16 or ...

9 Q. Did staff --

10 A. I can't remember.

11 Q. -- provide the boys with cigarettes?

12 A. No, I hated cigarettes. My mum has just got out of
13 hospital with heart and lung problems last week.
14 I would never buy anybody cigarettes, anywhere.

15 Q. Did other staff buy or provide boys the cigarettes?

16 A. I would be talking nonsense saying that. I really
17 would. I would be talking nonsense saying that.

18 Q. I think what you are saying is you didn't see that
19 happening?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. But I am not saying it never happened. I am not saying
23 it never happened at all. They got their books. Their
24 books were done two or three times. They knew exactly
25 what they had. The books were monitored at the big

1 house, the office. They were monitored in the office of
2 the house, the White House or Lomond, or whatever. Then
3 the key worker monitored the books as well, let's say
4 £2.50 left, that would be in a brown envelope and you
5 usually kept that in your locker.

6 Q. When you say 'books'; is that books of the boys' pocket
7 money?

8 A. It was books what the money was and what they had built
9 up. Every month they would get X amount of money from
10 their social worker for -- and Geilsland, for a clothing
11 allowance, so they could buy clothes.

12 Q. So if a boy, for example, was 16 and had bought some
13 cigarettes; would that be in the book?

14 A. No, no, it wouldn't. It wouldn't. It wouldn't.

15 Q. Did boys use drugs in Geilsland?

16 A. No, but they did try, they did try. But we did check
17 them when they come in, because there was known ones
18 that were on heroin and stuff, and you had to check
19 them. And a few times we did catch them. And we had to
20 get the police up to catch -- like, to take them away
21 and whatnot.

22 Q. What drugs did you catch boys trying to bring in?

23 A. It was actually a fella that I was working with that
24 found it. And he found three wraps of heroin in the
25 boy's band of his tracksuit bottoms.

1 Q. Did boys smoke cannabis?

2 A. No, no.

3 Q. Did staff --

4 A. Unless -- you see, they run away quite regular. If they

5 weren't knackered or you had the wrong staff group on,

6 right -- you have to realise, like, they tried to

7 balance the staff up to where you would have the likes

8 of myself and another young, strong male member of

9 staff, so we could go and play soccer for two or three

10 hours, and they would be knackered, right? In the

11 shower, fed, some supper, and the nightmen thought that

12 was great, you wouldn't get a peep until morning.

13 But, if there was another group of staff on, maybe

14 elderly gentlemen, a bit overweight, more happy sitting,

15 watching a film or the TV, or playing pool, that could

16 create chaos. They would arrange to go out the Velux

17 windows and jump off the roof into the soft farmer's

18 field, at 10.40.

19 Q. Did you ever provide any drugs to the boys in the

20 school?

21 A. No, no, that broke my heart when that was mentioned,

22 that.

23 Q. And I think you are aware that a former resident of the

24 school has told the Inquiry that you did provide drugs

25 to the boys at the school?

1 A. That's total nonsense. That sounds to me like mud
2 slinging for not getting his way at some time or ...

3 Q. Thank you.

4 A. Got to remember, like, serious kids, like rape and doing
5 such horrible crimes, then you having to speak about it
6 at a Children's Panel or at a court, and, say in Dundee,
7 they have done this ... and it's -- there's a -- and
8 it's went to -- what's it called when you've got -- it's
9 went to trial, you have a public gallery. That's what's
10 going through my head -- is it's somebody that's bad --
11 is trying to get me back for something that he felt very
12 uncomfortable about.

13 Q. Okay. Did you have any concerns about Ballikinrain as
14 a school or how the boys were being treated there at
15 all?

16 A. I had very, very strong concerns. And this is --
17 please, please, please don't let me get wound up.

18 I asked, for five years, the police, the senior
19 police, KMJ [REDACTED], [REDACTED], senior social
20 workers, senior, senior social workers, about Kerelaw.
21 I had a kid from Kerelaw and he told me what had
22 happened, being locked in small concrete rooms. And
23 this boy fought like a lion, he wouldn't give in. And
24 what they done to that fella.

25 I put two of them in jail. One died of a heart

1 attack that night and one put his hand up and pleaded
2 guilty, and I think he got a long sentence for Kerelaw,
3 and they were picking up young ladies and putting their
4 hands between their legs and on their chests and
5 throwing them over their shoulders.

6 If we took our boys swimming to the Magnum, like, we
7 never, ever went in the changing rooms. They were told
8 to put their swimming trunks on under their jeans before
9 they went. What these men were doing to these young
10 girls was totally rancid and wrong and not fit for being
11 any type of worker in any type of establishment, any
12 type of young human entity.

13 Q. So just to be clear, 'William'; is this something that
14 a boy at Geilsland who was previously at Kerelaw told
15 you?

16 A. I seen it with my own eyes.

17 LADY SMITH: So this is something you saw when you were
18 involved in taking Geilsland boys to the Magnum Swimming
19 Centre.

20 A. Yes. And the boys, like -- for some reason, it is
21 like -- I don't know whether -- we always thought it was
22 the train stations, they met at the train stations. But
23 we always knew, like, the boys from different places,
24 all over Scotland, and girls from different places all
25 over Scotland, they got to know each other. So that day

1 at the Magnum, or that evening at the Magnum, the boys
2 were in the water, saying hello straight away. And me
3 and the fella, called [REDACTED], seen what was going on and
4 we got our boys out quick.

5 LADY SMITH: Okay. Was the man called [REDACTED] another member
6 of staff that was working with you?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: The two men that you have described as
9 touching --

10 A. Kerelaw staff.

11 LADY SMITH: -- children were Kerelaw staff, got you.

12 A. Kerelaw staff, and we had female Kerelaw residents.

13 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

14 A. This is so hard.

15 LADY SMITH: I know. Are you okay?

16 A. But that was where -- that's where the difference was
17 with Geilsland. You know, we never had -- as far as
18 I am concerned, we never had one allegation whatsoever
19 of anything like that happening. We were all, like --
20 I mean, I went to the nightclubs at the weekend and
21 tried my hardest to catch a girlfriend. I wasn't very
22 good at it at all, in any way or form, but God loves
23 a trier. I was engaged twice. I lost a kid in
24 Australia.

25 Seeing what those men ... men are important. Men

1 are -- they were meant to be doing a very important job,
2 taking total advantage and aroused as well, like -- and
3 we went straight back, phoned the police, asked for the
4 highest ranking to come up to Geilsland and we gave
5 statements there and then.

6 LADY SMITH: Okay. Can you remember how far into the
7 nine years or so you were employed at Geilsland that
8 this happened?

9 A. Maybe about -- I would say 1997.

10 LADY SMITH: Okay, so that's quite well into your time
11 there. You were very experienced --

12 A. Very experienced, yes.

13 LADY SMITH: -- by then.

14 Thank you.

15 A. And I remember telling them off, as well, at the water,
16 like, very sternly.

17 LADY SMITH: Telling off the Kerelaw men?

18 A. Yes, the Kerelaw staff.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 A. One seemingly had a heart attack and died that night.
21 And the other one stuck his hand up and pleaded guilty,
22 and that was probably so he stayed out the papers.
23 Possibly. I don't know.

24 LADY SMITH: It doesn't necessarily keep you out of the
25 papers --

1 A. No.

2 LADY SMITH: -- when you plead guilty.

3 A. No. Yes. I don't know about --

4 LADY SMITH: The way you describe this, 'William', it sounds
5 like something that figures in your memory as a really
6 major, distressing event; do I have that right?

7 A. Oh yes, yes, horrific, horrific, shouldn't -- that's why
8 it angers me so, so much. I feel that everybody knew
9 about Kerelaw, everybody knew. All of the hierarchy
10 knew, but there was that much power -- I don't know what
11 denomination anybody is. I am not a bigot in any way or
12 form.

13 But everybody knew, but they seemed to keep putting
14 the kids there and it kept happening to the kids, and
15 then they would, like, be sent to Geilsland to be, for
16 it -- to be saved, like respite.

17 'Just been to Kerelaw for a year, got totally
18 gutted, my life turned upside down. I'll never be the
19 same again. If I am here in five years, not dead with
20 a drug overdose or killed myself ...' that's where the
21 trust comes into it. That's where the building of the
22 trust and the building of the ... because they're like
23 baby rabbits. Their hearts were thumping out of their
24 chests.

25 LADY SMITH: So, 'William', when you are describing 'Just

1 been to Kerelaw for a year, got totally gutted, my life
2 turned upside down'; are you telling me that's what it
3 must have been like for the child that was in Kerelaw?
4 A. Yes, yes.
5 LADY SMITH: And 'The child', you say, 'Knows if I am still
6 here in five years, and not dead from drugs or I have
7 killed myself' maybe things will get better then, but it
8 is going to be a long time in the future?
9 A. Yes, yes.
10 LADY SMITH: Right.
11 A. I still get letters, and I still -- like, if there is
12 fellas that go to jail, I will get fellas, like,
13 somebody's telling me to tell you, 'Big man, he loves
14 you. Thanks very much for everything you have done, you
15 changed his life. He has a couple of kids now' or ...
16 I have had a few letters. I would like to mention
17 one, but I don't want to. It is his private experience.
18 LADY SMITH: Well, don't tell me the name. But, if there is
19 something in it that you think's important for us to
20 know, without saying anything that would identify the
21 person, that's okay.
22 A. This father -- this boy and his sister were sold to the
23 local Pakistani shop for beer and cigarettes, and
24 allowed any sexual acts to be taken against the kids.
25 And when the kid got a bit older, he understood --

1 please, I am going to use the word 'poof' here, because
2 that's the word he used.

3 LADY SMITH: That's fine.

4 A. I'll not say the area, because it will make me feel
5 a wee bit better.

6 But, when he understood what a poof was, he knew he
7 wasn't and he didn't want to be, and his father was
8 bugging him and the local corner shop owners were
9 bugging him and his sister. And when he refused, his
10 dad tried to cut off his penis, and there was so little
11 skin left on his penis that the micro-surgeons did
12 a wonderful job, where it could actually work in the
13 future.

14 And I met him outside the tunnel, and he would be 21
15 and I was maybe -- he would have been 18 ... I would be
16 five years older than him, big arms round him, but he
17 was working for Balfour Beatty. He got a job. He was a
18 labourer. He was driving the big trucks, the big --
19 lifting the pallets of bricks up. And he is telling his
20 missus -- and 'I have two kids now, ERW . I will
21 never, ever treat my kids the way my dad -- my mum
22 treated me'. His mum, it was her period, and she put
23 toast between her legs and put it on the kitchen table
24 and made the kids eat it. That's the stuff you have to
25 deal with as a care worker.

1 LADY SMITH: Did that guy at some point come into Geilsland
2 and that's how you got to know him, or what?

3 A. Yes, he was actually in Geilsland, and I was the first
4 person he felt he could build a relationship with.

5 LADY SMITH: Right.

6 A. And that was actually between Kilmacolm, Largs, up the
7 back road from Kilbirnie. And we were playing at
8 chases, hunts, fox and hounds and, after two or three
9 days of this, there was a natural connection. He felt
10 he could speak to me.

11 And I spoke to my unit adviser, the head of the
12 unit, and -- I think she has passed away now, she was
13 a wonderful woman -- and she says, 'ERW [REDACTED], you are the
14 first person that boy's opened up to. Do you feel you
15 are ready to -- and strong enough to read a file?
16 I feel you do. But I would like to go through it with
17 you, and at any time you feel it is too strong, stop,
18 and if you want to stop it forever, we will stop it
19 forever. If you would like to continue through, we
20 will. But I feel it's such a great turning point for
21 him, because he has been stagnant for so long. He has
22 not moved forward. He is stuck, tough'. And within
23 a year he was out and working.

24 And that's why I am here today. That's why I fought
25 to get here today, was to stick up for Geilsland.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Hang on, 'William'. That file that
2 you have mentioned must have contained the details of
3 this dreadful history of the child that you have just
4 been outlining for me; do I have that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you. Now, I understand entirely
7 what you are trying to explain here.

8 Ms MacLeod.

9 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. 'William', before we complete your
10 evidence, I just want to give you the opportunity -- in
11 case there is anything you would like to say about your
12 time in Geilsland or about anything else you would like
13 the Inquiry to know about.

14 A. We went right out of our way to give the clients at
15 Geilsland the best living experience, the best level of
16 trust, the best level of care, the best duty of care.
17 Never let them down, never let them be bullied, never
18 let them be lost in the system. Never let them be
19 scared, never let them be worried, being able to come
20 and talked to at any time.

21 The daftest question to -- why does the moon go in
22 north?

23 That was a bad analogy there.

24 Building that trust.

25 Geilsland was such a great place, because it was

1 a strong place. It was an educated place. It was run
2 by very, very clever, strong people, who did not take
3 any nonsense. If there was any wrongdoing in any way or
4 form, you were gone. You were buried, you know?
5 Everybody knew there was a line in the sand and you
6 never crossed that line, you know? And that was very,
7 very important for Geilsland, for the clients, and for
8 the staff, you know? I miss it so much. I wish I was
9 still there today, I really do.

10 MS MACLEOD: Well, thank you very much for those thoughts,
11 'William', and thank you for coming to give your
12 evidence today.

13 My Lady, I haven't received any applications for
14 questions of the witness.

15 LADY SMITH: 'William', can I add my thanks. I am really
16 grateful to you for having come along today and being as
17 open and helpful as you have. You have no idea how much
18 you have given me by way of adding to the learning that
19 I am doing every day here. I won't forget what you have
20 told me. Now, please feel free to go and thank you
21 again for making the effort to come.

22 A. I thank you so, so much. I think you are doing a great
23 job. And honestly, please don't forget there are good
24 guys out there as well. There really, really is. There
25 is people that fight tooth and nail every day to support

1 kids that have got nothing and will never have nothing,
2 unless people that are here fight for them and keep
3 fighting for them and never let them down. Never, ever
4 let them down. That's the worst thing you can do, is
5 let them down.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes, trust is a precious thing.

7 A. Trust takes you all the time in the world to build it
8 and a second to lose it.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, you are right.

10 A. Thank you so much for everything yous have done.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 A. Thanks very, very much folks.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 A. All the best folks. Thank you very much.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 A. Bye bye, my Lady.

17 (The witness withdrew)

18 LADY SMITH: Bye.

19 Ms MacLeod.

20 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I now propose to read-in a statement.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of an applicant who will
23 use the pseudonym 'Jordan'. The statement is to be
24 found at WIT-1-000001295.

25

1 'Jordan' (read)

2 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Jordan'. It is difficult for me
3 to say when I was at various places during my time in
4 care because I was in so many and moved around so much.
5 Sometimes I was in places for short periods of time. At
6 other times I was staying at one establishment during
7 the week, whilst going to another one at weekends. That
8 has complicated things when it comes to my memories
9 surrounding my care history.

10 'My father was formally a miner. He suffered
11 an accident where he lost an eye when I was small.
12 I don't know whether he stopped working because of the
13 accident or whether it was because his pit was shutdown.
14 My mother didn't work. I was born in West Lothian,
15 I have two older brothers and one younger sister.

16 'I found school all right. I wasn't the brightest
17 at school, but it was fine. As a kid I thought that my
18 family life was fine. My mother and my father didn't
19 have a lot of money, but we got by. None of my siblings
20 were placed into care. I was the only one who was taken
21 away. I don't know the circumstances that led to me
22 being placed in care. The social worker said that the
23 records said that it was because my mother couldn't
24 control me. However, I don't remember anything like
25 that. I don't know what it was that I was doing, if

1 that is what was going on.

2 'I remember social workers visiting me before I was
3 taken into care. I have had a few social workers over
4 the years. I remember that during the last time they
5 visited me at home, the social worker said something
6 like, 'Just come with us, you will be better off with
7 us'. I was cracking up with tears, but they convinced
8 me to go with them. My father was going crazy. He was
9 totally against me being taken away. I don't know where
10 my mum was with her emotions.

11 'I remember I was made to go up to my father and
12 made to say I wanted to go. I think they made me do
13 that to calm him down and to stop him from getting into
14 trouble.

15 'I was taken from the house to a children's hearing.
16 My father wasn't there, but my mother was. The hearing
17 didn't last long. All I remember is sitting in a room
18 with a few other people who were introducing themselves
19 to me. My mother couldn't read or write. So she would
20 have just signed anything that was placed in front of
21 her. At the hearing it must have been agreed that
22 I would be taken into care. I was taken straight from
23 there to a children's home in West Lothian. A social
24 worker took me there. My mother wasn't on the journey.

25 'Looking back, I don't know for certain why I was

1 taken into care.

2 'I went to a children's home in West Lothian at the
3 age of about 8 years old. That would have been in
4 either 1980 or 1981. I don't remember how long I was
5 there, but I don't think it was long. It was only
6 a period of months. I don't remember the name of it.'

7 Between paragraphs 9 and 13, the witness speaks
8 about his time at that children's home.

9 Between paragraphs 14 and 19, the witness speaks
10 about his time at Bellshill Children's Home in North
11 Lanarkshire.

12 Between paragraphs 20 and 26 of the statement, the
13 witness speaks about a foster care placement.

14 I will turn to paragraph 27, on page 8, where he
15 starts to speak about his experience at Ballikinrain:

16 'I went to Ballikinrain when I was about 11 or
17 12 years old. I think I was there for about a year, so
18 I would have left when I was about 12 or 13 years old.
19 That means I would have been there at some juncture
20 between approximately 1983 and 1986.

21 'Ballikinrain was up in the Trossachs outside of
22 Glasgow, in the countryside. The house itself was
23 massive and had large grounds. I remember play
24 equipment and assault courses. I don't remember any of
25 the staff. There have been that many staff members

1 involved in my care over the years that it is sometimes
2 difficult to remember specific people.

3 'There were quite a lot of children there.
4 I remember attending assemblies and the hall would be
5 full. It was just boys. I would say there were about
6 50 boys there in total. The other children were about
7 the same age as me. There wasn't anyone a lot older
8 than me. I shared a room with three other children.
9 I found that fine. We didn't wear a uniform or anything
10 like that. I think Ballikinrain just provided normal
11 clothes for me. I don't remember Christmas.

12 'We would do activities in the evenings. I remember
13 being taken out canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling, and
14 things like that. There was a whole load of activities
15 like that. You could just go out and play in the play
16 area if you wanted to, rather than doing the activities.
17 I remember the home putting on sports days and things
18 like that. I didn't see my parents once during the time
19 I was at Ballikinrain. It was quite far for them to
20 travel.

21 'I don't have clear memories of social workers
22 visiting me. If that happened it wouldn't have happened
23 a lot. My experience over my time in care was that
24 social workers usually just appeared when they were
25 taking me to another home to stay.

1 'I think most folk went home at the weekends, but
2 I didn't. I ended up being at Bellshill for weekends.
3 I don't know why that was done or when it started.
4 I was dropped off with other children at
5 Buchanan Street, then walked by staff to Central Station
6 in Glasgow. I would get a train to Bellshill from
7 there. I hated doing that.

8 'I would be picked up on a Sunday night from the
9 same place that I had been dropped off in Glasgow.

10 'Schooling was provided at Ballikinrain. We would
11 go to the school during the day. I wouldn't say it felt
12 like I was going to school. They just sat you down and
13 did some sort of activity. It wasn't teaching you
14 subjects, like English and maths; it was more just
15 keeping you occupied. I don't remember any of the
16 teachers. I don't remember anything surrounding
17 religion while I was at Ballikinrain. There was no
18 praying, going to church or anything like that.

19 'There was one occasion when I ran away, but there
20 wasn't anywhere to go. There was nowhere you could go,
21 other than up to the Campsie Fells. I walked for hours
22 and hours, but didn't get anywhere. I think I walked in
23 one big circle. The staff came out and got me on quad
24 bikes, then took me back. I realised after what
25 I experienced when running away that I never wanted to

1 do that again. I can't remember being disciplined for
2 running away. There would have been something that
3 happened, but I don't remember. It wouldn't have been
4 something major, otherwise I would have remembered it.

5 'I didn't want to be at Ballikinrain, but I found it
6 all right. The staff were all right. I felt my
7 behaviour was fine when I was there. There was nothing
8 bad that happened during my time there. I don't know
9 why I was moved out of Ballikinrain, and I don't
10 remember what happened when I was moved permanently to
11 Bellshill again.'

12 Between paragraphs 35 and 36, the witness speaks
13 about his second period at Bellshill.

14 Between paragraphs 37 and 67, the witness speaks
15 about his time at Calder House, in Blantyre.

16 Between paragraphs 68 and 70, the witness speaks
17 about his time at Larchgrove Remand Home.

18 Between paragraphs 71 and 94, the witness speaks
19 about his time at a children's home in Coatbridge.

20 Between paragraphs 98 and 144, the witness speaks
21 about his final time at Bellshill Children's Home.

22 Between paragraphs 154 and 157, the witness speaks
23 about his time having left Bellshill and before going to
24 Longriggend Detention Centre.

25 Between paragraphs 148 to 151, describes the

1 witness's experience at Longriggend and were read-in on
2 12 December 2023, during the SPS chapter, which was day
3 399 of hearings.

4 The witness speaks about his life after care from
5 paragraph 152 onwards.

6 I propose to read the statement from 156, where he
7 describes some of the impact that his time in care has
8 had on him:

9 'I find it difficult to trust people. I have trust
10 issues because those people who were supposed to care
11 for me didn't. I think about my time in care a lot, but
12 I wouldn't say I think about it every day. It is more
13 when I have quiet moments and I am sitting on my own.
14 I especially think about my time in care when I see my
15 siblings doing well for themselves. I see them doing
16 well and think I should have been left in the
17 environment they grew up in.'

18 At 158, the witness stays:

19 'My time in care has affected my relationship with
20 my family. My parents only visited me twice during my
21 times in the various places I was at. For some reason
22 that didn't seem to be encouraged. I had limited
23 contact with them and sometimes years went by without me
24 seeing them.'

25 At paragraph 160, the witness says his time in care

1 affected his education:

2 'When I left the care system my reading and writing
3 was poor. I could read and write, but it wasn't great.
4 There wasn't anyone throughout my time in care who
5 really made the effort to help me with my reading and
6 writing. It wasn't until I was about 30 years old that
7 I decided I needed to do something about it.'

8 And finally in that section, at 161:

9 'My time in care left me with a lot of anger. That,
10 combined with my drink and drug taking, has resulted in
11 me becoming physically violent. It just comes out at
12 times.'

13 The witness then speaks about treatment and support,
14 at 162 and 163. Reporting abuse after care at 164,
15 where he says he hasn't spoken to the police or anybody
16 else about what happened, and he doesn't know if he ever
17 will.

18 In paragraph 165, he speaks about records. And from
19 paragraph 166 onwards, the witness speaks about lessons
20 to be learned, and hopes for the Inquiry.

21 I am just going to read the final four paragraphs of
22 that.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS MACLEOD: 'I have been left thinking about what the
25 social worker told me ever since I met them to look at

1 my records. I was left with more questions than
2 answers. I just wasn't satisfied with what I was told
3 and feel that way today. I just can't understand how
4 I could have been outwith parental control. I have had
5 kids and been able to control them when needed. I don't
6 know how my parents weren't able to do what I have been
7 able to do with my kids.

8 'It should be professional people who look after
9 children. That is especially so if the children come
10 from broken homes. Children are complex at the age
11 I was when I was placed into care. They shouldn't be
12 shoved in front of just anybody. There should be
13 stringent checks undertaken on any person that works in
14 childcare and children's homes. The things that
15 happened to me should never have been allowed to happen.
16 I don't think there should be any care homes. Families
17 break down, but that shouldn't result in a whole load of
18 kids just being lumped together. Doing that doesn't
19 help anybody.

20 'Looking back, if things had worked out at my foster
21 placement I might have had a better chance at life.
22 I just couldn't cope with them being my mother and
23 father when I knew they weren't. I wasn't in the right
24 frame of mind when I was fostered and just wanted to be
25 home. I never asked to be returned to a foster

1 placement. But, in hindsight, if that could have been
2 arranged, things would have been fine.

3 'I should never have been taken away from my
4 parents. I was let down during my time in care.
5 I shouldn't ever have been placed into care. There were
6 times that were better than others, but I hated all my
7 time in care. Everywhere I went I thought, 'I am not
8 going to be here that long', because I was moved that
9 many times. I was always unsettled. I just didn't want
10 to be in all the places I was placed because I just
11 wanted to be back home. The things that happened to me
12 should never have happened.

13 'I hope that through speaking to the Inquiry I have
14 managed to get things out of my head and I am able to
15 move on. I hope that things will be better for me.

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 'Jordan' signed this statement on 20 July 2023.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Well, I will stop now for
22 the lunch break and sit again at 2 o'clock.

23 (12.58 pm)

24 (The luncheon adjournment)

25 (2.00 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant. He
3 wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
4 'Ryan' in giving evidence.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Ryan' (read)

7 MR MACAULAY: The reference for the transcript is
8 WIT-1-000000262.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you. That's 'Ryan'?

10 MR MACAULAY: R-Y-A-N.

11 'Ryan' was born in 1983 and he provides some
12 background to his life before care, and clearly had
13 trouble and difficulty with his schooling. At 4, he
14 says:

15 'I have been to lots of schools. I was expelled for
16 bad behaviour and that sort of stuff. I would climb out
17 the windows and throw things at teachers. I just didn't
18 know what was wrong with me.'

19 And he goes on to describe an incident, when he was
20 4 or 5, when he smashed windows of buses in Buchanan Bus
21 Station.

22 Moving on to page 2, from paragraph 7 through to 9,
23 he describes behavioural problems and also difficulty
24 with schooling. And one can read, at paragraph 11, that
25 there came a point when the Children's Panel had decided

1 all the different schools within the radius of his home.
2 It got to the stage there weren't any schools left for
3 them to try:

4 '... so the best place for me was a residential
5 school.'

6 And then he goes on to tell us, at 14:

7 'I knew it was my behaviour that was getting me into
8 the residential school and that was explained to me.
9 I did say I didn't want to go and that I would change,
10 but I had already had all my chances. I don't think any
11 other school would take me back anyway.

12 'It must have been discussed behind my back, because
13 the week I went to try, turned into a month, which
14 turned into a year, which then turned into three years.'

15 Here he is talking about Ballikinrain. According to
16 the records we have, he went there on [REDACTED] 1996.
17 He would be almost 13, I think, by then. He left on
18 [REDACTED] 1999, when he would be 15.

19 He says, at 16:

20 'I remember being dropped off and picked up every
21 weekend by my dad. I stayed there through the week and
22 I went home every weekend. Occasionally, I didn't get
23 to go home at weekends, if I had been bad.'

24 He goes on to describe the layout and parts of the
25 routine. And if I could go through to paragraph 30:

1 'I was shy to start with and the bolder boys saw
2 that. They saw I was weak. They started giving me
3 a hard time and started fighting me.'

4 And at 32:

5 'If you didn't get up in the morning the staff would
6 pour water on you and tip you out of your bed. You
7 would then be told to clear up the mess once you had had
8 your shower. I think that was to discipline you, but it
9 wasn't funny. It was just madness.

10 'After breakfast everybody had to be out of the
11 building as it got locked up, so you had to leave the
12 building and go to school. If you wanted back in after
13 that you had to press a buzzer. If you had left
14 something in your room or left medication, or something
15 else, you had to press the buzzer and someone would let
16 you in.'

17 And at 36, he says:

18 'The food was good. For all our meals we had fruit,
19 cereal, biscuits, juice, toast, a lot of toast. There
20 were cupboards of cooking stuff as well. We didn't go
21 hungry. We had big store rooms with food.'

22 And at 38:

23 'I was allowed to go and have a fag after my meals.
24 Some of the boys watched cartoons or played pool.
25 I would have run away if you hadn't been allowed to

1 smoke, so it was either: let me smoke or I would miss
2 another 20 minutes of school.

3 'We were allowed to smoke and the staff kept all our
4 fags in a locked cupboard. You had to ask them for
5 a fag, but that was never a problem, unless they were
6 stopping you from smoking because you weren't behaving.
7 You could have about seven a day. They kept it to
8 a minimum, but I would just run away if I wasn't getting
9 any.'

10 And then moving on to schooling, at paragraph 49:

11 'The school was in Ballikinrain. It was classrooms
12 which were built next to the main building, portacabins
13 or something like that. It wasn't like it is now, all
14 state of the art. The classes were all mixed up from
15 all the units, probably so all the boys were the same
16 ages in the classes.

17 'I think I got held back at school to try and help
18 me learn. I didn't want that. I wasn't wanting to
19 learn the stuff they were teaching, but what could I do?
20 I was more interested in sports. There wasn't any
21 uniform at the school, we just wore what we wore every
22 day.

23 'We had maths, English, science and things like
24 that, but I didn't like school. I would go and sit in
25 the woods, which were in the grounds of the school.

1 I would sit there with my mates and have a wee smoke of
2 weed. The staff would sometimes come and look for you,
3 but there were acres and acres of grounds, so you could
4 easily run off.'

5 He then talks about the other aspects of the
6 routine. If I move on to paragraph 64:

7 'If I got home at the weekend, I would get pocket
8 money from my dad. I didn't always get home because, if
9 I was bad, I didn't get to go home at the weekend.
10 I think that was worked out between your key worker and
11 the manager of the place. They would then just tell you
12 that you weren't getting home.

13 'Normally my dad would come and pick me up on
14 a Friday and I would be dropped back on the Monday
15 morning. I went home most weekends. I only saw my
16 brothers at home. They never came to see me at
17 Ballikinrain; they were getting on with their lives.'

18 And at 67:

19 'It wasn't a boot camp. It was about trying to get
20 you into the world and to fit in to society. It is hard
21 to fit in, though, and I don't trust a lot of people.

22 'At weekends all the boys who were not getting home
23 were kept together. There would be about five of us.
24 You would play pool together and do things during the
25 day. Then, at night, it was back to your own unit for

1 bed. You always slept in your own designated bed every
2 night.

3 'My mum and dad would visit once a week at first,
4 that was every Wednesday. My dad told me that, but
5 I don't really remember much about it. I do remember
6 speaking to them on the phone as well.

7 'I don't think my social worker visited me at
8 Ballikinrain. She did come and see me at the house, but
9 that was before Ballikinrain. I had Children's Panels
10 as well, but I missed a few of them, because I didn't
11 want to go. I didn't want to sit and listen to what
12 they had to say. I do remember that my social worker
13 ... was at the Panels when I was there. I have lost
14 count of the Children's Panels that I was at or missed.
15 I remember saying I didn't want to go back to
16 Ballikinrain and that I was being bullied, but I didn't
17 feel I was ever being listened to. There was no point
18 in going to the panels if I wasn't being listened to.
19 It didn't matter what I said, as I wasn't going to
20 change the outcome anyway.

21 'I ran away hundreds of times. I used to get fed up
22 and, to do my own thing, I would just run away. There
23 was no point though, as there was nowhere to go and you
24 would just get caught by the police and end up spending
25 time sitting in a police cell.'

1 And at 75:

2 'I was never asked by the police why I was running
3 away. They just saw us as badly behaved boys and their
4 job was just to take us back. I was just fed up with
5 the place and I was missing my family as well.

6 'The staff at Ballikinrain would be strict with you
7 when you had been running away. You wouldn't get home
8 or they would stop you taking part in all the
9 activities. There was never any physical punishment or
10 anything like that.

11 'I don't remember anyone at Ballikinrain ever asking
12 me why I was running away. They had too many boys to
13 deal with in the home, so I don't think they had the
14 time. Maybe they did, but I don't remember that.

15 'I didn't know why I was running away, probably just
16 to get to see my family. I was fed up and it was
17 probably just a whole lot of stuff that was happening in
18 Ballikinrain, so I would rather run away than face it.

19 'I did see my social worker, but not while I was in
20 Ballikinrain. I didn't see her there, just at Panels.
21 I don't remember her ever asking me about running away
22 and why I was running away or anything like that.
23 I probably wouldn't have been listening anyway, because
24 I just sat there at those meetings and never said
25 anything. I knew a decision would get made and nothing

1 I said was going to make any difference to it.

2 'A few people wet their beds. The staff would shout
3 at you, but they had these plastic mattress things they
4 gave people. I didn't wet the bed, but I remember being
5 given a plastic cover when I first went in, to start
6 with you had to take one. But I didn't wet the bed, so
7 eventually they took it off me.

8 'I remember listening to boys greeting in their beds
9 at night, but I don't know if that was because they had
10 wet their beds. Staff did come in through the night and
11 check the beds. I was just aware of all that, but I am
12 not sure what the staff did.

13 'The boys who wet the bed could have a shower if
14 they wanted. The staff provided clothes if they needed
15 them.

16 'I fought quite a bit when I was at Ballikinrain.
17 I was just defending myself from the bullies once I had
18 had enough.

19 'The staff would restrain you and you could also get
20 a punishment as well, once you had calmed down. You
21 maybe wouldn't get home at weekends and then you might
22 react to that, so you could end up getting restrained
23 again.'

24 And then 86:

25 'It was really just the bullying when I first went

1 to Ballikinrain. I got bullied a lot until I had enough
2 and started to fight back. The first thing was, when
3 I was kicked and punched by some boys and put in
4 a cupboard in the pool room for about ten minutes, they
5 told me that if I told the staff it would be worse.
6 I kidded on that I had asthma to stop them doing it.
7 I was crying and just went off to my room.

8 'The next day one of them came at me with a pool cue
9 and I fought back. I'd had enough and decided I was
10 going to fight back. I don't remember the names of the
11 boys that were bullying me.

12 'Another time I was spat on by one of the same boys.
13 They would hit me with things, like weapons. The
14 weapons could be a pool cue or a plate or just anything
15 that was lying about. I was picked on quite a lot to
16 start with, that was the mentality, boys trying to prove
17 a point.

18 'I remember having cuts and bleeding and the staff
19 there knew about it. They must have seen some of it on
20 record. Staff were there and occasionally saw the
21 fighting. They would stop it, but by then we would have
22 smashed each other.

23 'Staff would split us up and get us to calm down.
24 They would tell us to go and say sorry to each other.
25 If you were going that mad that you were wanting to

1 fight staff, they would restrain you. They did that
2 when you were fighting or being cheeky with staff, or
3 not doing what you were told.

4 'The restraints could be agony. There could be
5 three of them sitting on top of you, three big people.
6 They would hold on to you until you stopped fighting.
7 That happened to me a few times. They could grab you by
8 the fingers and crush them. That was agony. Or bend
9 your wrists back. That would be to get you out the
10 situation. That must have happened to me nearly every
11 week. I was really mischievous and I started to fight
12 a lot, but that was just to get other boys to leave me
13 alone, to defend myself.

14 'There was fighting all the time. The staff even
15 allowed you to fight. You could say to the staff you
16 wanted to fight a boy and they would arrange for you to
17 fight each other. They would take you to the back of
18 the shelters and tell you to fight and, if it got out of
19 hand, they would stop it.

20 'I think the staff just thought you were going to
21 fight each other anyway and it saved anyone using
22 weapons and doing it behind their backs. A lot of
23 people would use a weapon if it was just a case of
24 fighting. I think it was a case of boys' egos and that
25 kind of thing. It was really weird.

1 'The teachers would rather get on with you than
2 argue with you, because it made it easier for them to
3 get on and do their job. They would still give you
4 a hard time. They would give you a slap or physically
5 restrain you if you got cheeky. They would tell you
6 that you would never amount to anything and that nobody
7 in the place amounted to shit, things like that.

8 'The maths teacher ... used to say mad things like
9 that all the time. He was always belittling you and
10 manipulating your brain. He was a guy and he had
11 a beard, but I can't remember his name.

12 'The woodwork teacher used to hit you with this wee
13 wooden ball he had on a piece of string. It was like he
14 was playing conkers with it and if you were caught
15 swearing he would hit it off your head. He would hit
16 you on the back of the head with it and tell you to stop
17 the swearing, so we obviously never swore in front of
18 him. He did that to me and all the other boys who were
19 lippy or swearing or not showing any respect to elders,
20 things like that. I remember it hurt. It was really
21 sore when it hit the back of your head.

22 'I told members of staff I was being bullied at
23 Ballikinrain and I was never listened to. I was just
24 told that was what happened. I think I said things
25 about the bullying to the social work, at Panels, and to

1 my mum and dad when I first went in there. I remember
2 telling them all about the bullying, but it wasn't
3 really anyone else's fault; it was my fault for the
4 things I was doing. I was just told that those sort of
5 things happen, because it happens to everybody when they
6 are new boys. After a while I just started to fight for
7 myself, and then I got a reputation for fighting.
8 I also decided to get new boys and have them hang about
9 with me. I knew what it was like and I was trying to
10 protect them. Other boys wouldn't touch them because
11 they knew I would go fighting with them if they did.'

12 And he then talks about leaving Ballikinrain, aged
13 15 or 16. I think I mentioned the date already,
14 [REDACTED] 1999, and he was told that he was being moved
15 on to St John's and he goes on to talk about St John's.
16 Again, this is in the post-De La Salle era --

17 LADY SMITH: Yes.

18 MR MACAULAY: -- in the following paragraphs. If we move on
19 to paragraph --

20 LADY SMITH: Because we are into the late 1990s, now, aren't
21 we?

22 MR MACAULAY: Yes, we are. He has quite a bit to say about
23 St John's. But then moving on to paragraph 153, he
24 says:
25 'I was meant to leave St John's when I was 16,

1 however, as I have already mentioned, I ended up
2 stabbing a boy. Instead of going to jail I was given
3 two more years at St John's. I didn't leave there until
4 I was 18, but I don't think that did me any good.
5 I just got myself in bother all the more and was
6 stealing cars and stuff. I just thought there was
7 nothing more they could do to me. I remember being told
8 I was going back to stay with my mum and dad when
9 I turned 18 and that was it. I was collected by my mum
10 and dad and I left. I don't remember there being any
11 preparation or anything like that.'

12 Then he talks about his life after care. That he
13 had children from relationships. At 158, he said
14 a particular relationship ended, but he still had
15 contact with his children. 159:

16 'I did try to get into college when I was leaving
17 St John's. I couldn't get in because of my spelling and
18 writing and I didn't know what to write on the forms.
19 When I get paperwork put in front of me, that's when
20 everything gets awkward for me. My reading is okay, but
21 my writing is bad because I never learned at school.'

22 'He then talks about work and then impact, on
23 paragraph 161, and he says this:

24 'I think I became institutionalised from
25 Ballikinrain and St John's. I had someone doing my

1 washing and feeding me. Someone doing everything for
2 me, really. Then I get out and am expected to be just
3 like everyone else. I had problems fitting in and being
4 like a normal, civilised person who could live a normal
5 life.

6 'My two brothers have a better bond with each other
7 because they weren't away in the homes like I was.
8 I was only out at weekends, and even then that was only
9 occasionally, so the two of them got on much better.
10 I feel like an outcast with them. It is my own fault,
11 basically, but that's something that happened in our
12 family.'

13 And then at 164:

14 'I think being in Ballikinrain made me think
15 violence was the way forward and I brought that out with
16 me. That was all I knew when I was in there. That was
17 my frame of mind from in there and I thought whatever
18 was happening in there was going to happen on the
19 street.'

20 And at 166:

21 'I was always on edge and always expecting something
22 to happen, because I was used to being like that. I am
23 [a particular age] and it's still weird to get my head
24 round that.'

25 At 169 he tells us about his treatment for

1 psychological problems and his thoughts about suicide on
2 a couple of occasions.

3 At 172, he says:

4 "I have been a drinker and have smoked a bit of
5 cannabis since I was in Ballikinrain.'

6 And then 'Lessons to be learned', at 174:

7 'You go into these homes all right and then you come
8 out worse. You have to do stuff to fit in with the
9 other boys or you end up not being able to cope and you
10 get bullied. I was bullied for six months before
11 I learned that you have to fight back, you have to fight
12 for yourself. And at 178:

13 'I think things are better now and they are
14 improving. I'm trying to improve my relationships, but
15 I really don't know what could have been done to help
16 me. I think a lot of it was just me and what was going
17 on in my head.

18 'Maybe they should have units that are just for new
19 boys. Then again, they could just group up and start
20 bullying as well, so I don't know how you could ever
21 stop the bullying.'

22 He goes on to say:

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

1 true.'

2 And 'Ryan' has signed his statement -- it looks like
3 27 January 2020.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, it must be. Thank you.

5 Ms MacLeod.

6 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement I will read in is
7 a statement of an applicant who uses the pseudonym
8 'Jack'. The statement can be found at WIT-1-000001131.

9 'Tomtom' (read)

10 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Jack'. I was born in 1974. We
11 stayed in Glasgow. I was very young and, from what
12 I can remember, my mum worked on the buses and I can't
13 remember if my dad was working. It was good until my
14 mum passed away. My older sister found her body and
15 I saw her. I was only seven at the time. Life at home
16 started to go down hill for us all and my dad was going
17 crazy, as he couldn't cope and the family was split up.

18 'My dad took me and my two brothers to live in
19 another part of Glasgow. My dad hit the drink and
20 I don't blame him for that, as he had been through
21 a lot. There was no one to get a grip of us kids.
22 I was going to primary school and I started dodging
23 school. We were allowed to do what we wanted and we
24 were running about the streets until all sorts of time
25 in the morning. Social workers got involved and

1 I remember they came to the house every so often to
2 check on things.

3 'We were out of control and that was the reason for
4 me going into care. My dad was an alcoholic. He
5 couldn't look after us and he was struggling badly. He
6 was always there for us and didn't want us put in
7 a home.'

8 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, are you sure that 'Jack' is the
9 right pseudonym for this witness? I just wondered
10 whether it was.

11 MS MACLEOD: I will just check that, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: What's the statement number? 1131 is the end
13 of it, is it?

14 MS MACLEOD: My apologies, my Lady, 'Tomtom' is the
15 pseudonym.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

17 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: That's all right. Yes, sorry, carry on.

19 MS MACLEOD: 'I remember an old woman came to the house now
20 and again and didn't make things any better. She was
21 a social worker. I remember her moaning at my dad and
22 she wasn't supportive. My dad was upset. There was
23 a Children's Panel in Glasgow about me and my brother.
24 I was aged 10 or 11 and my brother was a year older than
25 me when we got put into care.

1 'We got put into care the same day. They had
2 already dealt with my younger brother and he went into
3 care first. The lady took us from the Children's Panel
4 in a taxi to Larchgrove. She sat in the middle of me
5 and my brother. We were upset and we had seen our dad
6 upset. She was saying, 'Don't worry, where you are
7 going is good'. I told her to shut up and she slapped
8 me in the face for it. I was stunned. She then offered
9 us money, 50 or 60p, to keep quiet. She was saying
10 sorry to us and that she didn't mean to do that. She
11 didn't hit my brother, just me.'

12 Between paragraphs 20 and 27, the witness speaks
13 about his experience at Larchgrove Remand Centre, in
14 Glasgow.

15 Between paragraphs 28 and 50, the witness speaks
16 about his time at Fairfield Children's Home in
17 Pollokshields. And I will read from paragraph 51, where
18 the witness speaks about his time at Ballikinrain:

19 'Ballikinrain was a big castle and it looked
20 daunting, but a beautiful place. It was a high up
21 building. There was a top flat unit and a bottom flat
22 unit. The middle bit was offices, dining hall and
23 kitchen area. The top unit and the bottom unit both had
24 dormitories. I think I was in the bottom one at the
25 start and then moved up to the top unit, as that's where

1 my brothers were. That happened not long after I went
2 in. I was 12 or 13 by this time.

3 'I remember Ballikinrain was a really cold place.
4 It was freezing all the time because of where it was.
5 I can't remember any heating being on and the place
6 being cosy. Ballikinrain was for boys only and there
7 were 20 to 25 of us in each unit. It was a big place.
8 The top unit had bedrooms and not dormitories. I shared
9 with four boys of the same age and I wasn't in a room
10 with my brothers.

11 'On my first day I can remember being taken in to
12 the office. The Church of Scotland ran the place and
13 SNR was called Mr KKM. He sat me down and told
14 me about the school and what they required of me and the
15 rights and wrongs. I felt alright about the place. He
16 told me it was 21 miles from Glasgow and drummed it into
17 me not to abscond as there were hills around about you
18 and you could die in the hills and the weather could
19 turn on you. It was very isolated.

20 'We got up in the morning and all went down for
21 breakfast. There was no problem with the food. I can't
22 remember anything bad about it. We had a big dining
23 hall. They gave us equipment for activities. They gave
24 us clothes to wear, like denims. They bought us all
25 Adidas trainers, the same ones as each other. We had

1 fleeces to wear and we had our own waterproofs. There
2 were toilets in every unit and showers. I can't
3 remember any baths. I think we were allowed to use the
4 showers when we wanted.

5 'Ballikinrain had their own school. After breakfast
6 we went to our classroom and we were in the same
7 classroom for the day. We didn't move to a different
8 classroom for different subjects. We had the same
9 teacher for all subjects. I think someone came in to do
10 a science class with us sometimes. My teacher was
11 GOS or something like that, he was alright.
12 I wasn't the best at school. I liked art the best.

13 'We were in the dining hall for lunch and then back
14 in school for the afternoon. Then we had an hour for
15 getting our dinner and having a cigarette, then back to
16 school for a couple of hours.

17 'After school in the evening you got your tea.
18 There was no time for play before tea. After tea we
19 would go back to the unit. Then we would all go outside
20 and I remember this big wall and we would all sit on the
21 wall and we would have activities. There were outdoor
22 bikes and walks. They had motorbikes as well and
23 a go-kart thing. They had canoes as well. That was for
24 the outdoor activities, and they took us canoeing,
25 abseiling, caving. I loved the outdoor stuff.

1 Mr [GD] was the teacher for outdoor activities. He
2 was a tough guy, but not in a bullying way. I think he
3 was just trying to make a man out of you. He was
4 alright. He was involved in the Mountain Rescue
5 Service. He did a lot with us. We did hillwalking and
6 they provided us with waterproofs. There were no
7 holidays. I think they took us on day trips to swimming
8 baths, to Kirkintilloch in the minibus. It was one unit
9 at a time.

10 'For chores we just had to wipe the tables after
11 dinner and tidy our room.

12 'I can't remember any celebrations at Christmas and
13 birthdays. They had their own Church in Ballikinrain
14 and we did our hymns on a Sunday. I was alright with
15 that.

16 'At Ballikinrain you got weekend leave. I got to go
17 home. I can't remember getting any pocket money. They
18 took to you Glasgow on a Friday and picked you up on
19 a Monday; that was good. I went to see my dad. It
20 wasn't every weekend; I think it was every four weeks.
21 And one group at a time went home. Sometimes I got home
22 at the same time as my brothers and sometimes not.

23 'There were no visitors that came to see me at
24 Ballikinrain and I didn't see social work. I didn't go
25 to any Panels and I think it was all done remotely

1 through the home.

2 'I ran away once and made it to Glasgow with another
3 boy. I made it into Glasgow, even though it was far
4 away. We were away for a couple of weeks. We managed
5 to get to Butlins in Ayr. A guy in Ayr sussed us out
6 and phoned the police. I remember a staff member called
7 GOU came to pick us up. He was a dog. He was
8 shouting at us. He took us back in the van from Ayr to
9 Ballikinrain. He made us lie on the floor of the van.
10 If there was a crash there was nothing to hang on to and
11 we weren't able to look out the window. And he did that
12 deliberately; he was really angry with us. I can't
13 remember if there was any punishment when we got back.
14 I think we lost our weekend leave as we were away so
15 long.

16 'I can't remember any issues with healthcare and
17 I can't recall any checkups.

18 'If you were in bother, they took your weekend leave
19 off you. That would happen if you ran away or didn't go
20 to school. I don't know if there was any record of
21 punishment, like having my weekend leave cancelled.

22 'There was a lot of good staff at Ballikinrain and
23 some really bad ones. There was a man on the staff
24 called GOU. He was a dog. He was intimidating,
25 he was a stocky wee guy with a beard and a bald head.

1 I have heard since I left that he'd come from working in
2 a prison to look after the kids. He'd make us stand
3 with our arms held out in front of us for hours and
4 hours and shout at us if our arms dropped at all. If
5 your arms started to go down, he shouted at you to put
6 your arms up. If you did something wrong, he would take
7 you out in that wee yard. You would have your shorts
8 on. He would make you stand there with your arms held
9 out in front and they would burn. He had us like that
10 for a long time and your arms would go down, then he
11 would be right into your face and yell, 'Get them up'.
12 He did it three or four times. He did it to three or
13 four of us, standing in a line.

14 'There was this wee guy with a mental handicap and
15 he was feeling it in the worst ten seconds after **GOU**
16 was shouting at him. If you did anything wrong, he
17 would get hold of you and say, 'You are coming with me',
18 and he wouldn't let you go. He would make you feel
19 terrible if you did anything wrong, just minor things.
20 He was very disciplined.

21 'He was in the wrong place. He came from working in
22 prison to working in a children's home. He probably
23 thought he was still dealing with adults instead of kids
24 with problems. He still had the uniform of a white
25 shirt and trousers from prison, with a wee pocket on

1 them to hold a truncheon.

2 'There was another guy who was called HTH, he
3 was also a stocky wee guy with a black beard. He stayed
4 in one of the wee staff houses in the grounds. He was
5 just as bad. The two of them were pals because of what
6 they were like. He would be right in your face as well.
7 He didn't make you stand with your hands up and I can't
8 remember what he made us do. He was intimidating as
9 well. I can't recall any other member of staff who
10 caused issues:

11 'One time we were going somewhere in the minibus,
12 I think it was our weekend leave. The guy who was
13 driving the minibus drove too fast down the driveway of
14 the home. I can't remember his name. There was a taxi
15 coming up the drive and the minibus driver veered off
16 the drive and crashed into a tree. He was going too
17 fast and he was known for it. If he hadn't crashed into
18 the tree, we would have gone in to the burn that ran
19 through the grounds, and that could have been a lot
20 worse. I was shaken up, but some of the other children
21 were injured. There weren't any seat belts in the van.

22 'I think I was in Ballikinrain a year and a half and
23 up to the age of about 14. It was one of my longest
24 stays. It was a good home, apart from the bad apples
25 that were there. I enjoyed some of my time there.'

1 From paragraphs 79 to 102, the witness speaks of his
2 time at Kibble School in Paisley.

3 Between paragraphs 104 and 110, he speaks about his
4 time at Longriggend Detention Centre, in Airdrie. This
5 is after leaving care.

6 At paragraph 111 to 114, he speaks about his time at
7 Polmont Young Offenders Institution and, at
8 paragraph 115 to 117, about his time at Glenochil Young
9 Offenders Institution. I will read part of the 'Impact'
10 section of the statement, which starts at paragraph 118.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS MACLEOD: 'It was difficult at first to find stability in
13 my life and it took me a long time. I think that's
14 because I was brought up in the homes. I had no
15 structure in life. They never helped me at all and I
16 was just kicked out the door. I get some bad dreams
17 from my time in care and in prison.

18 'My education has suffered, either I didn't get any
19 in the home or it was set for much younger children.

20 'Being in care had an impact on how I behaved
21 towards other people in the past, but not so much now.
22 I used to get very nervous. When I first got out of the
23 home I was paranoid. I didn't get a job because of it,
24 because I was too shaky and nervous. I am alright now,
25 but it took me a long time. I used to have bad

1 nightmares and it happens now and again and I'll be
2 talking in my sleep. I have never got help with that.
3 It doesn't happen every night. It is better now that
4 I have structure and routine in my life.

5 'I treated my own boy brilliant. I got him anything
6 he wanted and he was spoilt and I wouldn't change that.
7 There isn't any bully in me because of him. I would
8 never do that to somebody.

9 'I used to be close to my two brothers and my dad,
10 but not the other part of my family from my mum's side.
11 I have never made any report as an adult, to police or
12 social work, about anything that happened to me in care.
13 I have never got hold of any of my records about my time
14 in care. I wouldn't know how to go about getting them.
15 I would be interested to see them, but I don't know if
16 they would open up nightmares for me.

17 'There should be a better structure for kids and
18 make sure they don't get parked out when they turn 16.
19 I know how it feels. There should be more checks on the
20 staff and less bullying. An adult bullying a kid is
21 wrong, but they are getting a kick out of some of them.

22 'In the home, the routine was good, apart from the
23 two of them. When they were on duty it was hell. They
24 made it hard for us.

25 'I hope things get better in children's homes and

1 children have a better life in there and better things
2 when they leave the home. I hope the staff that bullied
3 me are not working with children now. They weren't fit
4 enough.

5 'I took my partner to see Ballikinrain a couple of
6 times as she really wanted to see it. We like going on
7 long drives and, when we were passing by, we went in and
8 I showed her where the home was. It is a lovely big
9 place. I came across the guy who bought it and spoke to
10 him briefly. It felt strange to see it again.

11 'The caretaker took us inside and the place hadn't
12 changed. I knew where everything was. The beds and
13 furniture had all gone. I took a couple of photos. It
14 is the only place that I have been back to.

15 'I sometimes look at the page on Facebook for people
16 who went to Ballikinrain or worked there. People swap
17 memories and stories on there. There are a couple of
18 people there that I remember from my day.

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

21 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are
22 true.'

23 And 'Jack' signed the statement on 21 November 2022.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MACAULAY: So, my Lady, this is another applicant. She

1 would like to remain anonymous and to use the name
2 'Siobhan'.

3 'Siobhan' (read)

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR MACAULAY: Her statement at is WIT-1-000000641.

6 'Siobhan' was born in 1950. In paragraph 2, she
7 provides us with some background about her family. She
8 says:

9 'I thought I was an only child all my life, but
10 a few months ago I found out I had have three half
11 sisters and a half brother.'

12 The statement was signed in March 2021, so that will
13 give us the context.

14 LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

15 MR MACAULAY: 'We have the same mum, but different dads.'

16 That is perhaps explained in the next paragraph:

17 'My dad was stationed in India during the war and
18 that's where he met my mum. My mum was born in India.
19 Her family are quite high ranking in the army. When the
20 war finished a lot of people decided to come back over
21 to Britain.'

22 At paragraph 6:

23 'I went in to hospital when I was a toddler because
24 I was malnourished. My mum couldn't cook properly, so
25 she wasn't getting me proper food. She came from

1 a wealthy family in India, where servants did
2 everything. She could cook rice and gave me lots of
3 sweets and cake. She was doing the best she could do,
4 but I got sick and apparently I nearly died.'

5 At 8:

6 'When I was three, my mum became ill. I can
7 remember holding my dad's hand as I went into a building
8 to visit her. I can remember sitting on her knee and
9 how lovely she looked with her make up and perfume.
10 I would recognise her perfume if I smelled it today.
11 She had jet black hair and was wearing lipstick. She
12 was pretty. She sat me on her knee and said, "So you
13 are my little girl". I never saw her again. There was
14 another lady there, too, who, thinking about it now,
15 might have been her carer. I can't remember her looking
16 sick and she wasn't in bed or anything.

17 'She died when I was 4 or 5. I don't know how long
18 it had been since I saw her when they told me she had
19 passed. She had cancer. She had been living in Glasgow
20 [at the time].

21 'My dad took me to stay at my gran's. I didn't see
22 a lot of him, as he didn't come to the house. I can
23 remember my granddad saying that he wouldn't let my dad
24 in the house. I don't know why, but he was a bit like
25 the black sheep of the family. So I used to go and meet

1 him in the street every so often at weekends, and he was
2 one of six.'

3 At 13:

4 'My nan was very strict, like they were in those
5 days. It's just the way it was then. If I was a bit
6 naughty or came home late, I used to get the belt
7 sometimes. It was the one with two tongues on the
8 bottom. That's how it was in those days. But I was
9 well looked after.

10 'My Aunt [REDACTED], my dad's sister, took me on holiday,
11 so I never missed holidays.'

12 And then moving on to paragraph 17:

13 'When I looked across the fields I could see Smyllum
14 Orphanage from my bedroom window. My nan used to
15 threaten me with going there. She would say, "If you
16 don't behave you are going over the hill to the nuns".
17 A lot of parents said those things in those days.'

18 At 19, she tells us she went to live with her father
19 when she was 16 and goes on to say that she was badly
20 treated by her father.

21 At 20, she said:

22 'I stayed with my dad for about a year. He used to
23 belt me and punch me quite a lot. I could never say
24 I hated him, but I was terrified of him. He was well
25 spoken and immaculately dressed. He had been in the

1 army. The problem was a lot of men came home with shell
2 shock and that's what he was suffering from. I can
3 understand now that he had a lot of problems.'

4 At 22, she says:

5 'I ran away a lot. I can remember sleeping in the
6 streets or the public toilets. I would walk around the
7 streets naively and be taken back to the police station
8 for a nice hot meal and a cup of tea. The police would
9 say, "Come on, in the car". The last time I ran away
10 I don't think the police took me back to my dad's or my
11 nan's.'

12 Then she mentioned an unknown children's home that
13 she was at. At paragraph 27, she makes reference to
14 a remand home that she was at.

15 Moving on to paragraph 46, after she had left the
16 remand home:

17 'I can remember going to Lanark Sheriff Court. The
18 Sheriff, Sheriff Gillis, was lovely. I can remember
19 thinking "Please, please, don't send me back to my
20 dad's". I can't remember what the Sheriff said, but he
21 was very pleasant. The Sheriff also spoke to someone
22 who I think was a social worker. He said, "We can't
23 send you back to your dad's". I remember those exact
24 words. I can't remember if the Sheriff told me where
25 they were sending me. I don't know if they did in those

1 days.'

2 But, as it turred out, she went to Langlands Park
3 and she deals with that in paragraph 49:

4 'I can remember being surprised because I thought
5 I was going to a prison.'

6 And this is probably around 1966, when she was about
7 16:

8 'Langlands was an approved school run by the
9 Church of Scotland. It was just a big, red stone house.
10 I would call it a mansion.'

11 She describes the location:

12 'On the left for the headmaster, Mr Davis, who lived
13 with his wife and kids. There were gardens all down the
14 right-hand side. There was a tennis court down the side
15 of his house, with gardens and lawns at the back.'

16 And she describes parts of the house.

17 At 52, she says:

18 'Mr Davis was lovely. The deputy head didn't live
19 in the grounds. Mr Davis was tall and slim. The deputy
20 head was short and stocky. His name was Mr Davis, too.
21 We used to laugh about it. They were both Welsh and
22 great singers.'

23 At 54:

24 'I can't be sure how many girls were there. The
25 place was bigger than the other place, but there weren't

1 that many girls there. I think there was only one table
2 for meals, so there might have been about 20 girls.
3 There was one girl who was younger than the rest, she
4 might have been 11 or 12. Most of us were roughly the
5 same age.

6 'At the start there were a couple of girls who I was
7 terrified of. One of them was a bit of a bully, but
8 she, for some reason, felt sorry for me and she ended up
9 taking me under her wing. I don't know why. I wore
10 glasses and one girl broke my glasses.'

11 And she then provides some information about the
12 routine. At paragraph 60, for example, she says:

13 'We had a lot of great times there, parties at
14 Halloween and Christmas. I drew big witches for the
15 wall because I was good at art. It was great there.'

16 And at 63:

17 'As a treat families would come to visit. A few of
18 the girls didn't get any visitors because of the
19 backgrounds they were from. My nan wanted to come, but
20 she was too old to come from Lanark to Port Glasgow. My
21 dad came to visit once. I remember dreading it, but he
22 was okay. He seemed a bit sad and sorry.

23 'I didn't ever run away from Langlands because
24 I loved it. There weren't bars there. They shut and
25 locked the gates at night. A couple of girls ran away.

1 I remember it being in the middle of the night. The
2 police brought them back and we were looking out the
3 dorm windows. There were no real punishments. There
4 was nothing cruel there. It was more a case of talking
5 to you and trying to get through to you, so it was more
6 like counselling. They asked what was wrong and what
7 they could do to help. The delinquent girls weren't
8 made to feel like they had done something wrong or were
9 being punished. It was a place that tried to help you.
10 Mr and Mrs Davis were like a mum and dad figure. It was
11 lovely there. They weren't strict. They were lovely
12 and talked to us like equals. I can't remember any
13 punishments, but there was maybe a lack of privileges,
14 like going swimming or you might miss something that we
15 were doing for a treat.

16 'I don't have any personal recollection of that
17 because I was well behaved. I didn't see anyone being
18 treated badly.

19 'When you came to be 16 or 17, they found you work.
20 So I went to work when I was 17. I was at Langlands
21 from 1966 to 1967.'

22 She goes on to describe where she went to work, at
23 paragraph 68 onwards. And at 71, she makes reference to
24 meeting a young man who became her boyfriend, obviously,
25 and she fell pregnant.

1 At 72, she describes her wedding; that it was
2 lovely. And it was 1968, when she was 18.

3 And at 74, she says:

4 'It was my husband's ambition to go to Australia.
5 It must have been what he wanted to do all his life. He
6 was never the type to discuss anything with "The wife".
7 He was a very serious type of bloke.'

8 They did go to Australia, and that's dealt with in
9 the following paragraphs.

10 At 78, she says:

11 'My husband ran the house. He gave me money for
12 housekeeping for food. One day I had to go to the bank
13 to put money in. I was nearly in tears because I didn't
14 know anything. I apologised to the girl at the desk and
15 she did it for me.'

16 Then she talks about her separation and her divorce,
17 and where they stayed after they separated.

18 At 84, she talks about her son and, sadly, at 85,
19 she says that her youngest daughter died 14 months prior
20 to the giving of the statement and she was very close to
21 her.

22 At the heading 'Impact', she says at 88:

23 'I have a feeling of not belonging. I think that
24 goes back to going to my nan's when my mum died.
25 I still cry because there is nothing I can do. My life

1 is nearly over. My fight is with fate. Someone told me
2 once I'm more of a spiritual person. I do believe there
3 is something. None of us really know. I don't believe
4 that we just appeared from the big bang theory. I very
5 much believe that we have come from somewhere and that
6 there is a superior being; that is why I believe in
7 fate.

8 'It could have been worse. It was the fact that
9 I grew up without my mum. I don't know who I am or
10 where I am from. I feel that's what's wrong with me.
11 Nothing to do with homes.'

12 And she says at 91:

13 'I feel that I am nobody special. I'm glad I found
14 my family in England, but I can't afford to go there.
15 I would really like to get to know them. I haven't
16 built up a relationship with them yet. It is so sad in
17 a way.

18 'I am angry in a lot of ways because I don't really
19 know who I am. For all of those years I had a brother
20 and a sister in England and I didn't know. It makes me
21 angry because in those days children were seen and not
22 heard. You couldn't ask about things. I am only
23 finding things out now.'

24 And she says, at 96:

25 'When I saw the Scottish Inquiry I wanted to give my

1 wee bit about Langlands Park because I didn't want
2 anyone to think Langlands was a bad place at the time
3 I was there.'

4 And she goes on to say:

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

9 And 'Siobhan' signed her statement on 24 March 2021.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms MacLeod.

11 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is that of
12 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Paul'. The
13 statement can be found at WIT-1-000001084.

14 'Paul' (read)

15 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Paul'. I was born in 1978. I was
16 born in Glasgow and I had two older sisters.

17 'My behaviour was a big problem. I had no
18 boundaries and was socially immature. I think my
19 behaviour made my sisters demented. When I was younger
20 I was always a bit out of control, misbehaving and
21 pushing boundaries, and it was constant. I always gave
22 my mum a hard time.

23 'My mum worked when she was able, she did her best
24 and tried her hardest. She would sometimes have three
25 part-time jobs, but between aunts, cousins and stuff we

1 were well looked after and well taken care of. If my
2 mum wasn't working, she would be taking care of our
3 cousins as well. There would usually be seven or eleven
4 of us in the house. We weren't exactly millionaires,
5 but we didn't want for anything. My mum did really good
6 job of bringing us up, feeding us, clothing us. She
7 worked hard.

8 'I started primary one and I can't remember how long
9 it lasted, but I'm pretty sure it wasn't long before I
10 was expelled. I think I hit a teacher with a duster
11 from the board after she flung it at me. I had a period
12 of time between schools and that's when we moved house.

13 'I went to a ... [another primary school] I didn't
14 last long there either because I was expelled for
15 assaulting one of my pals. I kicked him through the
16 glass doors and broke them.

17 'I think it was between primary schools that I was
18 put on social work supervision. I had been in front of
19 the Children's Panel, but I didn't care. My mum would
20 be with me, but it was just another meeting with my mum,
21 as far as she was concerned. She had taken me to see
22 psychologists, psychiatrists, child psychology
23 specialist from Stirling, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. I was
24 taken to universities, behavioural departments, places
25 and hospitals. I didn't care to be honest. It was

1 another day out for me and I had no clue what it was all
2 about, although I kind of knew it was about my bad
3 behaviour. There was never a diagnosis, but I was
4 extremely hyperactive and disruptive. On reflection,
5 now, my suspicion is that I had ADHD or something like
6 that and was maybe slightly autistic, but I don't know.
7 Certainly highly functioning, so I would certainly say
8 ADHD. In later years, I had not had any diagnosis,
9 although it has been a major factor all my life.

10 'I had social workers called Kate Shepherd, Eve, and
11 Judy. Eve was from the local area. I can't remember
12 where the other two were from, but one of them took me
13 to her own house once.

14 'It is hard to explain how things were with my mum.
15 It was not like we didn't get on; it was more I didn't
16 want to get on and I wanted everything my way. If
17 it didn't go my way, then I was just going to be as
18 badly behaved as possible. Very early on I learned that
19 if I was good I got attention, but if I was bad I got
20 more attention. That attention lasted longer when I was
21 bad and, for someone who has only got one parent and two
22 sisters, I was struggling with all of that.

23 'After I was expelled, I was put in front of the
24 Children's Panel again. The Panel decided to send me to
25 Craigerne Residential School. I wasn't expecting this

1 and I felt terrified and lost.

2 'Two guys drove away with me, leaving my mum
3 standing back there. I thought they might just be
4 driving me round the block to teach me a lesson, but
5 they just kept going. I really didn't get a chance to
6 speak to my mum before they took me away. I didn't get
7 to take any of my stuff with me, as I hadn't been
8 prepared to be sent away.

9 'I think the main thing I was feeling was anxiety,
10 being separated from my mum and sisters. I also felt
11 confused and absolute terror. I was eight years old.
12 My mum had told me if I didn't behave I would be taken
13 away, but I didn't believe her. No social worker or
14 other professional had sat down and prepared me for the
15 possibility I would be sent away; that's why it was
16 a complete and utter shock when the Panel decided
17 I couldn't go home and would be going into care.'.

18 Between paragraphs 12 and 55, the witness speaks
19 about his time at Craigerne Residential School, in
20 Peebles.

21 LADY SMITH: That was the Barnardo's home in Peebles, wasn't
22 it?

23 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady. From paragraph 56, I will read
24 on:

25 'When I was 12, I think Craigerne lost the funding

1 and was closed down. I had to go back to the Children's
2 Panel and it was there that it was decided I was moving
3 to Ballikinrain. I do not think there was any
4 consideration about me going back home because I think
5 they realised that I needed a regimented structure. At
6 that age I probably think there was a chance of me
7 getting home and I would have been disappointed that
8 I wasn't.

9 'I didn't feel too bad because it wasn't far from
10 home. Basically, I think the Panel decided to continue
11 with the supervision and get me into another school. My
12 mum and social worker would have been there, too.
13 I think it was one of the staff from Ballikinrain who
14 came and got me from the Panel. There was no staff from
15 Craigerne who came over to help with the handover.

16 'I felt apprehensive about going to Ballikinrain,
17 because it was a new start and it was another place to
18 try and fit in with all new faces. I didn't know
19 anybody. I knew a guy who had been in and he said it
20 was a bit of a battleground, so that was playing on my
21 mind.

22 'Ballikinrain was like a big massive mansion house
23 with a bottom unit and then, on the middle floor, they
24 had a dining room, assembly room and other rooms. They
25 also had a top unit. On the bottom unit, they had

1 a main living corridor with a pool table, table tennis
2 tables and there were rooms either side for the boys to
3 sleep in.

4 'I don't know where all the staff lived, but two
5 lived halfway up the driveway and two stayed at the
6 bottom of the driveway. They stayed there with their
7 families.

8 'It was an all boys school and they were probably
9 close to 50 boys at the school when I was there. The
10 boys were from all over, places like Govan and Paisley.
11 Basically, every scheme in Glasgow and further. I don't
12 know which organisation ran the school, but I think it
13 was just the Local Authority. I never heard of any
14 organisation being linked to it; I just knew it was
15 a List D School.

16 'There was a big driveway with a gatehouse. It had
17 a big lawn at the back, with hundreds of trees at the
18 back, meaning there were extensive woodlands in the
19 grounds where we could play. There was a stream and
20 a big pool, where we used to be able to jump off a big
21 cliff thing, so it was like a big plunge pool. There
22 was an old skating or curling pond, which was empty, but
23 had stagnant water at one end of it. There was plenty
24 of space in the grounds to run about. I got lost more
25 than once, but it was easy because of the size of the

1 place. There wasn't anything like the kind of outdoor
2 equipment that we had at Craigerne.

3 'My first impression was it was a bit intimidating
4 because it was so huge. I was used to having a wee
5 cottage and now I had this massive mansion, which looked
6 to me like a stately home. There was school staff and
7 there was teaching staff. There were care staff and day
8 staff. They had cleaners and handymen. There were
9 probably three care staff on each unit. When I started,
10 it was KKM , who was SNR .

11 IKE was SNR . My key worker was
12 Ann Woodhead, and I got on with her really well.
13 I didn't have a lot of contact with the head and deputy
14 head. I think they were more administrative.

15 'I remember Bill Will. Bill was the science
16 teacher. GPB , the woodwork teacher, was great as
17 well. I remember a woman called Anna, who was only
18 temporary. She may have been a trainee social worker or
19 something like that. It is hard to remember the names
20 now, although I still remember all their faces.

21 'I think it was a guy we called Old Peter who done
22 the overnight in the bottom unit. He was the ex-husband
23 of my key worker, Ann. There were two staff who did the
24 overnight, and I can't remember the other guy's name.
25 They would sit in the telly room and do the odd round

1 with a torch. If you got up for the bathroom, they
2 would say something like, 'On you go then and get back
3 in to bed'.

4 'I would probably say I was scared when I arrived.
5 It was a totally new environment and there was no one
6 who had come from Craigerne with me. Every single thing
7 was new and I had to make new relationships. I knew it
8 was not a normal school and, obviously, I knew there was
9 going to be some violence for me to fit in. I tried to
10 avoid it to the best of my ability, but I couldn't
11 always.

12 'When I arrived, I was handed over at reception as
13 a new admission. I sat outside the office for about ten
14 minutes, probably while they did the paperwork, and then
15 I was taken down the stairs. I think it was Ann, my key
16 worker, who met me in the office and took me down. She
17 told me where I would be sleeping and where the classes
18 were. She explained that sort of stuff before the boys
19 came in. I was feeling scared and anxious. Meeting the
20 other boys was not too bad. It wasn't the worst, but it
21 wasn't great either. No one was really friendly. It
22 was a bunch of boys, who had all kinds of behavioural
23 issues.

24 'I would say the atmosphere in the place was tense.
25 It was chalk and cheese to Craigerne and, for me, it was

1 a bit of a culture shock. I wasn't told what I could
2 expect from staff and I kind of thought it would be just
3 like Craigerne. No one said, "This is how you will be
4 treated", and what would happen if staff didn't treat me
5 that way. No one explained how to complain if I wasn't
6 happy, although I now think I could have probably
7 complained to the head staff or my social worker. But
8 who would believe a boy over an adult?

9 'Thinking about it, I feel there was more imbalance
10 of power between the staff and boys, with the staff
11 having much more.

12 'We were up around 8.00-ish and got ourselves ready
13 before going for breakfast on the middle floor. After
14 breakfast, you would go back down and then into the
15 classrooms. Bedtime was 10.00, I am sure it was. It
16 was quite late, anyway. Before you got into bed
17 everyone had to brush their teeth and get a bit of toast
18 and a cup of tea or something like that. The lights,
19 including communal lights, went out when we got into
20 bed. It would just be the TV room and the hallway light
21 that would be on. There certainly wasn't any bedtime
22 story here.

23 'Dinner was around 4.30 or 5.00 by the time you got
24 everybody back into the units and done a count to make
25 sure no one was missing. The food was good, but there

1 would probably be times I didn't eat the stuff. No one
2 went mental about it; they would just give you something
3 else, if there was something else available. If not,
4 they would probably just get one of the cooks to make
5 you a sandwich or something like that.

6 'At meal times, they would have these big meal
7 catering trays and put it on the table. Each table
8 would go up one at a time to get their food. It was
9 always supervised by staff. Sometimes you would have
10 fights at the tables and the boys would get separated
11 and taken to the other end of the room, or out, or one
12 out of the room. They would be kept separate, until
13 they got to the bottom of whatever had caused the
14 problem.

15 'In the morning, we all went in and it was four
16 sinks together, where we would get washed. The showers
17 were on the left. There were about four stalls that had
18 doors and a urinal on the left. It was a narrow room.
19 You could have a shower in the morning, if you wanted,
20 but you were always encouraged to go in and wash your
21 face and brush your teeth. You could take a plastic
22 chair into the shower, if you wanted, where you could
23 put your clothes and get dressed in there. That made
24 sure no one could throw your clothes in the shower after
25 you.

1 'You couldn't have a shower whenever you wanted, but
2 if you were mucky or had an accident, they would allow
3 you to have a shower within reason. There were no
4 baths.

5 'You could shower with privacy, because they all had
6 cubicles, but there was always a staff member waiting in
7 the main body of the toilets, supervising everybody.
8 There were quite a few fights went on in there. I can
9 always remember wearing my own clothing, but I don't
10 know if we actually wore our own in school or not. I
11 think we got help with clothing, a clothing grant or
12 something for personal stuff. Plus, I think we maybe
13 had two outfits for wearing in the school and those were
14 supplied by the school. I think you put them in the
15 wash bag with your name on it. So you always got your
16 own stuff back.

17 'Generally, because they were not doing vast amounts
18 of washing, you could ask staff to take you along to the
19 laundry and you could pick out your own stuff.

20 'We had free time after dinner and there was
21 a communal area with a pool table, table tennis, and
22 later on they had a computer. We ran about the grounds
23 and played football. We could go to the gym and play
24 what we call "long shots", because it was a tiny gym
25 with a parquet floor and baseball hoops at either end.

1 There were wee hockey goals painted on the walls. It
2 was big enough that two boys could play football or try
3 to score goals against each other. They had what looked
4 like a tennis lawn at the side of the gym. It wasn't
5 painted with any markings, but I called it a tennis lawn
6 because of the quality of the grass.

7 'Then there was another lawn that came up the back
8 of the building with a row of fir trees and it was all
9 forest at the back of them.

10 'Halfway down the driveway you had a stream and it
11 was there you could jump into the big pool. You could
12 get free time that you could go away and explore or get
13 lost, as I did a couple of times. They had to come and
14 find me by searching the woods. I was told not to be so
15 stupid and not to get lost again.

16 'There was a TV room next the wee bit of the
17 corridor where some of us hung about and smoked. We
18 could open the fire escape and open the door, so that
19 allowed us to smoke in a wee tunnel-type of thing. The
20 staff would have a fag with us. Sometimes the places we
21 could hang about in our spare time were supervised by
22 staff, but a lot of time they weren't.

23 'We did do a lot of trips with outdoor education,
24 and we did orienteering, canoeing, abseiling and things
25 like that. It was a lot of physical stuff. I think we

1 did it at least once a week, usually on a Friday
2 morning, but we could do it twice a week, depending on
3 the weather, transport and staff availability. Two or
4 three staff would go and it would probably be about half
5 the boys, on these trips.

6 'I can't remember any other trips, but I think we
7 went to Aviemore for a holiday. I was a teenager then
8 and there was at least one minibus full of us. I can't
9 remember specifically, but it was three or four members
10 of staff that went with us. We stayed at Badaguish
11 Camp, which has log cabins. It was good. There was
12 bother on that holiday, but not with the staff. It was
13 between the boys and involved them taking solvents and
14 stuff like that.

15 'The classrooms were situated in a separate
16 building. One classroom was in a building attached to
17 the big building. In a wee courtyard the woodwork was in
18 a separate building and painting and decorating was down
19 the stairs from that. It was down a wee ramp, the way
20 it was built into the hill.

21 'On the other side, you had science, maths, English,
22 and subjects like that. There was also the wee gym.

23 'A typical school day was you being in there until
24 lunchtime. I think it was two classes, with the first
25 finishing mid-morning and then you would have a break

1 and either continue with that class or go to another
2 one, before going to lunch in the dining hall.

3 'After lunch, you moved back to classes until about
4 4 o'clock. I don't think we got much of an education.
5 We didn't really do much. We were sat down in
6 a classroom, but we didn't get made to do anything. As
7 long as we were sat there, I suppose we were doing what
8 they want us to.

9 'Some of the teachers did try to teach us.
10 I enjoyed woodwork, painting and decorating and science.
11 I think I found these classes therapeutic and the
12 teachers were good. The teachers were all right with
13 us. I didn't sit any exams at Ballikinrain, and there
14 wasn't any opportunity to sit any.

15 'We were all at an age when we were trying out
16 smoking, glue sniffing and drugs. There wasn't any
17 education to try to steer us away from that sort of
18 stuff. It would have been difficult, because there were
19 some staff who smoked with us.

20 'There wasn't any sick bay. So, if you didn't feel
21 well, you would be told to go and lie on your bed.
22 I know there was a medicine cabinet, with things like
23 plasters and ointments. I don't remember being
24 significantly unwell, however I got my knee burst and
25 had to go to the doctor down in Fintry. They stitched

1 my knee cap up. If you needed a dentist, you would go
2 to the local one.

3 'One of the ministers would come to our assembly on
4 a Friday and we would have to sing a couple of hymns.
5 I think maybe we had to mop up some floors in the
6 corridor, but I think it was whoever was in the most
7 trouble that day who was told to do it. There was
8 probably a bit of discipline involved in that.

9 'We did get pocket money, which was probably about
10 a fiver every Friday, when we left.

11 'Birthdays were celebrated with a wee cake, but no
12 presents that I remember. I can't remember if we went
13 home at Christmas.

14 'I know not everyone would go home because some boys
15 just didn't have parents or parents who were capable of
16 looking after them.

17 'It was open over Christmas. I think we got
18 a selection box after the hymns by the choir in the
19 assembly hall. The kitchen staff were always good, so
20 I'm sure we would have got Christmas dinner.

21 'Any valuables, personal possessions, were kept by
22 the staff. Valuables were kept locked away, things like
23 my Walkman I could keep in my room, but staff would
24 probably want me to give to it them, so it didn't get
25 damaged or stolen. We did have a wee dresser with four

1 drawers in it beside our bed, and I think on the other
2 side there was a wee cabinet with a door, but they
3 weren't locked. I kept nothing in them, other than
4 a toothbrush.

5 'I didn't wet the bed, but there was one or two boys
6 who did, because I can remember them getting ridiculed
7 for it. Most of the staff were all right about it, but
8 a few of the them were less sympathetic and were good at
9 telling people, calling them names and stuff like that.
10 He liked to think he was one of the boys and show off to
11 us.

12 'A lot of stuff happened early on in my arrival and
13 that made me keep my back to the wall, try not to make
14 any shit. So I would try not to get in to fights or
15 arguments with the other boys. There were always groups
16 of boys and tiers, and there would have been a top
17 tier.'

18 LADY SMITH: I think you said -- just to go back -- 'try not
19 to take any shit', which made better sense. Yes, 'not
20 to take any shit'.

21 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady:

22 '... tried not to take any shit, so would try not to
23 get into fights or arguments with other boys. There was
24 always groups of boys in tiers and a particular boy
25 would have been in the top tier of the bottom flat and

1 an another guy was the top of the top flat.

2 A particular boy was the most dominant.

3 'I am not going to deny I was cheeky to the staff.
4 I know what I was like and I did push the buttons, but
5 every boy did. I suppose if you have 50 or so boys and
6 six staff to look after them, the staff are going to get
7 pissed off. I can understand why some of them lashed
8 out or went a bit too far with their punishments. It
9 couldn't have been easy spending a day with 50 boys
10 pushing their buttons.

11 'Other staff would know about the boys, being made
12 to box each other. They might not have been every time,
13 but they would have seen it at some point. They all
14 knew about the pokes and prods we got from GOU .
15 I don't know if it was just his way. I don't know if he
16 meant it maliciously or aggressively, but he did do it.
17 It was part of being there and staff didn't hide how
18 they behaved towards us. I wouldn't say the staff were
19 vindictive or spiteful, I just think that sometimes it
20 would get too much for them to deal with. That was just
21 the way it was back then. You didn't get touchy-feely.
22 It wasn't all pillows, cuddles and candyfloss. I didn't
23 get the impression the staff were well trained, as they
24 all had their own way to treat and punish the boys.
25 There were procedures, but they didn't bother to follow

1 them and just did it their own way.

2 'I know some of them would take a big drink at
3 night, because you could still smell it in the morning.

4 'I can only remember sitting down with Ann Woodhead
5 twice in the four years I was there. Those were times
6 I would be in the headmaster's office with my social
7 worker and my mum. I didn't feel I could go to Ann
8 because it was a different culture there. You could get
9 picked on for doing that and you would get bullied.

10 'It was a big culture switch from Craigerne. I know
11 some boys were there through neglect, because you could
12 tell with some of them, as they were boys who had been
13 badly self-harming and that doesn't come from a good
14 place. There was probably some sort of chat with me
15 after a couple of months to see how I was getting on,
16 but I can't remember it.

17 'I would have been 13 when I started buzzing
18 solvents or glue at Ballikinrain. I am sure the staff
19 probably saw us. I progressed to tamazepam and jellies
20 and I was able to get them off one of the boys who
21 brought them in. Staff were aware of that, because
22 I can remember the person being told to stop bringing
23 drugs in. I don't remember which member of staff warned
24 him.

25 'I think it was parents or guardians who could

1 authorise a boy to be allowed to smoke at Ballikinrain.
2 You could smoke from 14 years or older. You could smoke
3 in an area near the TV room and staff would come and
4 smoke with us. You could take your cigarettes in on
5 a Monday and staff would hold them and give them out.
6 My mum would make sure she would give me 20 or 10 on
7 a Monday and would give me a pound note in the back of
8 a packet to get another 20 or another 10 when we went
9 through the week with the staff. It was probably five
10 smoke breaks a day, but you could go and have another
11 one when you wanted, provided you had cigarettes. You
12 were not meant to carry your own, but we did.

13 'I am pretty sure there were people who came into
14 inspect the place. Periodically people came round and
15 I can remember people who worked in there would
16 introduce them and say, "This is my boss", kind of
17 thing. I think one of them spoke to me at least once,
18 although I don't remember anything about it.

19 'I got home every weekend and would be dropped off
20 in Glasgow, where I would meet someone from the family
21 or a friend and I would make my own way home. You would
22 have to meet the staff back again on the Sunday.
23 I can't remember if I got weekend home leave straight
24 away or not, but eventually, not long before I left,
25 I got to be a day boy, where I was going home after

1 school. I think this was because I stayed so close, so
2 I would get a taxi there and back with another boy.
3 I also think this was to try and get me integrated back
4 into home life, away from the residential school.

5 'Eventually, my support worker would pick me up on
6 a Friday and we would go away and play a game of golf or
7 something like that. Then he would drop me off back
8 home. His name was Andy Martin and I think he was
9 employed by East Dunbartonshire Council, rather than
10 social work. He was quite an important guy in my life
11 back then and was someone I could look up to. I am not
12 sure if he had any link with the school, but perhaps he
13 linked in more with social work.

14 'I did run away and made my way over the Campsies to
15 Kirkintilloch. I think I had a fall out with somebody
16 or someone was picking on me, so I thought, "Fuck it,
17 I'm away", and left on my own. I think I left in the
18 afternoon. I think they counted heads at lunch time,
19 dinner time and bedtime, so that gave you a couple of
20 hours. You could disappear.

21 'I got picked up about a quarter of the way back to
22 Kirkintilloch. I was kind of conspicuous, as one wee
23 guy walking along a country road himself, hiding behind
24 walls if anything was coming. One of the staff picked
25 me up and, when I got back, I was told no to do it

1 again. I would have been kept under a watchful eye for
2 a couple of days and not allowed to go out and roam.
3 I was asked by staff why I ran away. But it was like,
4 "What the fuck did you do that for? Don't be stupid.
5 Do you know how dangerous that could have been for you?"
6 I'm sure they were worried, but maybe because I got
7 lost, they might have got into trouble.

8 'Staff didn't seem concerned about our welfare. It
9 didn't feel like they were. However, with hindsight,
10 I am sure they were concerned about us. Ann did try,
11 but she was busy. I am not saying she wasn't doing her
12 job. I think she just had a few boys on her caseload,
13 although I couldn't say how many.

14 'There would have been an annual review with my
15 social worker, although I can only remember one of them
16 happening. It was my mum, social worker, and headmaster
17 in the office talking, but I wasn't paying attention, to
18 be honest. I would be happy my mum was there, though.

19 'When my mum came for this, she would go to
20 reception and I would be sent for. She would have gone
21 into the headmaster's office and probably had a chat
22 before I arrived. I think I would have been told to
23 take my mum to show her the classes or something like
24 that.

25 'I wasn't aware of the plan for me in Ballikinrain,

1 unlike I was in Craigerne. I just knew I had to go to
2 another school. Maybe when I was admitted there might
3 have been a chat in the headmaster's office, but I don't
4 remember it, or maybe when my mum was at a meeting.
5 I don't have any memory of being aware of the plan for
6 me, but that doesn't mean it wasn't there, and I just
7 haven't logged it in my mind.

8 'I suppose it was difficult for me to sit in
9 meetings and take in what the adults were talking about.
10 I don't think things were geared at my level at these
11 meetings, but the social worker would do their best to
12 try to explain what the situation was and they wouldn't
13 go into technical terms because I wouldn't understand
14 them anyway. So it would be like, "You need to go to
15 this school, you need to behave, and that is what will
16 get you back to your Ma", things like that.

17 'Discipline depended on who was on duty, the longer
18 you were there you learned not to misbehave in front of
19 certain staff. I remember being told basic guidelines
20 about where you can go, where you can't go, but not: you
21 will get punished if you do this or that.

22 'There were no video cameras or anything when I was
23 that age, so nothing was recorded. I don't think they
24 wrote down details of any day-to-day punishments you
25 got, but if it was something serious that merited it

1 getting put in the file, they would record it.

2 'I am not aware of there being any cells or places
3 that you could be put if you did anything serious, but
4 they would put you out in the corridor if they
5 restrained you. That would get you out of the way of
6 everybody else and remove you from the group.

7 'Not long after I arrived at Ballikinrain and before
8 I had found my feet, two of the boys took me into one of
9 the rooms in the bottom flat. They just said to me to
10 go into the room with them. I didn't expect anything
11 and went in willingly. I had no preconceptions anything
12 was going to happen. It was the second room past the TV
13 room and across from the pool table. They got me to sit
14 in between them and masturbate the two of them.

15 'There were quite a few boys around, but they were
16 outside the room playing at the pool and table tennis
17 tables in the main hall. I did it because I didn't know
18 any better. I was 12 years old and I hadn't had any sex
19 education or biology or anything like that because I had
20 been taken out of mainstream schooling in Primary one.
21 I didn't know it was wrong at the time. I had heard the
22 term "wanker", but I didn't know what it was about
23 because I didn't have any experience of it.

24 'It was one night, one of the staff said it was wank
25 time and I caught one of the guys doing it. I asked him

1 something like, "What the fuck are you doing?", and he
2 told me he was having a wank. I just didn't have
3 a clue.

4 'The second time it happened I kind of had a feeling
5 I shouldn't have been doing it. It was a couple of days
6 later and it was in a different room. It was my
7 bedroom, which was the end room, and I was already in
8 there. I had a window looking out onto the side of the
9 building. The two of them got me to masturbate them
10 before they pushed me on to the bed and one of them
11 tried to have sex with me, but they didn't succeed.

12 'When they pushed me on to the bed, I kind of lifted
13 my legs up to my chest and I was all tensed up. One of
14 them tried to penetrate me anally, but it didn't work
15 and I let out a scream. The two of them jumped over to
16 the door. The two of them had their penises out, so
17 I couldn't tell which one it was, but I had a wet smudge
18 across my arse cheek.

19 'These were the only experiences I had involving
20 sexual contact. I don't know if they targeted anyone
21 else. It was a very frightening experience. They
22 threatened me about two days afterwards, that if I told
23 anyone they would take me and leave me down the woods.
24 I had already been lost in the woods, so I shat myself.
25 It was a real fear that they would take me there and no

1 one would find me. After that I was totally paranoid,
2 but they never came near me again.

3 'I don't know if the staff knew about the two boys,
4 but there was a kind of open joke that one of them was
5 having sex with the other. It was said in front of
6 staff, so everyone knew. Staff must have had
7 an awareness of the relationship between them.

8 'I think after they sexually abused me my behaviour
9 changed. I would be much more wary of people, so
10 wouldn't trust them or allow them to get close to me.
11 It is hard to say if staff should have picked up on that
12 because I don't know if I would have noticed it with
13 someone else. I guess I was just new there, so they
14 didn't know me anyway.

15 'I was always kind of small and later in my
16 development than the rest of the boys. One of the care
17 staff, called HHZ, used to pick on me quite
18 a lot. He would steal my towel when I was in the shower
19 and things like that, and then shout "stumpy" and things
20 like that at me while pointing at me. It was always
21 derogatory names about the late development of my
22 genitals. He would then get all the boys to ridicule
23 me, which was really hard to deal with. They thought it
24 was hilarious. It felt to me like it was happening all
25 the time, but it probably wasn't. I don't want to say

1 anything that isn't accurate. But, to me, it felt it
2 happened all the time, even if it didn't. I was
3 basically getting bullied for not having developed
4 private parts like the other boys did. It was totally
5 humiliating and made me feel ashamed. It also left me
6 feeling isolated and a bit scared as well. It certainly
7 made me vulnerable and probably made me vulnerable to
8 the other boys. I wasn't big enough to do anything
9 about it, although I probably did give HHZ
10 a piece of my mind every now and again. But it was just
11 words and would just bounce off him.

12 'I think once I threw a bucket at him in the shower
13 room because I was really angry and blew up at him.
14 Sometimes you would get a slap over the head or arse, or
15 a kick up the arse. I knew that wouldn't be in the
16 official handbook about what they could do to us. It
17 was HHZ who would mainly do this and he would
18 also twist your arm sometimes. It was mainly HHZ who
19 would be quite physical and I think he just wanted to
20 humiliate you. He wanted us all to know he was stronger
21 and bigger than all of us. He would do it openly, when
22 other people were around, so it was accepted behaviour.
23 In fact, I would say expected behaviour. All the boys
24 experienced this kind of behaviour from him.

25 'It was random. You could never really tell when it

1 would happen and I think it would depend on what was
2 going on in their personal lives how he and other staff
3 would behave with us.

4 'I think that also influenced how short their temper
5 could be. I noticed HHZ temper getting really short
6 and someone said he was having problems with his missus.
7 It was something about her not being able to have weans
8 and it was going round the school. He got really pissed
9 off and it was that sort of thing that influenced how
10 staff could behave.

11 'GOU, who was one of the care staff, had
12 a bit of a taste for punishment. He used to put a dot
13 on the wall with a pen and tell us to stand two paces
14 away with our head on the wall and watch the pen mark.
15 There was so many pen marks because he had done this so
16 many times. He would come and slap you over the back of
17 the head, even if you had kept watching it. He would
18 say something along the lines of, "I fucking told you to
19 watch the spot", and he would point to one of them.

20 'You couldn't keep an eye on the dot anyway because
21 it was out of focus. My back would be killing me.
22 I know it happened to me, but I am pretty sure it
23 happened to others, as I could see from the smoking
24 tunnel.

25 'Another thing GOU would do was get us to stand with

1 our back against the walls, our heels against the
2 skirting boards, and sit right down so our legs would
3 burn, because it was painful to hold that position for
4 any length of time. It was agony. Our legs would be on
5 fire and you would get cramp. It was like he was trying
6 to get us to sit on our haunches. You had to hold that
7 position until he told to you to move. Sometimes it
8 would seem we were standing there for between 20 minutes
9 and an hour and it might only have been five minutes.
10 Time is not the same when you are a kid. It seems like
11 an eternity sitting like that.

12 'GOU had told us he was a third Dan in Taekwondo,
13 and he used to poke and prod us, making us curl up on
14 the floor with pain. He would squeeze the soft tissue
15 at our necks, near our collarbone, the trapezius muscle,
16 the tendon at the back of your leg, armpit and ribs.
17 Some of the stuff would give you shocks. I think they
18 were pressure points. It would disable you and you
19 can't stand up to someone squeezing those areas because
20 it is too sore.

21 'He would also bend your wrists and thumbs, too. I
22 think he would put you in what they called "three locks"
23 or something like that. I know they do it in jail as
24 well, when they would be restraining you. He would do
25 this stuff when we were misbehaving or pissing him off.

1 It would be if we were boisterous or taking things too
2 far, kidding on, dummy fighting. I suppose just being
3 annoying.

4 'I think this behaviour was a bit extreme,
5 especially with the size of him as well. If he had
6 kicked us up the arse it would have been more
7 appropriate. He was probably 6-foot or that is what
8 I think, as he seemed big to me at the time. He was
9 about 14 stone. He was a big guy. Sometimes he did
10 this stuff like he was carrying on, but it wasn't
11 pleasant at all to the person who was getting it, so we
12 all knew how painful it was for the guy on the floor.

13 'GOU told us he used to be in the police and he used
14 to tell horror stories and things like that. It was
15 hard to judge his age because he had a full beard, but
16 I would say he was maybe in his mid-40s.

17 'I think he told us all these things to make us
18 afraid of him, but that doesn't work when you have
19 behavioural issues. I felt like picking up a big stick
20 and whacking him over the head with it, but I never did.
21 There was no point, as I wasn't big enough to do it and
22 I couldn't have lifted a big enough stick anyway.

23 'When he was around you had to be careful about
24 misbehaving and not get caught. He used fear to control
25 us. If you had a disagreement with someone, some staff

1 would tell you you had to get boxing gloves on and fight
2 them in the gym. That wasn't any fun, because I was
3 very small. I had to do this three or four times in the
4 time I was in Ballikinrain.

5 'The first time was just after I was there
6 six months and I was shitting myself. I was well
7 skelped. You couldn't refuse because you were in a male
8 group, dominant and macho kind of thing, and I would
9 rather take a black eye than a red neck, if you know
10 what I mean, especially when you were starting from the
11 bottom of the totem pole. It was not easy. Other boys
12 had to do this as well and everybody was invited to
13 watch. They would sometimes do it in the main hall.
14 There would usually only be one member of staff there,
15 or maybe two. It was usually HHZ that made the
16 boys fight, but all the staff were aware.

17 'It is hard to judge what age HHZ was because he
18 was a fitness fanatic. He was a really big build and
19 obviously trained in the gym a lot. I would say he
20 would have been in his late 30s when I first got there.
21 He did look young, but I think he was older than he
22 looked.

23 'IGD was the outdoor education teacher.
24 He would take us hillwalking, gorge walking, abseiling,
25 rock climbing and stuff like that. If you gave him any

1 cheek, he had a big bit of rope which was really thick
2 with a big knot on the end of it and he used to whack
3 you over the head with it. He would also make you jump
4 in a great peat bog when you had all your gear on. He
5 would make you walk about for the rest of the day and
6 call you a dipstick.

7 'This all started not long after I went to
8 Ballikinrain and I was still finding my feet and
9 learning my boundaries. I hadn't worked out how much
10 cheek I could give staff and I was probably pushing the
11 buttons, too. It was agony to jump into the peat bog
12 because it would be freezing. It didn't happen in
13 winter when it was snowing or anything like that. It
14 was probably in the autumn. He didn't put anyone's life
15 at risk or anything like that. But he would certainly
16 give out a good punishment and show you up. It was
17 horrible having to walk about wet all day.

18 'He wouldn't have given any support. They didn't do
19 that sort of stuff in those days. They didn't do soft
20 and cuddly. You were more likely to get a kick up the
21 arse or a clip round the ear and told to get on with it.

22 'You could get changed when you got back to the van
23 and we were either out all day or a half day. I don't
24 want to be unfair and single out the staff I have
25 mentioned. All the staff had their own way of dealing

1 with punishments and the boys behaviour. It felt
2 extreme because I was a kid at the time. I think,
3 looking back, it was seen as acceptable at the time,
4 even if now it isn't. I don't think it was malicious
5 but, it felt that way when I was young.

6 'I don't want to make out I was persecuted, as all
7 the boys were treated pretty much the same.

8 'I never told anybody about the sexual abuse by the
9 two boys. I was too embarrassed, ashamed and
10 frightened. I haven't reported anything else. This is
11 the first time I have spoken about it.

12 'I left Ballikinrain because I was 16 and I went to
13 my mum's for a while. After about six months I went to
14 live with my aunt, as my mum kicked me out because she
15 couldn't take it anymore and I am not surprised.

16 'My aunt stayed in Lenzie and I think they thought
17 my big cousins would be a deterrent for my behaviour,
18 but they weren't. I fought with them when I was taking
19 drugs and stuff like that and I wasn't scared of them.

20 'I went to Glasgow Juvenile Court and the judge
21 asked I get sent back to the Panel to get me taken off
22 the supervision, so he could sentence me. They sent me
23 back and the supervision was removed.

24 'I thought it was great to be leaving Ballikinrain
25 and I felt relieved, but I didn't realise I was going to

1 young offenders, which is a young jail.

2 'I went back to court after the supervision was
3 removed and got two years probation, I think. I had to
4 be of good behaviour and report if any of my
5 circumstances changed. I was involved with the Criminal
6 Justice Team quite a lot. I was still 16 when I got my
7 first remand and was sent to Longriggend.'

8 Between paragraphs 129 and 133, the witness speaks
9 about his time in Longriggend.

10 I will now move to the part of the statement where
11 the witness speaks about his life after care, at
12 paragraph 133:

13 'I did work in the local community centre, making
14 meals for pensioners at lunchtime, who would go to the
15 bowling club. I also had a job working in the kitchen
16 of a nursing home. I ended up in Lowmoss, Barlinnie and
17 Saughton after I reached 21. That went on until I was
18 about 32.

19 'It was mainly petty theft and dishonesty. It was
20 things to fund my drug habit. I had started taking most
21 drugs which I think helped me cope with my emotions and
22 stuff like, stuff I didn't want to deal with in real
23 life, which included the stuff that happened in
24 Ballikinrain.

25 'I don't drink alcohol anymore. But my first

1 experience was as a really young kid, aged six or
2 seven.'.

3 I now move on to the final section of the statement,
4 where the witness speaks about the impact of his time in
5 care, at paragraph 139:

6 'I was always very small and late in my development
7 ... I have read a bit into this. I question if this is
8 caused by childhood trauma from getting taken into care,
9 especially the way it happened, which was traumatic for
10 me. I didn't take drugs until I moved to Ballikinrain,
11 but I may have ended up taking them anyway, even if I
12 had not gone there. Knowing my personality and
13 psychological makeup, I reckon I would have still been
14 drawn to it.'.

15 And at paragraph 143:

16 'I have never told anyone about what life was like
17 in the homes. But, over the years, a few pals have
18 asked me what it was like, just in the same way they ask
19 what it was like in jail. I tell them it was tough, not
20 easy. I haven't gone into specifics or gone into any
21 personal information.'

22 At paragraph 146, the witness says:

23 'I think that had I not been in care I would have
24 had a much better education. I would have had a normal
25 education or at least had an education. I would say

1 I got no education in Ballikinrain. There was effort
2 put in as there were classes put on, but there wasn't
3 any great incentive for someone who had the lack of
4 attention and behavioural problems that I did. There
5 was nothing like the incentive I had at Craigerne at
6 Ballikinrain. If there had been, it would have been
7 difficult to say if it would have made a difference,
8 though it was a totally different environment.'

9 At paragraph 156, the witness says he has never
10 reported any of the abuse.

11 I move on to the section headed 'Lessons to be
12 learned', at paragraph 162:

13 'I think there needs to be closer supervision of
14 children in care and by that I mean being able to form
15 an actual relationship with a child, rather than just
16 an official face. As far as I was concerned, it was
17 just another social worker or another arsehole telling
18 me what to do, what I couldn't do, and stopping me from
19 doing the things that I wanted to do.'.

20 Paragraph 165, the witness says:

21 'I think there has to be more oversight as well,
22 meaning more involvement from people above the hands-on
23 staff. There needs to be more accountability.

24 'They need to get the right people. You can read
25 all you want about addiction, but unless you have been

1 an addict yourself you have no idea what they are
2 feeling. You need to have people with life experience
3 because without that you can sympathise, but you can't
4 empathise.

5 'I would guess the staff need more support. I think
6 they need to take care they don't over stress the staff
7 because they are still human as well. I appreciate that
8 now, but I didn't in the past.

9 'I think in my day they were very short staffed and
10 overworked. They could have been doing with more care
11 staff. I think they also need to have someone they can
12 talk to if they are having a particularly stressful
13 week.'

14 At paragraph 169, he says:

15 'I think the staff should have a good salary,
16 because basically they are surrogate parents for so many
17 other kids that no one else might be taking an interest
18 in. People who will have a genuine understanding of
19 what they need to do to help kids and who will hopefully
20 set good examples. If they get it right, maybe these
21 kids could have a future and they could potentially be
22 the next generation of care workers.'

23 And in the final paragraph of the statement, the
24 witness stays:

25 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 'Paul' signed the statement on 22 September 2022.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Now, if we have a short
6 break now, is it possible to fit in another read-in
7 after the break?

8 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. But, before I rise, names this
10 afternoon so far, that's the names of people whose
11 identity is protected by my General Restriction Order,
12 are GOU [REDACTED], HTH [REDACTED], HHZ [REDACTED], and also
13 a boy, [REDACTED]. Their identities mustn't be
14 disclosed outside this room.

15 (3.35 pm)

16 (A short break)

17 (3.46 pm)

18 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

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

20 She wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
21 'Inde', I-N-D-E, as a pseudonym.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Inde' (read)

24 MR MACAULAY: Her statement is WIT-1-000001262.

25 Now, 'Inde' was born in 1961. She begins by telling

1 us about her life before going into care. She had
2 an older brother and a younger sister.

3 At paragraph 3:

4 'I lived with my parents and my brother before my
5 sister was born, but I don't really remember anything.
6 I was there until I was 4. I know my mum took my
7 brother away and left me in the house myself. She would
8 come backwards and forwards.'

9 Moving on to paragraph 7, she went into care at
10 Quarriers when she was 4:

11 'I know I had a foster mother, too. I really can't
12 remember the timing of things. I know that it was 1965
13 when I first went into care and I was there until 1973.'

14 So that's about eight years.

15 LADY SMITH: So she was quite young when she first went into
16 care.

17 MR MACAULAY: Yes, she went to Quarriers.

18 LADY SMITH: Yes.

19 MR MACAULAY: Can I say, this is one of the cases where the
20 statement postdates the Quarriers study, so it will have
21 to be picked up in due course.

22 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes, thank you.

23 MR MACAULAY: So she talks about Quarriers in the following
24 paragraphs. If I can move on to paragraph 25:

25 'My dad came and got me because him and my mum had

1 got back together. I am not sure what age I was, but
2 I think I was still primary school age.'

3 She went to a primary school in Paisley. She then
4 talks about life being back at home.

5 At paragraph 30, she says:

6 'I started running away when I was about 12 or 13.
7 I used to sleep rough in the streets. I would rather
8 have done that than stay with my parents. I used to run
9 away to my mum's sister-in-law's house.'

10 Then she talks about having to appear before the
11 Children's Panel. At 32:

12 'The Panel asked me some questions, but they never
13 did what I thought was best. They decided that I was
14 out of parental control. I can't remember being asked
15 what I wanted to happen. I didn't realise that I was
16 going to be put into care.'

17 She is put into a home in South Lanarkshire and
18 I think for about a year or so. This is 1973. She
19 talks about that in the following paragraphs.

20 If I go back to paragraph 46, she talks about life
21 after being back at home and an incident that involved
22 her taking an overdose of tablets and being prompted to
23 do so by her mother -- this is what she says -- with the
24 result that she is back in care -- she talks about that
25 in paragraph 50 -- in a home in Glasgow.

1 If I go on to paragraph 55, she is moved from there
2 to the Good Shepherd establishment, and again that is
3 part of the case study, but in another chapter.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MR MACAULAY: So if I move on to paragraph 62, she says:

6 'I was in the Good Shepherd for about a year.
7 I started running away again. I wasn't doing anything
8 bad. I went back to my parents. When I was 14, I ran
9 away and I never went back to the Good Shepherd. I was
10 never dismissed from the Good Shepherd or any of the
11 other places I stayed.'

12 Then she talks about being back at home and, in
13 particular, being badly treated by her father. That's
14 paragraphs 64, 65 and 66, with the result that she says,
15 at 67:

16 'I used to sleep in a close off Canal Street, in
17 Paisley. I had a few places. I am terrified of
18 spiders, so I don't know how I managed to do it.
19 I can't imagine myself sleeping outside now. It was
20 like survival. I was almost feral when I look back.'

21 Then she is back before the Children's Panel.
22 Looking to the timescale, this is probably about 1976,
23 when she may have been 15.

24 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm, yes.

25 MR MACAULAY: She was taken by a social worker to

1 Langlands Park:

2 'It was a residential secure unit. The social
3 worker told me I was being taken for a look around, but
4 of course I was left there. One of the girls there
5 opened the door and spoke to me. I kicked off, but
6 I didn't get upset because I didn't want to embarrass
7 myself in front of the other lassies. There were
8 lassies with addiction issues, like glue, in there.
9 I hadn't really done anything apart from running away to
10 be in there. The uniform was a shirt with a pleated
11 skirt. The shirt was a white blouse. It had wee cars
12 all over it.'

13 And then at 76, she says:

14 'I didn't have contact with my parents during this
15 time. I used to write letters to my sister sometimes.
16 My dad would try to open the letters, but my mum told
17 him that he could go to jail because it was the Royal
18 Mail. I always kept in touch with my sister and I was
19 always trying to keep her safe. I used to go in between
20 her and my dad. Rather than her getting it, I would
21 take it.'

22 Now, she goes on the run. I should go back,
23 actually. I missed a page, page 15, at 69:

24 'They used to get me up in the morning and make me
25 scrub floors before breakfast. That's what we did.'

1 LADY SMITH: So this is Langlands Park?

2 MR MACAULAY: This is Langlands Park, yes. I jumped a page:

3 'Recently I met a girl who said she had bad knees
4 from scrubbing the floors. I didn't like it because
5 there was always a threat of violence there. SNR

6 SNR was really strict. I think his name was
7 MSH and he was Welsh. There was a fear he was going
8 to batter you with a cane. He had assembly. It was
9 long. He did that to other girls. I think one of the
10 lassies had sniffed glue. I hated it there. It was
11 terrifying.'

12 She goes on to say that while she was there she did
13 meals on wheels.

14 At 72:

15 'I didn't realise it was a secure unit until later.
16 They locked the doors. Some of the staff were okay,
17 they would take you for a walk to the cemetery or give
18 you a cigarette to have at the cemetery. They would
19 come in with a tin of cigarettes and it would have your
20 name on the side of the fag. You would get three fags
21 a day.

22 'I was left in there a lot myself at the weekends.
23 I used to sit in the hall with the record player on.
24 I would listen to the Cliff Richard song 'The Next Time'
25 and think the next time I run away, but the staff didn't

1 know that. I was running away all the time. I put
2 myself at risk so many times. Someone came from the
3 Daily Record to see what it was like at Langlands Park.
4 They took our photos for some reason.

5 There was a wee flat in there that could you go in
6 and learn how to do stuff. They moved me up to the flat
7 because I was well behaved for a while. The threat of
8 being punished was always there. I didn't give myself
9 a chance to get to know people. I maybe shouldn't have
10 run away so much, I just thought I was protecting myself
11 at the time. No one ever asked me why I wanted to sleep
12 on the street rather than be at home or in care.'

13 And then at 77 she talks about leaving
14 Langlands Park:

15 'I went on the run for nine months when I was 15.
16 By that time I had met my son's dad. He was 16. We had
17 been pals when we were younger.

18 'At 79 she says:

19 'I didn't go back to Langlands Park but I was put on
20 probation. I got engaged a few days before my 16th
21 birthday. My dad tried to stop it but I knew it was the
22 only way I could get out of the house. I think I jumped
23 out of the frying pan and into the fire but it was the
24 only way out at the time.'

25 And then under the heading 'Life after being in

1 care' she says:

2 'I was six months married, and three months pregnant
3 when I went back to my parents. My husband was going
4 out and cheating on me and I decided to leave.'

5 I think when it says 'My son's dad' I wonder if
6 that's 'My husband's dad' because the son is clearly
7 a little baby.

8 LADY SMITH: Well, initially he wasn't born, so it could be
9 her husband; 'My husband was going out and cheating on
10 me'.

11 MR MACAULAY: 'I decided to to leave my son's dad ... my
12 son's dad emotionally blackmailed me to go back, so
13 I went back. I got married before I turned 18. I only
14 stayed with her parents for a short time.'

15 I suspect it is an adult rather than the son.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR MACAULAY: At 83 and 84 she talks about her relationship
18 with her son, and how he was put into foster care. And
19 at 84 she says:

20 "I got my son back when he was about 11. I missed
21 a lot of years with him and important things like him
22 starting school. Sometimes he mentions being in foster
23 care and it brings it back and it is hard to hear.'

24 And then at 86 she says:

25 'I worked as a social care worker for 14 years.

1 I started working voluntarily, working in the children's
2 hospital in Birmingham. When I worked as a social care
3 worker with disabled people my dad used to say 'How can
4 she do that job?' I worked with the elderly in care
5 homes. I loved all the residents and the staff. None
6 of my employers knew that I was going through a court
7 case when I was trying to get my son back. I always
8 tried to keep my personal and work life separate.'

9 And then she mentions a health problem, and then at
10 89 she says:

11 'One day, about 20 years ago, I was visiting my
12 parents and my dad said 'I don't know how 'Inde' can
13 still speak to us after all we did to her'. My mum said
14 she hadn't done anything, but she did, because she knew
15 what he was doing to me. I don't even feel related to
16 my brother and sister.'

17 And she says at 91:

18 'I just wanted them to love me. Even when I was
19 older, I wanted them to show me a little something.
20 I think it was their guilt that kept them away from me.
21 My mum used to always say she felt really guilty.
22 I used to visit my dad when he was old. He lived in
23 a pigsty and I cleaned all his house. My counsellor
24 told me that I wasn't seeing him as an abuser, I was
25 only seeing an old person, and it was the caring side of

1 me.'

2 And then 'impact', she says:

3 'My experiences still have an effect on my life.
4 I don't like being around a lot of people. I wouldn't
5 say I have friends. I have acquaintances. I don't
6 think I have made any close bonds with anyone. I think
7 that's because I didn't stay around long enough. I have
8 a housemate. She was a good support to me when I was
9 ill. I resent people and think why did you have a happy
10 childhood? I used to watch pals with their dads and
11 think how lucky they were. I didn't have that kind of
12 relationship or chance to be. Nobody said 'Stop moving
13 her about'. It was unfamiliar circumstances everywhere
14 I went.

15 My son's life was a bit up and down and it spoiled
16 my relationship with him for a few years. I have
17 a brilliant relationship with my son now and my
18 grandchildren. They are my life. I always felt guilty.
19 He doesn't know any of this. I have thought about
20 explaining everything to him. I tried my best. I was
21 so desperate to get away from my home life that I went
22 into another situation.'

23 And at 97 she was told by a doctor that she suffered
24 from complex trauma, and then at 98:

25 'I think I have always had a problem with trust

1 because I was never able to trust anyone when I was
2 young. It was all female social workers and I think
3 they were taken in by my dad. They sat in the house and
4 chatted. It was as if they were visiting my dad. They
5 didn't pay attention to what was happening in the house.
6 They never took you to a different room to speak to
7 them. I didn't have the opportunity to speak to anyone
8 in the house in private. I think he manipulated
9 everyone, even the police. He was able to convince them
10 that no harm would come to me but I was telling the
11 police that he would leather me.'

12 And at 100:

13 'I think about my time in care sometimes if I am
14 speaking with someone. It triggers memories, especially
15 when you see other people and watch other people's
16 relationships. I tried my best to have a closeness with
17 my own family, but it was like banging my head off
18 a brick wall.'

19 And at 102:

20 'I don't have one picture of me when I was young.
21 It is horrible not having photographs of myself.
22 I would love to know if my grandchildren look like me
23 with when I was young. I want to make memories with my
24 grandchildren. I don't have those memories with my mum
25 and dad. It was rubbish and they were rubbish parents.'

1 And finally, my Lady, if I can turn to
2 paragraph 108, under heading 'lessons to be learned':

3 'I think people in those roles have to pick up on
4 things that something is wrong with a child. If someone
5 had done that with me all those years ago then I might
6 have done something more meaningful with my life.
7 I think it's important to listen and to pay attention to
8 the children. If a child is doing something disruptive,
9 it is normally because they are trying to get something
10 out. People didn't listen to me. They weren't
11 interested. I tried in different ways to show them
12 something was wrong but it just didn't happen. I don't
13 think the children really mattered during my time.

14 I would like to get closure. I would like for
15 people to be aware that just because people have a label
16 as a social worker or a headmaster it doesn't make them
17 a nice person.'

18 She goes on to say:

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

23 And 'Inde' has signed the statement on 7 December,
24 2022.

25 And that's the end of the statement, my Lady.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, thank you.

2 MR MACAULAY: I am looking at the clock. There are four
3 read ins remaining.

4 LADY SMITH: I was just counting that. What's the plan?

5 MR MACAULAY: I think the plan would be, subject to your
6 Ladyship, we reckon they could be completed at 11 ish,
7 if we started tomorrow morning, perhaps the back of 11,
8 and then as your Ladyship is aware, Mrs Dickinson is
9 giving evidence, and I think she is has been made aware
10 that she might be a bit later in the day than otherwise
11 planned.

12 LADY SMITH: And that will give you adequate time to cover
13 her evidence, won't it?

14 MR MACAULAY: Oh, indeed.

15 LADY SMITH: Very well, I think we will do that.

16 A 10 o'clock start tomorrow, with a view to finishing
17 the read ins, and they are significant, they are all
18 important, and I don't want to fail to deal with them,
19 and then go on to Mrs Dickinson's evidence after that.

20 MR MACAULAY: Very well.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

22 (4.05 pm)

23 (the Inquiry adjourned until 10 am the following day)

24

25

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