

1

Thursday, 2 May, 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Now, today we turn to the last  
4 day of our hearings in this chapter of Phase 8, the one  
5 that's looking into the abuse of children in residential  
6 care, of young offenders and children, and of young  
7 people in need of care and protection. As you know, in  
8 this chapter we have been focusing particularly on the  
9 provision of such care by CrossReach.

10 Today, as we indicated yesterday, there will be some  
11 statements read in and then we will move to our last  
12 witness.

13 But, Ms MacLeod, I think you are ready to start the  
14 read-in of the final group of statements; is that  
15 correct?

16 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. That is correct.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of a witness who will use  
19 the pseudonym 'Liam' and his statement is to be found at  
20 WIT-1-000001241.

21 'Liam' (read)

22 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Liam'. I was born in 1983. My  
23 parents weren't married. I am an only child. Once my  
24 dad found out my mum was pregnant he disappeared. My  
25 mum told me a lie when I was younger and stayed my dad

1 was French. Later on, she told me he had died.

2 I believed that my whole childhood. My mum then got  
3 back in touch with my dad in 2013. It turned out he  
4 only lived ten minutes away and was Scottish.

5 'I don't remember being at school much when I was  
6 younger. If I was at school, I struggled. I struggled  
7 to interact with other children. I struggled to read  
8 and write and I couldn't really spell. I found it very  
9 hard to learn. I went to several schools, as I kept  
10 getting suspended because of my behaviour. The doctor  
11 diagnosed me as being hyperactive back then. This has  
12 been confirmed in my social work records and it states  
13 that the psychologist advised I was not to be told about  
14 this. I was really, really young. I was up to all  
15 sorts ... I wasn't given any treatment.

16 'It was quite hard. I was disruptive and I would  
17 make noises or get into fights with other children.  
18 I was biting other children. This started at nursery.

19 'I got a social worker assigned to me when I was  
20 about eight years old, but it was a bit too late. She  
21 would come into school and sit with me in class. She  
22 would take me to a quiet area and talk to me. I think  
23 she was trying to work out what my situation was. After  
24 that, I started going into care. It was just me and my  
25 mum at the time.

1           'I remember when I got my social worker. I think  
2           her name was Mrs White and she would come and take me  
3           out of class and spend time with me. I also remember  
4           a Mr Blackstock, who wasn't just put in the class for  
5           me, but he would help me and was such a good person.  
6           I think he was a child psychologist and a teacher. It  
7           was after my time with him I was sent to Ballikinrain  
8           School. I don't really know if I was diagnosed with  
9           anything, but something must have been there as I was  
10          sent to Ballikinrain. I had been put in foster care  
11          briefly before this.'

12           In paragraphs 1 to 17 of the statement, the witness  
13          speaks about his time in two separate foster placements.

14           Between paragraphs 18 and 21, he speaks of  
15          experiences being back in the family home.

16           I will read from paragraph 22 onwards, where he  
17          begins to describe his experiences at Ballikinrain:

18           'I was sent to Ballikinrain when I was about 9 years  
19          old, in 1993. I remember the year as that was the first  
20          year I had ever gone on holiday abroad. They took me to  
21          Spain. I think I left in [REDACTED] 1994. I was  
22          there for 11 months.

23           'It was a lovely big castle on huge grounds. There  
24          was a football pitch and a walk right around the whole  
25          area. It was hectares. There was a bridge and a river

1 going through it. There was a big green where you could  
2 play football.

3 'When you drove up to the castle, there was  
4 an overarch and a set of grand stairs. When you walked  
5 in, you could go left to the stairs that took you down  
6 or up to the dormitories. The dining room was off the  
7 dormitories. In each dormitory, there was a massive  
8 foyer area with a pool table and stuff like Nintendo.  
9 There was about seven dormitories with about two or  
10 three boys in each. There was also techie, to the left,  
11 with rooms for art and craft, stuff like that. To the  
12 right, there were offices for the people who worked in  
13 there. There was an outbuilding with a school a little  
14 gym. It was like portacabins.

15 'Ballikinrain was run by the Church of Scotland. It  
16 is near Fintry in the Balfraon area. I think they were  
17 close by and the closest towns. I don't know who the  
18 headmaster was. There was quite a lot of staff. There  
19 was a lot of good staff as well, not everybody was bad.  
20 I had a key worker, I think her name was Anne. I think  
21 she was in her 40s or 50s. She was okay. She used to  
22 sometimes take the piss out of me because I was the  
23 youngest and I had a high-pitched voice. You could hear  
24 me from miles away. She called me bubbles or squeak or  
25 something, that made me self-conscious a lot and didn't

1 help. I used to cry a lot as well.

2 'There were some staff that were teachers and care  
3 staff and some that were just care staff. There was  
4 a guy called Mario. I think his name was Nigel, but we  
5 called him Mario, as he looked like one of the Mario  
6 brothers with his moustache. He was a really, really  
7 nice guy. There was also a guy called GPB, who  
8 lived [REDACTED] with his family [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]. He used to be the techie. I remember  
10 techie could be unsupervised. As a young boy I was  
11 using bandsaws and that. It was all boys in  
12 Ballikinrain.

13 'There were older kids in their teens, at the top of  
14 the castle. I was downstairs. I was one of the  
15 youngest kids to be taken in. I think there were about  
16 10 to 15 children all together. I say that because we  
17 went into the minibus and it was full.

18 'I remember my first day very well, as that was the  
19 first time I was assaulted. I was taken there that  
20 morning by my mum or a social worker from my house.  
21 I know it was a Monday morning, as the other children  
22 hadn't arrived back yet from being away home for the  
23 weekend.

24 'I was being shown about by the guy who assaulted  
25 me, GOU. He was in charge and had his own

1 office. I think he was just in charge of the dormitory  
2 area, but I don't know. He might have been in charge of  
3 the whole place.

4 'I was still with my mum and social worker at this  
5 point. There was a lot to see. Once my mum or social  
6 worker left, I was put in this big room with  
7 a television. I was just left there and then when all  
8 the kids arrived back, they saw me, and they all came  
9 over.

10 'There was this older boy that sat beside me and  
11 I clammed up, nervous. He was flicking his tongue and  
12 spit was getting on me. I said to **GOU**, 'Please can you  
13 tell him to stop doing that?'.  
14

**GOU** got up off the seat and walked over to us.  
15 I thought he was going to tell the boy off, but he  
16 grabbed me by the arm, pulled me off the seat and  
17 dragged me towards the door. I was dragged right out  
18 the room and threw up against the wall in the corridor.  
19 He was shouting at me and is I was terrified. I was  
20 crying and just wanted to get out of there. I felt  
21 really let down and disappointed.

22 'GOU then took me back into the room and I was still  
23 crying. I felt humiliated. And he wouldn't carry on  
24 what he was doing until I stopped crying. I saw him  
25 doing this to other boys as well, so I think this was

1 just his tactics. I think that was his way of telling  
2 me: don't fuck about.'

3 In paragraphs 33 and 34, the witness provides some  
4 evidence about mornings and bed times. I will read  
5 paragraph 35:

6 'I remember one time waking up and GOU was  
7 sitting next to my bed just staring at me. It was quite  
8 weird. There was nothing sexual, he was just sitting in  
9 the corner of the room. It was weird. We knew when he  
10 was coming, as you heard him with his big keys and he  
11 would whistle. It was like a taunt kind of thing.'

12 In paragraph 36, the witness describes meal times  
13 and food.

14 Paragraph 37, he describes washing and bathing.

15 Paragraph 38, he describes the clothing and uniform  
16 and his memories of that.

17 In paragraph 39, he describes his memories of  
18 leisure time and, in paragraphs 40 and 41, his memories  
19 of trips and holidays.

20 I will read from paragraph 42, where he describes  
21 his memories of schooling:

22 'I was always in the same class. I had a teacher  
23 called IN, who did things like numeracy and  
24 English. It was all mixed ages. She would give out  
25 what you were supposed to do, but I don't think much

1 work was done. It wasn't forced on you. I didn't do it  
2 because I still couldn't read or write.

3 'It wasn't really like a full day of school, if my  
4 memory serves me correctly. After lunch, we just went  
5 back to our dormitories. I don't know if that was  
6 because the staff were lazy or that was just the  
7 schedule. It wasn't tough. We were all still  
8 supervised in our dormitories.

9 'One morning, I woke up and I was in a lot of pain.  
10 I had a lot of stomach pain. What later transpired was  
11 that I had appendicitis. I didn't want to go to class,  
12 so was trying to plead my case. It fell on deaf ears,  
13 so I was taken to class. They didn't want me in the  
14 dormitories, as that would have meant a staff member  
15 would have had to stay there with me and I don't think  
16 they had enough staff.

17 'I asked IIN if I could go to the toilet and was in  
18 a locked cubicle. I was in there for a while. I don't  
19 know if I was sitting on the toilet or leaning over it,  
20 trying to be sick, but I just heard someone come in the  
21 toilet area and the cubicle door was kicked in. It was  
22 IIN. She took me out of the toilet and started shaking  
23 me. It turns out one of the kids had told her I was  
24 smoking, but I wasn't. I found that out later on. She  
25 just grabbed me by the torso and started shaking me.



1 I was crying and still in a lot of pain. It was getting  
2 progressively worse. I was just sent back to the  
3 dormitory. I kept telling them I was in a lot of pain.

4 'I think [REDACTED] was in her 40s or 50s. She was  
5 a small woman and very athletic. She ran the  
6 hillwalking club. I used to do that. She was a teacher  
7 and care staff. They eventually got a doctor out from  
8 one of the villages to see me. She said I had a urine  
9 infection and I went back home to my mum, as I wasn't  
10 getting any better. I was getting progressively worse  
11 and was hunched over in pain a lot. I was home for  
12 about a week.

13 'One night at my mum's I was being sick and I was  
14 bringing up chunks of red that looked like liver. It  
15 was really scary. My mum got the doctor out and he said  
16 he had never seen anything like. It turned out my  
17 appendix had burst and I had to go into hospital. I had  
18 to get my appendix removed and a blood transfusion.  
19 I think it was touch and go. I was in hospital for  
20 about a month.

21 'I remember while I was there [REDACTED] came up to visit  
22 me with some other kids from school and brought me some  
23 juice and sweets. I remember thinking: it was just  
24 a few weeks ago you were shaking me about.

25 'I don't remember a matron or such at the school.

1 I just think the staff dealt with stuff and they got  
2 a doctor out if they needed to. I saw a dentist, too,  
3 when I was at the school, as I remember I had quite  
4 a few fillings. I think it was just in Balfron.'

5 In paragraph 51, the witness speaks about religious  
6 instruction.

7 In paragraph 52, he speaks about chores.

8 In paragraph 53, he speaks about his memories of  
9 birthdays and Christmases and, in paragraph 54, about  
10 personal possessions.

11 I will read from paragraph 55:

12 'I never wet the bed, but I think there was one guy  
13 that did it all the time. I don't know how the staff  
14 dealt with it.

15 'The older kids upstairs kind of all hung about  
16 together. There was a few from Easterhouse, who were  
17 quite congregated; there was a couple of them. I got  
18 a knee from one of them and had a dead leg. I think  
19 they just thought it was a bit of fun with the younger  
20 kids. I don't remember seeing any strong violence.

21 'There were no visitors from what I can remember.  
22 Social work never came. I just had Anne, my key worker,  
23 there, who would take me aside sometimes and see how  
24 I was feeling, though sometimes she would just take the  
25 piss out of me.

1           'I went home every weekend from Ballikinrain. They  
2 took us home at the weekends in the minibus. I think on  
3 a Friday they would get us back to our house, as close  
4 as possible. But I remember, on the Monday, I had to  
5 get the train by myself to Cowcaddens, where they picked  
6 me up.

7           'I never ran away. It didn't even come to my mind.  
8 There were other boys that did go missing some evenings.  
9 I don't know what happened to them when they were  
10 brought back.

11           'The discipline was mainly verbal. There was a lot  
12 of shouting. If you did something wrong, it went back  
13 to GOU and he gave you a ticking off. It would depend  
14 on how he felt, how he dealt with it. He took me to  
15 shout at me in his office once. I don't remember what  
16 it was for. It was just that one time he was physical  
17 towards me and I heard of him being physical towards  
18 other boys. I don't remember seeing anyone being  
19 restrained.

20           'I saw GOU drag other boys out of rooms and  
21 shout at them. It was all to get the kids on side. It  
22 was his way of getting us to behaviour and install fear  
23 in us. He did it to a boy in the dormitory area once.  
24 I saw it. He dragged him out of the dorm and I heard  
25 him shouting at the boy. The boy then came back in

1           crying and cried himself to sleep. He didn't say what  
2           it was for or what GOU said to him.

3           'I think GOU was English, as he had an accent. He  
4           was in his 50s and had a prominent beard. Other staff  
5           just wore what they wanted, but he would always come  
6           with a shirt and trousers.

7           'GOU           demeanour in general was quite scary.  
8           He would be talking to you and all smiles and then the  
9           next minute his face would drop. It was just all to  
10          install fear; that was his way of working.

11          'I never told anyone about what GOU did to me.  
12          I think the other staff must have known. I never told  
13          anyone what IIN did to me either. She made herself  
14          known anyway. The other children must have heard her.

15          'I never told my mum anything. I only told her  
16          a few months ago. My mum said she wished I had told  
17          her, as she would have got me out of there, but I don't  
18          think she could have.

19          'I just didn't really trust anyone when I was  
20          a little boy. I was just one of these kids that if  
21          anybody happened to me I just put on a brave face and  
22          got on with it. To be honest with you, I really did  
23          enjoy it at Ballikinrain. If GOU was there, I would put  
24          a brave face on. I just tried to stay out of his way  
25          and avoid him, as he was volatile. But other staff like

1 Mario, I would love it if they would play with you and  
2 stuff. If GOU wasn't there, I would have loved it.  
3 But, then again, if he wasn't there, would all the kids  
4 have just been fighting with each other? I don't know.

5 'I thought I was going to be at Ballikinrain for  
6 good because I had been in foster care before that.  
7 I never asked any questions. I left after 11 months.

8 'After I had appendicitis I went back to  
9 Ballikinrain a different boy. I was really scared and  
10 there were a few things that happened. My mum got  
11 a boyfriend who worked at Barlinnie Prison as a prison  
12 guard. I told the other children about him and they  
13 were saying he did me up the bum. I didn't even know  
14 what that meant.

15 'Things were getting tough for me and I was breaking  
16 my heart about it. My mum and her partner broke up  
17 because of it, as it was too much for him to take on.  
18 I think my mum just decided it was time for me to leave.  
19 I don't know if there was a Children's Panel. I don't  
20 remember the day I left. When I came out, I was  
21 a different person, but not for the right reasons.  
22 I was about ten years old.

23 'I didn't trust anyone after care. I was always  
24 looking over my shoulder and became more anxious. It  
25 was just too much for my head to deal with. I was just

1 more subdued and things got worse. I went back to  
2 school and found it really difficult. Before care,  
3 I was more like a bully. But, after care, I was just  
4 really scared and nervous and more likely to receive  
5 bullying. I went back to the same school. There was no  
6 more social work support. They must have just signed me  
7 off.'

8 Between paragraphs 71 and 74, the witness describes  
9 various points about his life after care, leading  
10 ultimately to what he says in paragraph 75, where he  
11 says:

12 'I did IT at Clydebank College and loved it. I was  
13 only supposed to do a HNC, but ended up doing my degree  
14 at Glasgow Caledonian and got a 2:1. I walked straight  
15 into the job I am in now. I have been in it for  
16 ten years. I am proud of what I have achieved myself.'

17 Turning then to what the witness says about impact  
18 and I will read paragraph 78:

19 'If I didn't get myself an education, I think  
20 I might have ended up in jail. I get very low and lash  
21 out. I have not done that in a long time. I just put  
22 my time in care to the back of my mind, but since  
23 hearing an advert on the radio about child abuse it has  
24 brought a lot of the stuff back. I have started taking  
25 anti-depressants again.'

1 I will then move on to the part of the statement  
2 where he describes 'Lessons to be learned', at  
3 paragraph 83:

4 'I don't know if this would work with everyone, but  
5 I think a parent who is struggling should just have help  
6 every day. I don't think it is fair to take children  
7 away from their parents. Parents just need more support  
8 at home.

9 'I don't know if abuse still happens in children's  
10 homes, but, if it does, I hope this Inquiry makes people  
11 think twice about what they are doing. Just don't do  
12 it, as you are affecting someone's life. I will just  
13 leave it in your capable hands and help out if you need  
14 me.

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

19 'Liam' signed the statement on 26 April 2023.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this witness is also  
22 an applicant. She wants to remain anonymous and to use  
23 the pseudonym 'Cathy' when giving her evidence.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

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

'Cathy' (read)

MR MACAULAY: Her statement can be found at WIT-1-000005549.

'Cathy' tells us she was born in 1965. In paragraph 2, she tells us that she was the youngest of four children. She goes on to say:

'My dad wasn't there growing up. It was just my mum. My dad came to the house once or twice, but he left. I did not really know him.

'My mum struggled with the four of us. Things were really difficult. There was a lot of poverty in the family. There were times when we had no electricity and no food, so it was quite hard. It was not my mum's fault; it is just the way things were.'

She goes on to elaborate upon that in the rest of that paragraph. Paragraph 4:

'School was very difficult because I was bullied, both at primary and secondary school. This happened a lot and it wasn't by one person; there was always a number of girls. It was because of our poverty. I would do anything not to go to school. It wasn't that I didn't want to. I wanted to learn, but I was scared because I knew that I would be bullied. I went to primary school and to a grammar school. The bullying just carried on from one school to the other. I did not tell anyone about the bullying. I was too scared.



1 I never said anything. I just took it. I didn't go to  
2 school an awful lot and that's why I ended up going to  
3 Langlands Park School.'

4 In the following paragraphs she sets out the  
5 background to going in to care.

6 At paragraph 8, what she says is:

7 'I fell pregnant when I was 11 or 12. I was still  
8 at school and it was with a boy from the area. That was  
9 one of the reasons why the social worker came into my  
10 life. I remember them telling me I had to have  
11 an abortion and my mum agreed to it.'

12 She goes on to describe that.

13 Paragraph 9:

14 'I was put into Langlands Park because I wasn't  
15 going to mainstream school and I wasn't going there  
16 because I was being bullied.'

17 So she was 11 or 12 and that would be 1977/78. At  
18 paragraph 11, she goes on to describe the first day:

19 'Langlands Park was a big, old Victorian house. The  
20 doors were locked. You went through the doors into  
21 a vestibule and there was another set of doors. You  
22 went through those and they were locked behind you.  
23 When you were inside all the doors and windows were  
24 locked. You could not leave the building. That was  
25 quite scary. I met the headmaster, who spoke to me and

1           showed me what room I would be sleeping in.'

2           And then, at 12, she says:

3           'Langlands Park was an all-girls List D School. The  
4           age range was from about 12 to 15. There were a lot of  
5           girls from Glasgow. I remember there was one girl that  
6           lived in Clydebank. Most of the girls were there for  
7           criminal stuff, like shoplifting, fighting and assaults.  
8           There were other girls there for the same reasons as me;  
9           because they weren't going to school. There were maybe  
10          12 to 15 girls in the school. There were four rooms,  
11          some of them only had three beds. The one I was in was  
12          a big room and it had six beds in it, but you were moved  
13          about as well.

14          'There was also a house at the back of the building  
15          which had two rooms in it. When you went into that  
16          house you knew you were due to be released. Everybody  
17          wanted to be in that house because they knew they would  
18          be getting out soon.

19          'Next to your bed had you a bedside cabinet and  
20          a single wardrobe. I can remember going up to the room  
21          with my mum because she came to visit me once. I was  
22          getting in for five weeks. I'd had a home visit and  
23          didn't go back, so I was being punished. My mum came to  
24          visit and I remember taking her up to my room and crying  
25          and telling her I wanted to come home. She was upset,

1           too, and told me she couldn't take me home.'.

2           Then, at 14, she says:

3           'None of the staff lived on the premises, except the  
4           lady in the house at the back of Langlands, where you  
5           went before you were released. The rest of the staff  
6           would come in for a shift and then go home. If they  
7           were night shift, they would come in and stay up all  
8           night, then leave in the morning.

9           'We were up every day at 6 o'clock and had to do  
10          chores before getting our breakfast and getting ready  
11          for school. A bell would go off and ladies would come  
12          into the room and waken us up. We would get dressed and  
13          do cleaning. Some girls would clean the toilets and the  
14          showers; other girls would clean the sitting rooms and  
15          the dorms. Everybody got a job to do and it would  
16          rotate. You were told what you were doing in the  
17          morning. If you didn't do it right, you were forcibly  
18          told to do it again and do it properly. You would be  
19          grabbed by the arm and told it was not done right. Once  
20          they were satisfied that everything was done well  
21          enough, we went to the dining room. We lined up and  
22          were taken there by the staff. We sat around tables and  
23          there were four girls to a table.

24          'After breakfast you went to school. You lined up  
25          and a member of staff took you up to the school, which

1 was up the back, behind the house. There was no school  
2 uniform. You wore the same clothes all the time. The  
3 only time you put your own clothes on was at the  
4 weekend, if you were going home.

5 'I do not think there was any school on a Friday.  
6 There was an assembly and, at that, you would be told if  
7 you were getting home. If you weren't, SNR  
8 would point at you and tell you you are not going home  
9 and the reason for it. The girls that were getting home  
10 leave would leave right after the assembly in a minibus.  
11 We would be driven to Glasgow Central train station and  
12 you were given money to take the train home. I would  
13 walk home.

14 'We were at school from 9 o'clock until 3 o'clock.  
15 It was normal school hours. We were taken back down to  
16 the dining room at lunchtime. After lunch we were taken  
17 back to the school until 3 o'clock. The school teacher  
18 was a nice person. He wasn't like the staff there. He  
19 was only there to teach us, but he didn't do an awful  
20 lot. We would have our tea at 5 o'clock.

21 'After tea we would be taken back to the sitting  
22 rooms and sit about, maybe watch a bit of TV. There  
23 were two sitting rooms, but only one had a TV in it.  
24 I think the girls chose what to watch. Most of the time  
25 I was up in my room because I would rather avoid the

1 girls. I do not know if the staff knew I was being  
2 bullied by the other girls. If they did know, they  
3 didn't say anything. It was never spoken about. I can  
4 remember lying in my bed and crying, as I had enough and  
5 I just wanted to go home. I remember one of the ladies  
6 coming into my room and asking why I was crying. I told  
7 her and she told me I was there for a reason and I was  
8 to get out of bed and stop crying.'

9 She goes on to describe other aspects of the  
10 routine. If I can just pick it up at paragraph 24,  
11 where she goes back to the issue of schooling:

12 'There was a building up the back and that was where  
13 the school was. It was not much of a school. It was  
14 one room and one teacher. I cannot remember the  
15 teacher's name, but I can see him. He was local and he  
16 didn't teach us much. There wasn't much schoolwork  
17 getting done. We just sat around most of the day.  
18 I can't remember him trying to teach us anything.

19 'All the girls were taught together. It did not  
20 matter how old you were, you were in the same class.  
21 There wasn't much teaching going on. We would draw or  
22 play games or just sit and talk. Now and again, he  
23 would teach a bit of English or maths, but that was it.  
24 There was nothing else, no history or geography that you  
25 would get at other secondary schools. It was very

1 boring.

2 'If I wasn't doing maths or English, I would just  
3 sit and draw shapes on a piece of paper and colour them  
4 in. I was there for three and a half years and it was  
5 the same teacher all the way through.'

6 We are told he supported Morton football team and  
7 played a lot of Dire Straits music in the classroom.

8 She then goes on to talk about trips and holidays.  
9 At 29, she says birthdays were not celebrated, but they  
10 got home for Christmas. Then, in the following  
11 paragraphs, she provides some more information about how  
12 things were. Then, at paragraph 33, she says:

13 'I do not know of anyone coming to Langlands to  
14 inspect the place. There was a man who came in ... and  
15 he spoke to us about employment on leaving school.  
16 I think he was giving the school money. He gave us  
17 notepads and pens that had a logo on them.

18 'When I was at Langlands Park I was allowed to go  
19 home at weekends. But, on one occasion, I didn't want  
20 to go back to the school and the social worker came and  
21 picked me up and took me to a police station. I was put  
22 in a cell until a police officer was free to take me  
23 back. I was 12 or 13 when this happened. The school  
24 was about 40 miles away from my house.

25 'I would see my brothers when I went home at

1 weekends, as they were still at my mum's, but they never  
2 came to visit me at the school.'

3 And then she talks about healthcare and religious  
4 instruction. At 38:

5 'I was not allowed home for weeks one time and I was  
6 that desperate that I ran away. I didn't get far before  
7 they caught me. I was taken up to see SNR  
8 and I was given the belt, like the school belt, over my  
9 hands. I was hit three or four times with the belt.  
10 All I wanted was to go home and go to a normal school.  
11 It really stung. I went to my room and I just stayed  
12 there. I didn't want to come out. This was over  
13 a weekend.

14 'Sometimes I wouldn't go back to the school on the  
15 Sunday. The punishment for that was being singled out  
16 in assembly, pulled to the front by the ear and being  
17 hit on the legs with a cane by SNR. This was  
18 like a brown stick and quite long. Anywhere he went he  
19 had his cane with him. He was a small man, but quite  
20 large.'

21 And she describes him.

22 'I did not like him. I was afraid of him. Every  
23 time he came into a room I was scared. He would smack  
24 you two or three times with the cane, but all the time  
25 he was talking to you he would have a hold of your ear.

1 He wouldn't let go. It was really sore. You would be  
2 crying, but he wouldn't let go until he had finished  
3 what he was saying. This was in front of other staff  
4 members, as well as the other girls. It happened to me  
5 a few times and I saw him doing it to other girls. As  
6 well as the punishment, you wouldn't be allowed home for  
7 three or four weekends. SNR [REDACTED] was the one who  
8 did most of the hitting and the bullying.

9 'If you were bad you were given a nylon overall to  
10 wear over your bra and pants and a pair of plimsolls.  
11 You were left wearing them for a week to two weeks.  
12 This was to make sure that you would not run away. The  
13 overall was long sleeved and buttoned up the front. It  
14 came down to your knees. I tried to run away quite  
15 a lot, so that happened to me on a few occasions. You  
16 would be made an example of down in assembly. Then,  
17 when you went to your room, the overall was left there  
18 for you to put on.

19 'The two older females were quite strict and firm  
20 with you. They would push and pull you about and things  
21 like that if you did not do what you were told. They  
22 would firmly push you down on a seat if you were doing  
23 something they didn't like. I would say they were both  
24 in their 50s or 60s.

25 'A lot of the girls were not very nice. They would



1 swear a lot or make fun of you. There were a lot of  
2 girls there that I was frightened of. I was bullied in  
3 there, too. I was always quite quiet because of my  
4 upbringing, so I was a big target to bullies. It was  
5 mostly in the showers. They would come in when I was in  
6 the shower and turn on the cold water and hold me and  
7 force me to stay under it or they would just push me  
8 around.

9 'My life from the age of 5 [and that would be  
10 pre-Langlands Park] to 15 was the most horrific time in  
11 my life. It was really difficult.'

12 I just wonder whether she meant to say five or not.  
13 I just raise that point.

14 LADY SMITH: Yes.

15 MR MACAULAY: 'That's why I can't remember a lot of it.

16 I want to block it all away. I didn't want to think  
17 about those people, so over the years I just tried to  
18 forget about them.'

19 LADY SMITH: I suppose if she thought back to age 5 that's  
20 when she started school, experienced bullying.

21 MR MACAULAY: Yes, true.

22 LADY SMITH: And she had other trauma that she described in  
23 the earlier paragraphs.

24 MR MACAULAY: That is true.

25 LADY SMITH: So it could be. Then she progressed to this

1 three and a half years or so at Langlands.

2 MR MACAULAY: Yes, it could be. She goes on to end that  
3 paragraph:

4 'When I thought about it years later: why put  
5 someone in a place like that just for not going to  
6 school? It does not seem fair.

7 'I told my mum what it was like at the school while  
8 I was there. She was the only person I told. There was  
9 not much she could do, except console me. She couldn't  
10 change anything. I knew she couldn't change it. I am  
11 not saying my mum didn't love us, she did, but it was  
12 difficult for her doing everything on her own. She had  
13 her own issues.

14 'I was told I was leaving the school a few weeks  
15 before my 16th birthday [that would be about 1981]. It  
16 was the best day of my life. I was told due to my age  
17 I didn't have to go to mainstream school anymore and as  
18 such there was no reason for me to stay at Langlands.'

19 Then the section dealing with life after being in  
20 care. She says, at 46:

21 'I really wanted to work for the RSPCA. However,  
22 other things in my life stopped me from going down that  
23 route. I did not have a very good education. In a way  
24 I always brought myself down and thought I was not  
25 really good enough to do that job. I tried to further

1 my education, but life just kept on getting in the way  
2 of it.'

3 She goes on to say thereafter that she was drinking  
4 and she was out of control.

5 Then, at paragraph 50, she says:

6 'I got into a violent relationship. I had a son.  
7 He hit me constantly. I met him when I was about 21 and  
8 I had my son when I was 24, but he was regularly  
9 violent. He used to sit on my shoulders and slap me.  
10 I went from being bullied as a child to still being  
11 bullied as an adult.'

12 And then at 52:

13 'Getting into bad relationships continued throughout  
14 my life until I met my present partner. We have been  
15 together 16 years. When I met him my life just settled  
16 down. After we were together a few weeks, I told him we  
17 would have to split up because he was too good for me,  
18 too nice a person to be in a relationship with me.  
19 I had no confidence. I didn't have the ability to  
20 believe that I should be happy with someone.

21 'When we met, I actually went on a computer course  
22 and it's the first thing I have completed in my whole  
23 life. I have a certificate for it.'

24 And then, at 55, she says:

25 'I have had counselling in the past, but not

1           regarding my time at school. I have been depressed most  
2           of my life. I have attempted suicide.'

3           In relation to impact, at 57:

4           'For years and years I used to have nightmares that  
5           I was taken back to Langlands Park. They were horrible  
6           nightmares. This happened right into my 20s.

7           'When I came out of Langlands Park, I was always  
8           nervous and scared around regular people. Big rooms  
9           full of people scared me. I couldn't speak for fear of  
10          making a fool of myself, so I didn't say anything. Then  
11          people got the wrong impression of me, thinking I was  
12          quite aloof and stand-offish and didn't want to know  
13          people, but I did. I just didn't know how to break that  
14          barrier of talking to people.

15          'The impact on my education was huge. When I was 30  
16          and living in Douglas, a company called Healthy Valleys  
17          organised tutoring for me. That was paid for by the  
18          Council. The tutor would come every Thursday and teach  
19          me a little bit of maths and English. He said that  
20          I could do it, I just didn't have the confidence to do  
21          it.

22          'This is the first time I have managed to speak  
23          about everything. The worry for me was I finally  
24          managed to put it away, behind me, and now that I have  
25          brought it all up I will have to try and put it behind

1 me again.'

2 Then, finally, in the section 'Lessons to be  
3 learned', at 62:

4 'Nobody should be treated how I was, especially if  
5 it is going to have a profound effect on the rest of  
6 their life. Living with that is not a nice thing.  
7 Lessons should be learned from it. Locking the doors  
8 and windows made you feel like a prisoner. Being told  
9 that you cannot go out for a bit of fresh air is a bit  
10 ridiculous. It should have been a bit more relaxed.

11 'When SNR [REDACTED] was hitting me or one of the  
12 other girls, the other staff knew about it, but did  
13 nothing. What he was doing wasn't right; he was  
14 bullying girls.

15 'Someone like me should never have been in the  
16 school in the first place. I wasn't in gangs, I wasn't  
17 a criminal. All I was doing was not going to school  
18 because I was scared. I knew if I went to school,  
19 I would get another beating from the girls in my class.'

20 Then, in relation to hopes for the Inquiry, she  
21 says:

22 'I hope that nobody's treated the way that I was in  
23 the school and in places like that, and that the staff  
24 and the organisation look out for bullying from the  
25 other boys and girls. I hope that is addressed because

1           it has had an effect on me for a long time.

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

4           I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
5           true.'

6           'Cathy' has signed the statement on  
7           17 February 2023.

8   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9           Ms MacLeod.

10   MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is from  
11           an applicant who will use the name 'Katie'.

12   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13   MS MACLEOD: Her statement can be found at WIT.001.002.8856.

14                                'Katie' (read)

15   MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Katie'. I was born in the Gorbals  
16           in Glasgow. I lived with my mother. She worked hard to  
17           keep us. She had four or five cleaning jobs. My  
18           grandmother lived downstairs. We moved when I was 3 and  
19           my siblings were later born. I went to primary school  
20           and then secondary school. I enjoyed school. Home life  
21           was good. I never met my dad. He is dead now. My  
22           mother never talked about him. She said he was  
23           dead years ago, but I found out that this was not the  
24           case.'

25           Between paragraphs 6 and 12, the witness speaks

1 about a period of time she spent in foster care. And  
2 I will read from paragraph 13:

3 'I can't remember how long I was there. I returned  
4 home after my sister was born.

5 'Shortly after my sister was born we got a new house  
6 with a bath in it.

7 'I used to steal a lot of food and take it home, so  
8 I could try and share it with my siblings.

9 'I think I was caught shoplifting when I was a young  
10 teenager and this is why I went into care. We didn't  
11 have any social work involvement before I went into  
12 care.'

13 Between paragraphs 17 and 23, the witness speaks  
14 about six weeks that she spent at Beechwood Assessment  
15 Centre in Shettleston, before she went to Langlands  
16 Park.

17 I will read from paragraph 24, where the witness  
18 describes her memories from Langlands Park in Port  
19 Glasgow:

20 'I went straight to Langlands Park from Beechwood  
21 Assessment Centre. I was 14 years old when I went  
22 there, in 1975. Somebody took me in a car. I think it  
23 was a social worker. I just had a small case with my  
24 clothes in it. I was crying and I wanted to go back to  
25 my mum.

1           'I didn't have a social worker before I went to the  
2 Children's Panel. I can't remember if the same one took  
3 me to Langlands Park. They told me I was going to  
4 a List D School for two years. They said I was bad  
5 because I was shoplifting.

6           'Langlands Park was like a museum. It was a big,  
7 old fashioned building. It was [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED],  
8 Mr MSH [REDACTED], and SNR [REDACTED], Miss Cameron. Mr MSH [REDACTED]  
9 didn't come in at the weekends. Mr MSH [REDACTED] lived in  
10 a house in the gardens. Miss Cameron did the weekends.  
11 Sometimes Mrs [REDACTED], who was a teacher in the school,  
12 came in at weekends. You went through the front door  
13 and down a corridor, then you came to the headmaster's  
14 office and the wee lady's office. Next door was the big  
15 sitting room and the shower room. There was a big hall  
16 and you went along another corridor, which took you to  
17 the dining room. Nearby was my bedroom and along the  
18 corridor was stairs, which took you up to the other  
19 bedrooms. They were single bedrooms. There were 6 or 8  
20 in my bedroom.

21           'Langlands Park was all-girls. They were the same  
22 age as me, roughly 13 to 15 years old. And there were  
23 approximately 30 girls there.

24           'I didn't smoke or drink until I went to Langlands  
25 Park.



1           'On my first day, I was met by a wee lady, who took  
2 me into the sitting room. I can't remember her name.  
3 She was older and had white permed hair. She showed me  
4 my bedroom. I just had a small suitcase with my clothes  
5 in it. I was crying and I just wanted to be back with  
6 my mum. The social worker went into the office. I was  
7 introduced to the other girls. They were in a sitting  
8 room watching television. I sat in a chair which had  
9 a big back. I was terrified because I was away from  
10 home. I slept in a dormitory with five other girls,  
11 I had a bed, a small wardrobe and a chest of drawers.

12           'Whoever was on the night shift woke us up at  
13 7.00 am. Two ladies did the shifts. They came in, put  
14 on the lights and told us it was time to get up. We  
15 used the toilet, cleaned our teeth and got ready to go  
16 to the dining room for breakfast.

17           'Mr MSH used to inspect everybody's bedrooms.  
18 He would look under the beds and in the wardrobes. He  
19 would open up our drawers, but I don't know what he was  
20 looking for.

21           'We had breakfast at 8.00 am and we all ate together  
22 in the dining room. We had porridge or toast and  
23 marmalade. The woman that made the breakfast was  
24 lovely. It must have been okay. Whoever was on duty  
25 came and sat with us.

1            'We came over from school and we had lunch in the  
2 dining room. We showered every night. We were told do  
3 this by the wee lady. She used to come into the showers  
4 with us to supervise. We had separate cubicles, which  
5 closed with a door. We were behind the door when she  
6 was supervising us.

7            'If you were a bit messy while you had your period  
8 you could ask to go and have a shower. Sometimes they  
9 would say yes and sometimes they would say no and you  
10 would have to wait until night time.

11           'If anybody misbehaved, they were sent to the office  
12 and either Mr MSH or Miss Cameron would deal with  
13 them. They were usually in the office together.  
14 Miss Cameron didn't shout at us, but she was quite  
15 powerful. Langlands Park was quite strict. The  
16 punishments were no television or cigarettes.

17           'We went to school in the building next door. Most  
18 of the teachers came in from outside. But one,  
19 Mr LWH, stayed in the grounds in a house, [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED] Mr MSH ' house and Mr LWH 's wife  
21 taught me, too. I liked school because it took me out  
22 of the main part of the building. The art teacher was  
23 nice and her husband worked there. He was nice, too.  
24 We stayed in the same classroom for all our lessons. We  
25 never got any homework. It wasn't like a proper school;

1 we did mostly artwork. I think they made us read in the  
2 front of the class, but I didn't like reading in public,  
3 so I didn't do it.

4 'After school we went back to the main building and  
5 watched television in the sitting room. There were  
6 books in the sitting room. There was always quite a few  
7 girls in the sitting room. You could go to your bedroom  
8 if you wanted. There was nothing else to do.

9 'The wee lady's office was next door to the sitting  
10 room and sometimes she would come in and sit with us and  
11 watch television. She was quite nice. We didn't go on  
12 any trips or holidays.

13 'A few months into my stay at Langlands Park I was  
14 allowed to go home every weekend. They gave me money,  
15 so that I could go home. I got the train to Central  
16 station and then the bus home. I did this on a Friday  
17 until Sunday. My brother and siblings were home.  
18 I loved going home. I couldn't wait until Friday.  
19 Quite a lot of the girls went home every weekend.

20 'I started drinking at 15. I drank every weekend  
21 and during the week. I bought alcohol at an off licence  
22 next to Woodhall train station before I got the train to  
23 go home. I used it to block out the things that  
24 happened in Langlands Park. I didn't smoke or drink  
25 until I went to Langlands Park.

1           'I asked if I do could do meals on wheels. This was  
2           delivering food to elderly people and this was  
3           voluntary. It was in Greenock and I did it with another  
4           girl. We weren't allowed to leave the school grounds,  
5           except for meals on wheels.

6           'I have no recollection of birthdays or Christmas at  
7           Langlands Park.

8           'My family visited me. We walked around the grounds  
9           and we were left alone during the visits.

10          'I think a social worker did visit, but I can't  
11          remember how often. I believe I spoke to her and then  
12          she went into the office and spoke to Mr MSH . She  
13          came from Glasgow Social Services. I think this was  
14          a different social worker from with the one who had been  
15          at the Children's Panel. I think she asked me how I had  
16          settled in. I maybe just had one visit. I think it was  
17          during the summertime, a few months after I had arrived.

18          'I believe Mr MSH and Miss Cameron were present  
19          in the office when I spoke to her. I had told her  
20          everything was okay, but that I really wanted to go  
21          home. I couldn't tell her about any abuse, because  
22          Mr MSH was present.

23          'We had to report to the wee lady if we needed  
24          tablets or sanitary towels and she marked it down. If  
25          you had a sore head, she gave you paracetamol. She had

1 a big book with days and dates and she recorded when you  
2 got the sanitary towel. You had to stand in a queue.  
3 I remember seven or eight of us standing in a queue. It  
4 felt horrible having to ask for sanitary towels. You  
5 were only allowed one at a time and then they noted down  
6 the time you got it and how many you had had that week.

7 'I don't remember going to a dentist.

8 'My friend ran away once and I ran away to get her.  
9 I managed to get her back. Mr MSH must have seen us  
10 coming back together. He ran and grabbed me by the  
11 shoulders and he flung me across the room into the  
12 corner. He sat on top of me and he ripped the earring  
13 out of my ear. This was in the office and Miss Cameron  
14 was present. My friend came in and saw him do this. He  
15 said, 'I am ripping out your Paki earrings'. My ear was  
16 torn and pouring with blood. Mr MSH face was pure  
17 red and he was spitting on me. I thought he was going  
18 to kill me.

19 'After he did this, he sent me to the wee lady's  
20 office and she cleaned my ear with antiseptic. I told  
21 her what happened. She never said or did anything. He  
22 made the hole in my ear bigger. I ran away a few times  
23 to the shop and bought alcohol. This was to blot out  
24 everything that was happening to me in Langlands Park.  
25 My mother gave me money when we went home at weekends.

1 It's in my records that I told somebody that I was  
2 drinking a lot of alcohol, although my records say  
3 Mr MSH never witnessed me drinking alcohol.

4 'I started wetting the bed when I was at Langlands  
5 Park. I never had done this before. I felt terrible.  
6 It was a horrible feeling. I told one of the female  
7 members of staff. She told me to strip the bed, get it  
8 cleaned and get new bed clothes to make it up again.  
9 She must have told Mr MSH. He came out of the  
10 office when I was walking past, he grabbed my hair and  
11 slammed my face into a wall. My nose started bleeding.  
12 Then he pulled me back around and spat into my face. He  
13 called me a Paki bastard, he never done that before, so  
14 I think it was because I had wet the bed. This happened  
15 in the corridor. I went into the toilet and cleaned  
16 myself up. I wet the bed for a couple of months, and  
17 then it stopped. I didn't do it every night. I used to  
18 go and tell the member of staff, when I had wet the bed.

19 'The other girls laughed at me and called me names.  
20 There were some nice girls in Langlands Park, but there  
21 were bad ones as well.

22 'After a couple of weeks at Langlands Park  
23 Mr MSH told me to scrub the gym hall with  
24 a toothbrush. This was after dinner. This was not  
25 a form of punishment because I was well behaved, as

1 I wanted to go home at weekends. I used to do it alone  
2 or with another girl. I was down on my hands and knees  
3 with a bucket of water and a toothbrush. I had to do  
4 this every night until it was time to go to bed.

5 I sometimes had other jobs, too, which I had to do until  
6 bedtime. This happened throughout my time at Langlands  
7 Park. I think I was there for a year. Mr MSH '  
8 behaviour was the same until the day I left.

9 'Mr MSH would come along and tell me to stop  
10 cleaning the gym floor. He would punch me, hit me, call  
11 me names and spit on me. He would put his face into my  
12 face. He once did this in front of Miss Cameron and she  
13 didn't do anything. He grabbed my long hair and pulled  
14 me. He did this every time he saw me. It was usually  
15 done in private, in the corridor, at the side bit of the  
16 door.

17 'Mr MSH would stare at me and look at me with  
18 that face. He was a big, fat man with a red face and  
19 beady eyes. He had a big, massive belly. He looked  
20 like a monster. He was maybe around 40. He didn't hit  
21 me every time he saw me, but it happened a lot of times  
22 a week. Sometimes he just called me names or pushed me  
23 into the walls. He would spit in my face. The spit  
24 landed on my face. He made the noise to get it out.  
25 I never saw him hit anybody else. Mr MSH called me

1 a Paki bastard. He used to say 'there are no Pakis  
2 here', I think he called me this because my skin was  
3 dark. I am mixed race. I think my skin tone was darker  
4 when I was younger. He called me this in the front of  
5 my friend. [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] I think he didn't like me because of  
7 my coloured skin.

8 'I stayed with other girls in the sitting room or in  
9 the bedroom, so that I wasn't on my own and Mr Edmunds  
10 couldn't come and get me. I didn't go to the gym with  
11 the others because I would have to go past Mr [REDACTED]  
12 office to get there. I told the wee lady about the  
13 other assaults by Mr [REDACTED]. His behaviour didn't  
14 change afterwards. It was the same until the day  
15 I left. The only other person that knew was the other  
16 girl. She was in Beechwood and Langlands Park at the  
17 same time as me. I couldn't tell my mum at the time  
18 because it would have upset her and it would have broken  
19 her heart. Mr [REDACTED] might have said I was telling  
20 lies and that one would have got in into more trouble.  
21 I was too scared to tell anyone because I thought they  
22 would speak to him and he would do something worse to  
23 me.

24 'I left Langlands Park because I had spent my  
25 allotted time there, either Mr [REDACTED] or Miss Cameron



1 told me that. I left later on that week. I was jumping  
2 with joy and crying because I just couldn't believe  
3 I was getting out of there. I was going to get away  
4 from Mr MSH and back to my own home.

5 'I was glad to be home. I had left school by the  
6 time I returned home. I can't remember if I got a job.

7 'After I left Langlands Park I met my daughter's  
8 father. I was 16 years old. This is my first  
9 relationship. I think I was looking for somebody to be  
10 kind to me and show me attention. Everything was all  
11 right until I told him about what happened at Langlands  
12 Park. All of a sudden he changed. Then he started  
13 battering me, punching me and locking me in the house.  
14 He constantly raped me when I refused to have sex with  
15 him. He called me names. He made me go into the  
16 street, pick up cigarette butts and smoke them.'

17 Between paragraphs 78 and 82, the witness describes  
18 abuse at the hands of her daughter's father. I will  
19 read from paragraph 82:

20 'I left him about two months after my daughter was  
21 born because he took her off me and put her in  
22 a dustbin. I didn't report him to the police because  
23 I was terrified of him. He used to say if I told  
24 anybody he would kill me and my mother and my  
25 grandmother.

1           'I have worked most of my life until recently.  
2           I have worked as a cleaner, a kitchen assistant, in  
3           amusement, as a support worker and as a carer. I loved  
4           working. I liked helping people. One year, I worked  
5           a full six months without a day off. I suffer from  
6           fibromyalgia and it has caused me to stop working.  
7           I have pains all over my whole body. I do voluntary  
8           work now.

9           'I have a son from another relationship. I messed  
10          that relationship up myself. This is because I was  
11          abused in care. I started drinking heavily again after  
12          my son's father left me. I became abusive to my second  
13          husband and my third husband. I was bad to people who  
14          were good to me.

15          'My third husband has stuck with me for 30 years and  
16          I don't know why. My son's dad was kind to me and so is  
17          my husband. My husband knows what happened to me when  
18          I was in care. He is the kindest man I have ever met.  
19          He has given me everything in my life. All my life.  
20          I am not as bad now. I have calmed down in the last  
21          ten years.

22          'I think the abuse affected my relationship with my  
23          children. They witnessed me constantly drinking and  
24          arguing with my partner. I am still smoking and I have  
25          COPD. Smoking has caused the COPD. I was diagnosed

1 with this two years ago. None of my family smoke, so  
2 I probably wouldn't have started smoking if hadn't gone  
3 to Langlands Park.

4 'I can still see Mr MSH face; I wake up  
5 sweating. I can see his red face and his beady eyes.  
6 It doesn't happen a lot now, but it still happens.  
7 I feel a lot of anger towards Mr MSH. If he is  
8 still alive, I hope he goes to prison. The abuse has  
9 affected me my whole life. I don't know how my husband  
10 has stayed with me. He is my main source of support.

11 'When I stopped work I felt like killing myself. I  
12 got enjoyment from helping people out. Since I have  
13 stopped work, I think more about my time at Langlands  
14 Park because I have nothing to do. I think all the  
15 stress has brought on my fibromyalgia. It started about  
16 two and a half years ago; I saw a news report on the  
17 television about the Inquiry.

18 'I hate marmalade and porridge now because it's what  
19 we got in Langlands Park. The thought of eating them  
20 would make me sick. Nobody protected me while I was in  
21 Langlands Park. I hope people who are in homes now are  
22 protected. Mr MSH was a law unto himself. He was  
23 the boss.

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

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

3 'Katie' signed the statement on 27 September 2019.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS MACLEOD: And I will now move to the final read-in, my  
6 Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS MACLEOD: That is the statement of an applicant who will  
9 use the pseudonym 'Mandy'.

10 'Mandy' (read)

11 MS MACLEOD: Her statement is to be found at

12 WIT-1-000001235:

13 'My name is 'Mandy'. I was born in 1966. I never  
14 knew my biological father. I have four sisters. I was  
15 born in Glasgow and my mother initially brought us up on  
16 her own. But, at some point, my stepdad came on the  
17 scene. My mum was always drunk and life was quite hard  
18 at home. I was born with a visible birthmark on my  
19 face, which has had a massive impact on my life.

20 'I went to primary school. I don't really remember  
21 much about my time there. There was one incident which  
22 I will always remember. We were in the class and the  
23 teacher was telling us about Halloween or something else  
24 like that. She told the class that if I had been born  
25 in a different period of history, because of the mark on

1 my face I would have been classed as a witch and burnt  
2 at the stake. After that the other kids were calling me  
3 a witch and were horrible to me.

4 'There was another time when I was very young and  
5 the teacher gave us books to read. The girl next to me  
6 was reading hers. I thought she had been given  
7 something different because she was managing to read  
8 hers. It wasn't. Our books were the same and I got the  
9 belt from the teacher for taking it from her.

10 'According to records I got from Quarriers, we were  
11 put in there because of my stepdad regularly being drunk  
12 and because of his violence towards us. I don't  
13 remember any social workers having been involved with  
14 our family by that point.'

15 In paragraph 5, the witness speaks about a period  
16 she spent at Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir.

17 In paragraphs 6 to 8, she speaks about being back at  
18 home with her mum for a period of time.

19 Between paragraphs 9 and 27, she speaks about her  
20 experiences at Beechwood Assessment Centre, in Glasgow.

21 I will read from paragraph 28 onwards:

22 'My mum came to Beechwood just a few days before my  
23 six weeks was up. She went to a meeting with the staff,  
24 then I was invited in. I think it was at the meeting it  
25 was decided that I would be referred back to the

1 Children's Panel. I then went to the Children's Panel  
2 and my mum was there again.

3 'At the Panel, which was mostly men, there was no  
4 mention of the assessment done by the educational  
5 psychologist or about me being dyslexic. The only time  
6 they spoke to me was when I was asked if I would go to  
7 school if they sent me home. I said there was  
8 absolutely no way I would go to school, so they told me  
9 to get my wellies on because I was being sent to  
10 Langlands List D School in Port Glasgow, where I would  
11 get an education that I wouldn't forget.

12 'One of the members of the Panel drove me from the  
13 Panel to Langlands List D School, which is in Port  
14 Glasgow. I would still have been 13. It was an old,  
15 big school and there was a long path leading up to it,  
16 with a graveyard beside it. In the building to the  
17 left, there was a corridor leading to the main hall.  
18 There was also a dining room. There was a small flat  
19 downstairs, which was allocated to some girls who were  
20 nearly 15. There were two bungalows behind the  
21 building. One of the bungalows was where girls who were  
22 close to leaving were put, so they got used to living on  
23 the outside. They learnt to budget money and things  
24 like that. I was never in one of the bungalows or in  
25 the flat. The other bungalow was used by the staff.

1           'Mr MSH, who we knew as MSH, was SNR  
2 SNR. His wife and daughters used to come into  
3 the school and they were all lovely. Mr MSH only  
4 came in during the day, spent most of it in his office  
5 and was rarely there in the evening. The other teachers  
6 I remember were Mr GYJ, who was the keep-fit teacher  
7 and possibly taught something else. He, too, only came  
8 in for the day. Another teacher I can name was  
9 Miss Murdoch. She was lovely, but was very soft and had  
10 a heart of gold. All the girls took the mickey out of  
11 her.

12           'There were around 35 to 40 girls in Langlands Park,  
13 from 13 to 16. Girls normally left when they reached  
14 school leaving age. There were six of us in each room,  
15 although the bedrooms were bigger than it was at  
16 Beechwood. I stayed in this room the whole time I was  
17 there. Some of the girls left at different times,  
18 either because they were old enough or some after  
19 appearing at a Children's Panel. Then different girls  
20 moved in. Most of the girls were in there for not going  
21 to school. But a lot were because they were outwith  
22 parental control. We chatted about it amongst ourselves  
23 and got to know why we were all there. I knew I was  
24 there because I wouldn't go to school.

25           'We got up around 7.00 in the morning. We made our

1 beds, showered, got dressed, then went down to the main  
2 hall, where everybody would wait. The staff would then  
3 unlock the door and take us to the dining hall for  
4 breakfast.

5 'After breakfast, we would have a cigarette in the  
6 main hall. Langlands was quite strict and disciplined,  
7 all the meals were at set times, breakfast, lunch,  
8 dinner and supper. Then bedtime was either 9 o'clock or  
9 9.30. Staff came in and put the lights out. We all had  
10 our meals in the dining hall. I don't remember there  
11 being any issues with the food.

12 'We usually showered in the morning when we got up  
13 and in the evening. There was usually a queue, so you  
14 had to stand and wait with a towel round you. A member  
15 of staff would hand you shampoo and soap when you went  
16 in. I think we had small toilet bags, which we handed  
17 back after the shower. I think there were shower  
18 curtains. But, again, I can't remember if it was one  
19 big curtain around all of us or around the individual  
20 showers. Staff popped in occasionally, just to make  
21 sure we were washing ourselves properly.

22 'Initially, I wore my own clothing or it might have  
23 been other clothes they gave me because I had so little.  
24 After about a year, we were all issued with black  
25 trousers, a t-shirt with a collar and a red sweatshirt.



1 We did our own washing and this included our bedding.  
2 There was a washing machine and a dryer and we all had  
3 to take turns to wash our clothes. Each dorm had  
4 specific times.

5 'We were allowed to smoke in the main hall. If you  
6 wanted to smoke, they bought you a packet of 20 to last  
7 you the week. At set times the staff would give you  
8 a cigarette, so you had four each day. This was after  
9 breakfast, after lunch, after tea and after supper. If  
10 you got home for the weekend you could get the two  
11 cigarettes you missed from Friday on the Sunday when you  
12 got back. The full 20 would start again on the Monday  
13 morning. They didn't give us cigarettes to go home at  
14 the weekend. This meant I was always keen to go back on  
15 Sunday, so I could have a smoke.

16 'Around 3 o'clock in the afternoon every day, I went  
17 out and delivered meals on wheels to the elderly in the  
18 community. There was a van that would come with all the  
19 food in and we would follow it in the minibus and jump  
20 out and deliver the food. It took about an hour and  
21 I enjoyed doing this.

22 'Every day after our evening meal we would be taken  
23 in the minibus in jogging suits to Greenock Pier.  
24 Mr GYJ would make us run the full length of the pier  
25 regardless of the weather. After we got home from the

1 run, we probably showered and then it was time for  
2 supper, then bed.

3 'If we had any spare time we tended to just sit and  
4 chat with each other or watch television.

5 'The staff offered me a cigarette on my first day at  
6 Langlands. I hadn't smoke before. I could have refused  
7 it if I wanted, but all the other girls were smoking, so  
8 I did. I nearly choked on that first cigarette, but  
9 this was the start of me smoking.

10 'I can't remember there being any academic classes  
11 in Langlands, but if there was I didn't go to them  
12 because I couldn't read or write. There was no point in  
13 me being in these classes. I went to more practical  
14 classes where the staff did the teaching. There was  
15 sewing, cooking, music, art and other subjects. I can't  
16 remember if there was actual classrooms. The only room  
17 I remember was the sewing room.

18 'There was a timetable made up, which was on  
19 a notice board, to tell me what classes I was doing. We  
20 did the cooking in one of the bungalows and it was like  
21 'Come Dine with Me', where we invited staff in and they  
22 would give us a score for what we had cooked. In the  
23 sewing classes, we made things like teddy bears and,  
24 when they were finished, we would give them to charity.

25 'A woman teacher, who was from the Education Board,

1 was brought in and I think she was there to assess me.  
2 She kept giving me books to read, but they were still no  
3 good to me because I couldn't read them. I usually just  
4 fired them across the room. It wasn't because I was  
5 angry or violent in any way; I think I was just  
6 frustrated because I couldn't read. I was usually sent  
7 to see Mr MSH to get a row if I did it.

8 'Mr MSH became aware of my issues with my  
9 birthmark. There was a new cook who must have heard the  
10 girls saying to me and she must have told Mr MSH.  
11 It had been going on for years that girls were saying  
12 horrible things to me.

13 'The next day the cook brought in makeup for me to  
14 cover up my birthmark. That was when I started covering  
15 up my birthmark. He subsequently sent the wheels in  
16 motion for me to get laser surgery to have it removed.  
17 This was laser surgery being piloted in America.

18 'Mr MSH took me to see my GP to find out more  
19 about it. I was then put on the waiting list to get  
20 treatment. At some point the Red Cross Camouflage  
21 Department came in and gave me some advice on how to  
22 cover up my birthmark.

23 'If you were ever ill, you could call the local  
24 doctor from Port Glasgow and he would come out.  
25 Sometimes he would just tell you to get bed rest and the

1 staff occasionally looked in on you to make sure you  
2 were okay. It never happened to me. I don't remember  
3 ever needing medical attention at Langlands.

4 'I was a Catholic, but never saw a priest when I was  
5 at Langlands. I never saw a minister either. There  
6 were no prayers. So I did my own praying in silence on  
7 my own every night. There was no consideration or  
8 recognition of religion. Girls who were kept in over  
9 the weekend were taken to church in Port Glasgow on  
10 Sunday mornings. They didn't have a choice; they had  
11 had to go to church.

12 'Now and again there were trips away. Those that  
13 wanted to go had to put their names down for it and, if  
14 you were lucky, you would be picked. Miss Murdoch and  
15 another teacher took us on a trip to England somewhere  
16 in the minibus. We stayed in a hostel for a few nights.  
17 One night we went to bed at 9 o'clock and climbed out  
18 the window. Myself and another four girls ran off and  
19 had a wander around the town for a couple of hours and  
20 then went back. Miss Murdoch was in tears. I would  
21 have been 15 by then. The police came and gave us  
22 a row. We were just curious to see what else there was  
23 in the area.

24 'During the day, they kept us busy doing educational  
25 sort of things. We also went to France for four nights

1 camping. Mr MSH came on that trip. We went by  
2 coach and boat. Myself and another girl got badly sun  
3 burnt one day. We were swimming and they gave us sun  
4 cream, but we hadn't put it on. The doctor came and we  
5 ended up covered in calamine lotion.

6 'During the day, one of the other girls was supposed  
7 to be look after us and making sure we drank plenty of  
8 water, but she disappeared. There was a bottle of  
9 water, but we were too burnt and sore to reach it.

10 'There was another day trip somewhere else and  
11 involved going in a boat trip from Greenock and then  
12 abseiling. I wasn't picked for that trip. The staff  
13 were always good on these trips and were there if we  
14 needed them.

15 'I got weekend leave and I went home to my mum's.  
16 All my sisters would be there, apart from my older  
17 sister, who was still in Quarriers. Sometimes my  
18 stepdad was there and he would be drunk, so I didn't  
19 like staying there. Quite often I would stay at  
20 a friend's house. Langlands didn't get to know I wasn't  
21 staying at home, otherwise they would have stopped my  
22 leave. I got leave every weekend. Some girls didn't  
23 get weekend leave, depending on what they were in for.

24 'The Langlands minibus would take you into town on  
25 a Friday and then I would get the bus home. They gave

1 me bus tickets. Going back on the Sunday was just the  
2 same, but in reverse. The Langlands minibus would pick  
3 us up in town and drive us back to Langlands.

4 'I cleaned the kitchen while some of the other girls  
5 washed the dishes. I moved all the chairs in the dining  
6 room and then swept and washed the floors. I also  
7 cleaned out the storeroom. There wasn't a rota. We  
8 were just asked, or more like told, to do these chores.  
9 There were chores needing done in the kitchen every day.

10 I would have had birthdays at Langlands, but I can't  
11 remember if they were celebrated in any way. I don't  
12 remember getting any birthday presents. I can't  
13 remember any of the other girls birthdays. I don't  
14 think I got a Christmas present and I was probably home  
15 on Christmas Day. I didn't wet the bed. I can't  
16 remember any other girls wetting the bed. But I met a  
17 girl on the bus, about eight years ago, who had had been  
18 at Langlands. She said she was put in the pee corner  
19 for girls who wet the bed for me to stand. I don't  
20 remember this punishment and I didn't even remember this  
21 girl.

22 'Langlands was the first time I was allocated  
23 a social worker, who was called Maureen. This was the  
24 first time I had met her. She came to see me once every  
25 six months or so. We would be on our own and she would

1 ask if everything was okay and I lied and said it was.  
2 She was nice, because she brought me shampoo and  
3 conditioner. I would never have told her I was unhappy.

4 'My mum didn't visit me because I saw her most  
5 weekends when I was out on home leave.

6 'My older sister visited me from Quarriers, probably  
7 three or four times. Staff from Quarriers brought her.  
8 She told me years later that she hated visiting me  
9 because of the smell of smoke. Everyone was smoking, so  
10 the air was foul. When she came we sat in the main  
11 hall, which is where all the visits took place.  
12 Depending on when she came, we might be the only ones in  
13 there. The staff weren't there all the time and we were  
14 able to chat without anyone hearing.

15 'People from outside the school came in and took  
16 some of the girls aside and were speaking to them about  
17 the school. They were asking if the girls liked the  
18 school and things like that. I think these girls were  
19 sometimes university students. I was never picked to  
20 speak to these people.

21 'If you did something you weren't supposed to, or if  
22 you didn't do something you were supposed to, you would  
23 get sent to Mr MSH . Mr MSH was the discipline.  
24 Nobody would dare challenge or stand up to him.

25 Mr MSH shouted at you and, quite often, his face

1 would go purple with temper. He was a big, hairy  
2 Welshman. I liked him because he was strict, but firm  
3 and fair. He didn't take any nonsense. I had a few  
4 bawlings from him. The other staff wouldn't shout, but  
5 would use getting sent to Mr MSH as a threat to any  
6 girls who were behaving badly.

7 'I saw Mr MSH shouting at girls. But, more  
8 often, I heard him shouting. He never used the belt.  
9 Sometimes they would withhold cigarettes when all the  
10 other girls were getting theirs. This happened to me  
11 a few times. They would do this if I had been caught  
12 fighting with another girl, which was usually after they  
13 had made a comment about my birthmark and I retaliated.  
14 Another threat the staff may use was stopping weekend  
15 leave, but that never happened to me.

16 'I never ran away from Langlands. If I had run away  
17 I would have missed my cigarettes. Me and a few other  
18 girls ran away when we were on a trip to England, but we  
19 went back after a couple of hours.

20 'On my first day, I had just arrived and went in to  
21 the dining hall and sat down and waited for my lunch.  
22 One of the girls at the table looked at my face and said  
23 that she felt sick because of the birthmark on my face  
24 and couldn't eat her dinner. She said it to a member of  
25 staff, who I can't remember, and the member of staff



1           asked me to move to a different seat.

2           'Most of the abuse I suffered at Langlands was from  
3           this girl and one other girl. I don't remember their  
4           names, but they were a year or two older than me. They  
5           said something horrible to me every day, every time they  
6           saw me, it was constant. They left after about a year,  
7           so it got better after they left because the other girls  
8           were used to seeing my birthmark and a lot of the girls  
9           who came in were from the south side of the Glasgow,  
10          which is where I was from.

11          'They were like back up and stuck up for me. At  
12          some point, one girl, whose name I can't remember, said  
13          she had been slapped on the face by Mr MSH .  
14          I didn't see her getting slapped, but her face was red.  
15          I had no issues with any of the staff in any way. If  
16          you were sent to Mr MSH , you knew you were in  
17          trouble. I was sent to him a few times for throwing  
18          books about and he screamed and shouted at me each time.  
19          I never told any of the staff what the girls were saying  
20          to me about my birthmark. It would have made my life  
21          worse if I had dared. It was an unwritten rule not to  
22          tell and that was just the way it was. Nobody liked  
23          a grass.

24          'The staff probably would have heard some of the  
25          remarks made by the girls about me and my birthmark, but

1           they must have turned a blind eye to it. I think their  
2           opinion was that the girls should fight their own  
3           battles. It is possible some of the staff wouldn't have  
4           been aware of the abuse I was getting. When the girl  
5           told me to move because my birthmark was making her feel  
6           sick, the member of staff was obviously aware, but did  
7           nothing about it, apart from asking me to move.

8           'There was a new cook who came and she knew about  
9           the girls saying horrible things to me. She must have  
10          said something to Mr MSH because he apparently went  
11          ballistic at the girls. This didn't stop them and in  
12          fact made it worse for me, because after that I was  
13          considered a grass.

14          'I can't remember what date I left Langlands, but  
15          I know it would have been around the same day as my  
16          official school leaving date. That was when most of the  
17          girls left. I knew I was coming up to 16 and that  
18          I would be leaving, but I can't remember if anyone  
19          actually said it to me. I did see my social worker,  
20          Maureen, a short time before I left. The first time  
21          I knew exactly when I was leaving was when Mr MSH  
22          told me that I would be getting released the next day.  
23          He told me that I shouldn't look back and warned me that  
24          if I flew with the crows I would get shot with the  
25          crows.

1           'I think I got released on a Friday, so would have  
2           gone on the minibus with the other girls, who were going  
3           on weekend leave.

4           'I am not sure if it was just before or just after  
5           I left, but my mum went to a meeting with Mr MSH and  
6           Maureen, the social worker. I think it was a release or  
7           closure meeting. I wasn't invited to that meeting.  
8           I was never involved in any of the meetings. I never  
9           saw Maureen again, after I left.

10          'Just before it was time to leave Langlands, they  
11          brought in CSV, which are Community Service Volunteers.  
12          It was a company run by Lorna Carrick and I was  
13          allocated a placement with the Social Work Department.  
14          I was to become a play leader when I got out of  
15          Langlands. It was basically a double decker bus, a play  
16          bus, that had some animals in it and lots of toys. We  
17          drove all over the south side of Glasgow and children  
18          and mums came on the bus. The whole point of it was to  
19          get them to start their own mother and toddler groups.  
20          I wasn't getting paid. It was supposed to be  
21          a six-month project, but went on for another two years.  
22          Some of the girls got placements with the elderly and  
23          some with children at nurseries. I didn't see Maureen,  
24          my social worker, again after I left Langlands. I was  
25          left to my own devices.

1           'I couldn't fill in job application forms, but there  
2           was a place in Nitshill, called The Hive, that helped me  
3           fill out forms and sent them away for me. These jobs  
4           I was getting were always short term and temporary.  
5           I went home to stay with my mum and stepdad and my mum  
6           and stepdad were still there drinking. I couldn't  
7           handle it, so I went to stay with a friend. After  
8           a while, the Council gave me a flat.

9           'I subsequently met my husband and had a child, and  
10          that is when really things changed in my life. I became  
11          far stronger and one of the first things I did was to  
12          make sure she wasn't dyslexic. When she started at  
13          primary 1, I went into the classroom with her as  
14          a classroom assistant. This is where I started to learn  
15          to count and read. I went on to have another child.

16          'When I was doing one of my cleaning jobs, I was  
17          working for a firm that dealt with college courses and  
18          grants and sometimes had a look through some of the  
19          leaflets. I saw one for a National Certificate course  
20          in social care. One of the staff suggested I go for it.  
21          I was reluctant because of my reading issues, but I did  
22          the course and absolutely loved it. I had dyslexic  
23          support straight away and the tutors were brilliant.  
24          I passed the course and qualified with a National  
25          Certificate in Social Care. It was only when I told my

1 mum that I was applying for a college course she told me  
2 that I had dyslexia. She said I had been assessed in  
3 Beechwood by an educational psychologist and, at the  
4 end, she had been told I had dyslexia.

5 'I applied for and got a job as a support worker.  
6 I loved it. I helped another woman start a small  
7 business, who was very artistic. I then got another job  
8 as a team leader. To get this job I had to get another  
9 qualification, a Higher National Certificate at  
10 university.

11 'The impact of my birthmark on my life started when  
12 I was at primary school and the teacher told the rest of  
13 the class that had I been born earlier in history  
14 I would have been burned at the stake as a witch.  
15 I don't think she was deliberately picking on me and  
16 didn't realise what she had done. This had a dramatic  
17 effect on me and ruined the rest of my life.

18 'It was made worse at both Beechwood and Langlands  
19 because of the abuse from the girls. I think I became  
20 most conscious of my birthmark when I was at Langlands.  
21 I think it was because I was surrounded by teenage  
22 girls, who were pretty, and they were calling me ugly  
23 because of birthmark. Every time I looked at myself in  
24 the mirror all I saw was the birthmark. I was the only  
25 one with a birthmark and I kept getting reminded of

1           that.

2           'My birthmark has been covered up for the last  
3           40 years. You will never find a photograph of me and my  
4           birthmark. I won't open my front door without having my  
5           camouflage make up on. I even have an emergency kit in  
6           my house in case there is a fire. That is how  
7           self-conscious and ashamed I am and how desperate I am  
8           that people don't see me. I am worried that when  
9           I become a pensioner I will be the only one still  
10          wearing makeup.

11          'What the girls in care said to me about my  
12          birthmark, especially at Langlands, was extremely  
13          hurtful to me. It made me so ashamed of my face.  
14          I just wanted the birthmark to disappear. Not so  
15          I could be pretty, just so that I could fit in with the  
16          other girls. I just wanted to blend in and not stand  
17          out for the wrong reason.

18          'When I was in care, I am not sure if I was ready  
19          for the education side of school and learning things.  
20          It was probably my dyslexia that stopped that side of  
21          things from working for me.

22          'After leaving Langlands, it was almost as if I had  
23          to acclimatise and get used to normal life. Everything  
24          was so structured in there. We ate at set times. We  
25          had a cigarette at set times and everything was

1 programmed to happen at certain times. Because I was  
2 introduced and encouraged to smoke at Langlands, I still  
3 smoke to this day. Sometimes I am really angry that  
4 they gave us cigarettes in the first place. I have  
5 tried everything possible to try and stop smoking, but  
6 I haven't managed.

7 'Mr MSH, at Langlands, took me to the GP and set  
8 the wheels in motion for me to get laser surgery to have  
9 the birthmark removed. I was put on a waiting list, but  
10 when it was supposed to start the Falklands War broke  
11 out, in 1982, and it was postponed. The Piper Alpha  
12 disaster then happened in 1988, so it was postponed  
13 again. I went on to have the laser treatment and now  
14 have had around 60 treatments. Initially, it was done  
15 under general anaesthetic with a full surgical team, but  
16 gradually I went on to having treatment without any  
17 anaesthetic.

18 'I have never reported anything that happened to me  
19 to the police. I remember that when I was at Langlands,  
20 at some point a black car took me to give evidence at  
21 court. I am not sure who had been charged. Before  
22 I went to court, my mum told me that I wasn't to say  
23 and, instead, I had fallen. The charges were dropped.

24 'Smoking should never have been encouraged at  
25 Langlands. Now that I am older, I can see they used the

1 cigarettes as a way to control us. If we were bad they  
2 would withhold our cigarettes. This turned out to be  
3 an expensive addiction for me, because I have never  
4 given up, despite trying.

5 'Looking back, I wish I had been told about the  
6 possibility and how to cover up my birthmark much  
7 earlier. It might have stopped a lot of the abuse from  
8 the other girls and also made me more confident with  
9 myself.

10 'My dyslexia was identified when I was at Beechwood  
11 apparently, but nothing was ever done with that  
12 information. The information may have been passed on to  
13 my mum, but it didn't go with me to Langlands. I may  
14 have been getting assessed further at Langlands, but  
15 there was never anything put in place to help me learn.

16 'Langlands should have done more to help me get  
17 a paid job at the end of my time. When I was at  
18 Langlands I felt I was helping other people with the  
19 community work I was doing, but no one was interested in  
20 helping me in any way.

21 'I think it is important to recognise that all  
22 behaviour is communication. However bad that behaviour  
23 is in a young person there is communications behind it.  
24 Punishing bad behaviour, and I include sending children  
25 to List D schools, isn't the answer. We have to



1 recognise that education doesn't work for everybody. I  
2 was no better educated when I came out of Langlands than  
3 when I went in. I don't mean that education doesn't  
4 work at all, but it has to be delivered in such a way  
5 and with the appropriate tools, if required. By that I  
6 mean with all the available learning tools to assist  
7 dyslexia.

8 'I hope that by coming forward it makes a different  
9 and children are supported to reach their full  
10 potential. I would like to think that nowadays there  
11 are ways of identifying dyslexia earlier and that people  
12 with birthmarks or who stand out in other ways are  
13 looked after and given support. Having a birthmark  
14 makes a massive impact on a child's life, and it doesn't  
15 just go away. I don't want anyone to go through what  
16 I did.

17 'People involved in bringing up children, especially  
18 teachers, must be there because they want to be, not  
19 because they are getting paid. A child also needs  
20 stability when growing up. There should be  
21 an independent person who is able to relate to the child  
22 and be trusted. Every child must be treated as  
23 an individual and the most important thing is that every  
24 child must have a voice which is listened to.

25 'I think my priest would have been the best person

1           for me, because he didn't have an impact or involvement  
2           with my education. If not a priest, then somebody who  
3           I trusted as a friend, an independent mentor who would  
4           have been good, someone not connected to the Social Work  
5           Department or to the organisations that ran the  
6           establishments.

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

11          'Mandy' signed the statement on 13 April 2023.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13           Mr MacAulay.

14 MR MACAULAY: I think my Lady would intend having a short  
15          break at this point.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MR MACAULAY: But, before we do that, can I just mention  
18          this point: there have been four witnesses who gave oral  
19          evidence in earlier chapters whose evidence would also  
20          be relevant to this chapter, but because they gave all  
21          their evidence in the previous chapters their evidence  
22          has not been presented to your Ladyship during this  
23          chapter. I just want to give the references --

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MACAULAY: -- perhaps for the benefit of my learned

1 friend, Mr Brodie, as to when that evidence was given.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR MACAULAY: So 'Bruno' gave evidence on Day 389, that was  
4 the 14 November 2023, and the transcript reference is  
5 TRN-12-000000021.

6 LADY SMITH: That was in the SPS section of this phase?

7 MR MACAULAY: Indeed. He gave evidence in particular in  
8 relation to Geilsland and he made allegations of abuse  
9 by Mr EZD .

10 The next witness I want to make reference to is  
11 'Scott'. He gave evidence on Day 426, which was  
12 20 March 2024, and the transcript reference is  
13 TRN-12-000000058. Again, he gives evidence about his  
14 time at Geilsland and also about -- he makes allegations  
15 of abuse in connection with Mr EZD . He also makes  
16 reference to a Reverend HDY as someone who  
17 psychologically abused him.

18 LADY SMITH: That was in the Dundee section?

19 MR MACAULAY: That was the Dundee section.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

21 MR MACAULAY: The next witness is a lady who has taken the  
22 pseudonym 'Rizzo'. She gave evidence on Day 423, that  
23 was 23 February 2024, and that's TRN-12-000000055.  
24 Again, she gave evidence in the Dundee section, but she  
25 also speaks to Langlands Park and, in particular,

1 allegations of how she suffered at the hands of SNR  
2 SNR, Mr MSH.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, that was 'Rizzo'.

4 MR MACAULAY: Finally then, in relation to ... and I will  
5 just find the page. Yes, this witness took the  
6 pseudonym 'John' and he gave evidence on Day 389, and  
7 that was on 14 November 2023, so that was the SPS  
8 chapter. His evidence is at TRN-12-000000021.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR MACAULAY: The focus of his evidence in connection with  
11 Ballikinrain is that he suffered sexual abuse from other  
12 boys, which he didn't want to talk about any more than  
13 he did. Subject to that, subject to the sexual abuse,  
14 he is complementary of his time at Ballikinrain.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

16 Just before I rise for the break, names of people  
17 whose identities are protected by my General Restriction  
18 Order. These are names that we did use this morning  
19 during the read-ins: GOU; a man whose name is  
20 referred to as GPB and a Mr GYJ. They are not  
21 to be identified outside this room.

22 So I will stop now for the break and then we will  
23 move on to our witness in-person after that. Thank you.

24 (11.30 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.47 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

3 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, the next, and indeed final, oral  
4 witness in this chapter is Vivienne Dickenson.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Vivienne Dickenson (sworn)

7 LADY SMITH: Do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

8 Welcome back. You know that my first question is  
9 going to be: how would you like me to address you? I am  
10 happy to use your first name or --

11 A. First name is fine.

12 LADY SMITH: Is that all right, Vivienne?

13 A. It is.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you. You know what is in the red folder,  
15 and you know what I have said to every witness sitting  
16 where you are before they start giving their evidence.  
17 Of course, your evidence is of a slightly different  
18 nature to all that I have been listening to in the last  
19 couple of weeks.

20 But, Vivienne, that doesn't mean that you don't get  
21 exactly the same indication that if it's all getting  
22 difficult and tough or you need a breather, just say.  
23 It is not a problem, whether here or leaving the room.  
24 Any questions, speak up. Really, we want to hear them  
25 and maybe we can do our best to work together

1 collaboratively to mine your knowledge, which is much  
2 greater than ours, on the affairs of CrossReach as  
3 comfortably as we can, so that you don't leave here  
4 a total wreck this afternoon.

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to  
7 Mr MacAulay and he will take it from there; is that all  
8 right?

9 A. That's fine. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

11 Questions by Mr MacAulay

12 MR MACAULAY: Thank you, my Lady. Good morning, Vivienne.

13 A. Good morning.

14 Q. You first gave evidence to this Inquiry on 23 June 2017?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. That was Day 12 of the Inquiry, a long time ago now.

17 A. A long time.

18 Q. At that time we looked at your witness profile, I don't  
19 propose to rehearse that. But your background was  
20 working in the Prison Service; is that right?

21 A. Initially, yes.

22 Q. And to the extent that you were a prison governor at  
23 a point in time?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You joined CrossReach in 1995?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. Certainly when you gave your evidence you were the Chief  
3 Executive Officer, I think, with effect from June 2017;  
4 is that the position you still have?

5 A. That's the position I still have.

6 Q. As you explained before, CrossReach, you described as  
7 the trading arm or the professional social care arm of  
8 the Church of Scotland?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Am I right in thinking, Vivienne, that you have attended  
11 this chapter of evidence every day?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. As you know, then, the focus of the chapter has been on  
14 three establishments that were run by CrossReach,  
15 Geilsland, Ballikinrain and Langlands Park. Just to --  
16 at least for the benefit of the transcript, Geilsland  
17 opened in 1964 and closed in 2015; is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Ballikinrain opened in 1968 and it was still operating  
20 when you last gave your evidence, but I think it closed  
21 in January 2021?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Perhaps just on that: the reason for closure at that  
24 time?

25 A. So both Geilsland and Ballikinrain closed under

1 a programme of changing the way in which we delivered  
2 child care. So we felt that the big campuses -- I'd  
3 been Director of Children's Services directly before  
4 becoming Chief Executive and realised that the big  
5 campus model was no longer the best way to be looking  
6 after children, providing support for the children that  
7 were coming through. So we took steps to do quite a big  
8 programme of change at that point, with significant  
9 investment to re-provision into a number of small houses  
10 and to build our own school. And that is the model that  
11 is -- still exists.

12 Q. As far as the building itself was concerned, we have  
13 seen photographs of it and indeed film, an imposing  
14 building; has that been sold?

15 A. Yes, it has.

16 Q. And the other establishment that we have looked at is  
17 Langlands Park.

18 LADY SMITH: Sorry, both buildings, both Geilsland and  
19 Ballikinrain?

20 A. Geilsland and Ballikinrain have both gone, and we have,  
21 I think, seven small houses and a school in Erskine.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MR MACAULAY: And coming to Langlands Park, that existed  
24 from 1962 to 1985/86?

25 A. (Nods).



1 Q. And the building there, we have seen photographs of that  
2 as well; am I right in thinking it was demolished for  
3 some reason or does it still exist?

4 A. I don't know.

5 Q. You don't know?

6 A. I don't know. I think it has been demolished. I think  
7 that's right.

8 Q. Now, previously, we have looked at reports submitted by  
9 CrossReach in connection with Geilsland and Ballikinrain  
10 and also Lord and Lady Polwarth. We didn't look at  
11 Langlands Park previously.

12 Just to get the dates, we call them the A to D  
13 reports. For Geilsland the A to B report was dated  
14 24 April 2017, and the C to D part was dated  
15 31 May 2017, and we have the same dates for  
16 Ballikinrain. But, for Langlands Park, A to B, that was  
17 later, that was 4 September 2020 that was submitted.  
18 The C to D was submitted on 2 December 2020. So these  
19 reports came later and after you had given your  
20 evidence?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, we are not looking at the Lord and Lady Polwarth  
23 establishment in this particular chapter.

24 You told us before, in connection with Geilsland and  
25 Ballikinrain, these establishments were established

1           because you had been approached by the Scottish  
2           Education Department in connection with the provision of  
3           residential accommodation for boys; is that correct?  
4   A.   That's correct.  
5   Q.   So that was the trigger; it was an approach by them to  
6           you to create the establishments?  
7   A.   Yes, and because we already were running two schools for  
8           girls at that point.  
9   Q.   Yes.  And, broadly, these approaches coincided with the  
10          1968 Social Work (Scotland) Act that came to be passed  
11          in 1968?  
12   A.   Broadly.  
13   Q.   Broadly?  
14   A.   Yes, around that time.  So I think they existed as  
15          approved schools initially and then changed into List D  
16          at that time.  
17   Q.   List D.  To focus a little bit on Langlands Park, which  
18          we haven't looked at previously, and if we can put on  
19          the screen and you have this in your folder, it is one  
20          of the reports you submitted.  This is COS-000000007.  
21                 We have now on the screen, and you may have in your  
22          folder, and you can use either, the Part A report you  
23          submitted on behalf of Langlands Park; is that correct?  
24   A.   Yes.  
25   Q.   If I turn to page 12 -- and I am just looking to see if

1 we have that on the screen. Page 12, yes, it is on the  
2 screen. The first question that you are asked, (i):  
3 'Did the establishment have a special legal,  
4 statutory or other status?"  
5 You say:  
6 'It operated as an Approved School.'  
7 And you go on to say:  
8 'The Church of Scotland were requested by the  
9 Scottish Education Department to operate a school on  
10 behalf of the Secretary of State for Scotland.'  
11 So, again, was it a request made by the SED that  
12 brought about the creation of Langlands Park?  
13 A. That's how we understand it, yes.  
14 Q. Yes. Perhaps just to move on to page 13, that's where  
15 you just give us the date for when Langlands Park  
16 closed. That's at (vii). And you tell us it was 1986.  
17 Again, was the reasoning the same as to why it closed?  
18 A. There was a change in funding in 1986 for List D  
19 establishments, so I think the decision was taken at  
20 that point to stop operating the schools for girls, but  
21 to continue the boys schools as residential school care  
22 accommodation.  
23 Q. I think the change in funding was from state funding to  
24 Local Authority funding?  
25 A. That's it, yes.

1 Q. If we move to page 16, for instance if we have this in  
2 front of us, at (iii), are we told that it was  
3 an Approved School for older female children, over the  
4 age of 15. Then, in 1968, the school was changed to  
5 an intermediate school taking girls from the age of 13  
6 and a half. So, at one stage, it was for older girls,  
7 then it changed to take younger girls?  
8 A. That's right.  
9 Q. And page 21, if we just move on to that, here you set  
10 out numbers, for example, in 1964, the occupancy figures  
11 appear to be about 20. Moving on to 1985, 19, and in  
12 between we can see there are peaks?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. The estimate is that you reckon 570 children in total  
15 were cared for at the establishment?  
16 A. Yes. It is hard to extrapolate from these figures  
17 because some girls, as we have heard in evidence, were  
18 there for multiple years. But, yes, we have done our  
19 best to get to a number there.  
20 Q. Yes. And if we move on to page 34 of this document,  
21 I want to look at this because here you provide some  
22 information about the staffing. If we scroll towards  
23 the top of the page, page 35 ... so do we see that when  
24 it opened -- I think we are being told that SNR  
25 SNR was a Mr [REDACTED]?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And he was there from 1965 to 1968?

3 A. Actually, I am not sure. [REDACTED]

4 Mr [REDACTED] KMZ .

5 Q. Oh yes, I think you are correct. But not for long?

6 A. Not for long.

7 Q. I wonder if that's on the previous page?

8 LADY SMITH: No, he is there. He is the third item on that

9 page.

10 MR MACAULAY: Oh yes, I am reading down the way. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MR MACAULAY: Yes, you are right. Mr [REDACTED] KMZ for --

13 LADY SMITH: Do we need to go back to the previous page,

14 Mr MacAulay, just to get the full text for that:

15 'What were the names and qualifications of [REDACTED] SNR

16 [REDACTED] SNR ?'

17 So that [REDACTED] Mr [REDACTED] MSH , [REDACTED] in

18 1985. But it was Mr [REDACTED] KMZ who was [REDACTED] SNR in

19 1962; is that correct?

20 MR MACAULAY: That's right.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR MACAULAY: [REDACTED] Ms [REDACTED] for a short

23 period of time, and [REDACTED] Mr [REDACTED]

24 I think.

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. Just over two years, I think. And yesterday we had  
2 evidence from 'Siobhan' that was complementary of  
3 Mr [REDACTED] and SNR [REDACTED] ?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. [REDACTED] Mr MSH [REDACTED], who was SNR [REDACTED]  
6 SNR [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] of  
7 Langlands Park. The dates we are given there are  
8 from February 1968 to March 1985. [REDACTED]  
9 that he was SNR [REDACTED] ?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. I think we -- again, if we go back to page 35, can we  
12 see under the heading 'SNR [REDACTED]' he is  
13 designated as SNR [REDACTED] from 1966 to 1968.  
14 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]. Then we have  
15 a Mr LWH [REDACTED], from [REDACTED] 1969?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. Now, you will have heard the evidence given by  
18 Deirdre MacDonald on Tuesday, where she described how  
19 two runaways were treated on their return, and you may  
20 think it was quite poignant evidence.  
21 A. It was poignant evidence, and it is clear the trauma  
22 that that left with her, but it was very difficult  
23 evidence to hear.  
24 Q. Since we are looking at it, she describes how these two  
25 girls were thrashed, and that thrashing involved

1 Mr MSH and Mr LWH. I think one thing she said  
2 was that they were 'leathered to an inch of their life';  
3 do you remember that?

4 A. I do remember that, I do. I also remember her asking if  
5 we could issue an apology to those two girls and I would  
6 be very happy to do that.

7 Q. But the other thing she mentions -- and this is  
8 particularly apparent from her statement -- is that she  
9 was told by the older member of staff, who was there  
10 with her, that this was a normal treatment for girls who  
11 ran away?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. It perhaps gives us a -- if that's accepted -- sense of  
14 what the MSH SNR was like?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And SNR lasted for [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED] of Langlands Park?

18 A. Yes. Yes. It feels like a mixed report, doesn't it, on  
19 Langlands Park? Because, having read the file, we have  
20 that evidence of him being a very abusive SNR,  
21 absolutely, in that circumstance. And then we have just  
22 heard evidence where he was the one who tried to get  
23 help for a young woman with a birthmark. So sometimes  
24 it is hard to make sense of a culture and a regime, but  
25 we would have to accept that there is enough evidence to

1 suggest that it was a brutal physical regime at times.

2 LADY SMITH: Vivienne, I know you haven't had to follow the  
3 evidence in all our other case studies, but I can tell  
4 you that from the very first case study in relation to  
5 which we presented oral evidence I have heard accounts  
6 in relation to one member of staff, or one head, from  
7 some people that have been positive and from other  
8 people that have been distinctly negative, and to this  
9 day are still suffering the effects of ill treatment  
10 from them. And I am talking about accounts where the  
11 evidence has been credible and reliable on both sides.

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: It seems to be the nature of this type of  
14 environment.

15 A. Unpredictable.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes, and high risk, perhaps.

17 MR MACAULAY: Another witness who did give evidence was the  
18 witness 'Mo'; do you remember her?

19 A. Yes. I do, yes.

20 Q. That was the girl who was pregnant and was told her baby  
21 had died?

22 A. Yes, in a mother and baby unit, as I recall.

23 Q. Yes. Now, she gave evidence about how she was dealt  
24 with on one occasion by Mr MSH using a table tennis  
25 table to strike her, with the result that I think she



1           said she had head injuries; do you remember that  
2           evidence?

3   A.   I do, yes.

4   Q.   At one point, she said that she was thrown down a spiral  
5           staircase when she was pregnant?

6   A.   Yes.

7   Q.   This would have been around 1982 or thereabouts,  
8           I think.

9   A.   (Nods).

10  Q.   So we have Deirdre MacDonald telling us about  
11           an incident in 1972 and, going ten years down the line,  
12           we can see, if that evidence is accepted, Mr MSH is  
13           indulging in abusive behaviour?

14  A.   Yes.

15  Q.   I will come back to that.

16           Can I just go back to the time of [REDACTED]  
17           SNR [REDACTED]? Who I think -- the focus was on, I think,  
18           Mr KMZ [REDACTED]; have you looked at the records to see if he  
19           encountered problems?

20  A.   Yes. So I have read the Langlands Park file that has  
21           been provided by the Inquiry and I can see that he did  
22           encounter problems right from the start. And that his  
23           management of staff was ineffective, but also his grasp  
24           of what was happening in school, in terms of abuse of  
25           one young woman, was also ineffective.

1 Q. Could I ask you to look at this document? It may -- and  
2 I don't know if you have it in your folder or not, but  
3 I will put it on the screen. It is SGV-000061834. And  
4 I want to turn to page 6 of the document. You can see  
5 it is an SED file.

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: This is a file I think we saw began in 1962 and  
8 now we have a letter dated 11 March 1963.

9 MR MACAULAY: Yes. You will see it is a letter with that  
10 date to Mr KMZ. I think you can take it, it is from  
11 one of the HMI inspectors. And it is headed  
12 'Punishment':

13 'You mentioned to Mr Buchan and myself when we  
14 visited last Friday that Ms KJM had slapped a girl to  
15 maintain discipline and that you, yourself, had had  
16 occasion to do likewise with [a girl].'

17 It goes on to say, 'This is contrary to the rules'.  
18 So it would appear, even as early as this, there is what  
19 they call later on in the letter irregular corporal  
20 punishment being inflicted.

21 A. Yes, it is not just -- it is irregular, and in fact all  
22 corporal punishment wasn't supposed to happen in girls'  
23 Approved Schools.

24 Q. And another document in the same file, at page 21, it is  
25 headed:

1           'Langlands Park - irregular punishment, et cetera.'

2           And this document, although we don't see the date,  
3           I think I can say it is in 1964; do we see that this is  
4           again highlighting the fact that there are irregular  
5           punishments and that these irregular punishments should  
6           not be taking place?

7    A.   Yes.

8    Q.   And if we turn to page 23, we are looking here at  
9           an internal memo, dated 14 December 1964, and I will  
10          just read that:

11                 'Although the members of staff who had acted  
12                 improperly in the matter of punishment had resigned, or  
13                 offered to resign, it was agreed that the department  
14                 would write formally to the managers intimating their  
15                 concern about the incidents and encouraging the managers  
16                 to take whatever action was necessary to avoid  
17                 recurrences.'

18                 So does it appear that because of the irregular  
19                 punishments some members of staff may have had to  
20                 resign?

21   A.   Yes.

22   Q.   And if we could turn to page 72 in the same folder, this  
23           is headed 'Langlands Park'. It is dated, on the other  
24           page, 19 June 1970. We begin in the second paragraph  
25           with Mr MSH notifying the inspector of the rape of

1 a girl by one of the cemetery gravediggers; do we see  
2 that?

3 A. We do.

4 Q. It would appear also, in the second paragraph, there had  
5 been what are described as 'severe riots' in the school?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And if we turn to the next page, page 73, do we read in  
8 the final paragraph:

9 'During my visit I became concerned about  
10 Mr MSH ' increased weight and apparent sluggishness.  
11 His short temper with the girls when he spoke to them  
12 makes one wonder about his current state of health and  
13 whether he is physically A1.'

14 So does it appear, even as early as this, that there  
15 are problems being identified in connection with  
16 Langlands Park?

17 A. It certainly would appear that way, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: And that date is 19 June 1970?

19 MR MACAULAY: 1970.

20 LADY SMITH: That's when it's noted that Mr MSH '  
21 apparent condition is giving cause for concern.

22 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

23 Does it appear that then throughout its history, at  
24 least [redacted] Mr KMZ 's time and [redacted] Mr MSH '  
25 time, that there have been, perhaps with the exception

1 of the Mr [REDACTED] SNR, allegations in connection with how  
2 the school is being run and what was happening in the  
3 school?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you know if these were ever addressed?

6 A. Um, there is not a great deal of evidence to show how  
7 that was addressed with Mr MSH [REDACTED]. We can see concerns  
8 about his health were flagged up and that he has been  
9 short-tempered, but I don't see any management controls  
10 coming in on top of that.

11 Q. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Well, Vivienne, is there anything you have seen  
13 that indicates steps were taken to support Mr MSH [REDACTED],  
14 work out with him how things could be improved or not?

15 A. Not from this file and I can't -- I haven't got anything  
16 else, no employment records, obviously, from that time.  
17 But it is a concern that I have reading through the  
18 files and some of the comments that have been made about  
19 the dolorous, I think it was, situation with  
20 SNR [REDACTED] in Approved Schools. I was thinking  
21 obviously there had been problems, but I do wonder about  
22 their support at the time and whether that led to  
23 something that should have been done about training and  
24 support.

25 MR MACAULAY: If we go back to the report that CrossReach

1 has submitted in connection with Langlands Park, and  
2 that's at COS-000000007, I want to look at page 40 and  
3 this is Part B of the document. At 3.2, the question  
4 has been asked:

5 'Does the organisation/establishment accept that its  
6 systems failed to protect the children cared for at the  
7 establishment ...?'"

8 We have looked at the date covered by the Inquiry.  
9 But, of course, here we are looking at Langlands Park.  
10 And the answer here is:

11 'On the evidence we have we believe that the systems  
12 protected the majority of children in the care of  
13 Langlands Park from abuse. We only know of one  
14 complaint involving one child.'

15 Is that a statement that you still stand by?

16 A. No, I think we would have to recognise, in the light of  
17 the evidence that we have heard from the Inquiry, that  
18 there was bullying at Langlands Park and that there are  
19 a number of applicants who have talked about abuse. So  
20 that statement from 2020 would change in the light of  
21 what we now know.

22 Q. What you have said there, of course, is based on the  
23 in-house information you had at the time?

24 A. That's right, absolutely.

25 Q. I want to ask you about an incident that you describe

1 in, I think, Part D of the report. Part D is the part  
2 where you are being asked specifically about abuse. If  
3 I could put this back on the screen, it is at  
4 COS-000000017. So we're looking at the Part D for  
5 Langlands Park.

6 If I can take you to, first of all, page 9, you are  
7 being asked about information about certain people.  
8 Towards the bottom, there is a reference to Mr MSH  
9 and how long he had been in post. If I just read that,  
10 moving on, he had previously been SNR of  
11 the school from 1966 and, as far as is known, no other  
12 allegations have been made regarding him.

13 The allegation, I think, that you have in mind there  
14 is to be found at page 13, where, about halfway down,  
15 there is a reference to a former pupil making  
16 a complaint in 2019, against whom the complaint was  
17 made:

18 'In the case of the tennis ball, see below, SNR  
19 SNR, otherwise unspecified members of school  
20 staff. The pupil said she had been subjected to  
21 physical and psychological abuse, including being struck  
22 on the head with a tennis ball, being pushed downstairs  
23 and then made to clean up her own spilt blood and being  
24 locked in a room when visitors came to the school.'

25 Can I just be clear: this is a different incident to

1 the one where 'Mo' was pushed down the stairs?

2 A. I believe this to be the same incident. This was based  
3 on the information that we had at the time. We are now  
4 talking about that to my colleague, saying that the  
5 evidence that was initially presented to us was about  
6 a tennis ball, but we now understand that to be a table  
7 tennis table.

8 Q. Oh yes. So that's where the confusion is?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Had this information -- what was the source of this  
11 information?

12 A. A civil claim.

13 Q. And the information you provided us with, complaints in  
14 relation to Langlands Park, date from 2020; are there  
15 any updates in connection with Langlands Park?

16 A. There are no formal updates in Langlands Park, other  
17 than we now have a lot more evidence than we did when we  
18 first prepared this.

19 Q. How do you mean? Is that evidence through the Inquiry  
20 or from other sources?

21 A. Mainly through the Inquiry. We have trawled our files,  
22 but we don't have very much on Langlands Park,  
23 unfortunately.

24 Q. No, and I think that's evident from your responses,  
25 where you say there are no records to be found --



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- for one reason or another?

3 A. I think we have the headteacher's logbook, and I think  
4 we declared that at the time. But, in terms of people's  
5 personal records, we don't have those, or staff training  
6 records.

7 LADY SMITH: So are you saying that the headteacher's  
8 logbook is in addition to what was available in 2020,  
9 when you completed your responses?

10 A. I can't remember whether we declared that at the time or  
11 not, but I have certainly seen it.

12 LADY SMITH: Sorry, I can't remember either, Mr MacAulay.

13 A. We can check that.

14 MR MACAULAY: Okay, thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR MACAULAY: Now, can I go back to your very early  
17 responses to the Inquiry? I want you to look at this  
18 document. It's COS-000000001. And you will see that  
19 this is a letter, it is dated 3 October 2016, and it has  
20 been sent by Mr Bailey, the Chief Executive Officer, and  
21 you will be familiar with this letter.

22 A. I am familiar with this letter, yes.

23 Q. And perhaps you can just summarise to us what you are  
24 setting out in this letter?

25 A. So this is the Chief Executive responding to the Inquiry

1 on -- I think the initial Part, As, Bs, Cs and Ds, in  
2 terms of responding to any records that we had of  
3 complaints that had been made by young people who were  
4 looked after in our care and how these had been dealt  
5 with.

6 Q. And what he sets out, in the second paragraph:

7 'Given the volume of children we have provided  
8 services to over the years, it has not been possible to  
9 review all records within the timeframe given. The  
10 information we are providing has been captured from the  
11 databases of reporting systems developed over the past  
12 20 years and is as accurate as it can be at this time.'

13 And he goes on to say that you would continue to  
14 review all information.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Then he sets out an analysis:

17 'We have identified 177 known complaints,  
18 allegations or reports of physical or sexual abuse over  
19 the period 1930 - December 2017.'

20 Then he lists -- that has been analysed. For  
21 example, 130 cases which have been investigated  
22 internally; 32 cases which have been investigated by the  
23 police, and one case which has resulted in criminal  
24 convictions. And that would be Lord and Lady Polwarth  
25 case?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Ian Samson?

3 A. That was the Ian Samson case, yes.

4 Q. At this time, was that the only conviction you are aware  
5 of?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And along with this letter -- and you probably have this  
8 material in your folder. We can't put it on the screen  
9 because the redaction makes it impossible, because it is  
10 virtually lists of names.

11 A. Oh, yes.

12 Q. But you supplied the back-up information to the detail  
13 given on the first page of the letter?

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. It is material that looks -- I will just hold it up --  
16 like that.

17 A. Yes, I know it. I don't think it is in the folder, but  
18 I know exactly what you are talking about.

19 Q. It is a list. It is dealing with different issues, but,  
20 on one side, we have the child's name. We then have the  
21 service where the child may have been. We then have the  
22 alleged perpetrator, the nature of the complaint,  
23 a description, the date the event occurred, who made the  
24 report, and we then have a comment and outcome at the  
25 end.

1           There is a significant list of names that you were  
2           able to draw from the database for this exercise?

3   A.   Yes.  In full transparency, what we handed over was  
4           every complaint that had been made, whether we found  
5           that to be substantiated or not.  But we thought that  
6           might be useful to you.

7           So, even where we felt at the time it was  
8           a restraint that had been poorly applied or something,  
9           we still felt that would be relevant for you to  
10          consider.

11   Q.   Yes, okay.  And what I want to ask you -- if we go back  
12          to the letter, the second page of the letter, about  
13          halfway down, what Mr Bailey says is:

14                 'Under these criteria we have not reported the  
15                 following as we do not believe you are looking for this  
16                 information at this time.'

17                 And that is:

18                 'Abuse when it is alleged a child has abused another  
19                 child.

20                 'Abuse which is financial.

21                 'Any staff conduct issues which may have had  
22                 a psychological or emotional effect on the child, unless  
23                 there was associated physical or sexual abuse.'

24                 Now, I think you no doubt are aware that the Inquiry  
25                 is interested in particular in whether or not a child

1 has abused another child and psychological or emotional  
2 abuse. But you haven't built that into this exercise  
3 that you carried out?

4 A. That's right. In that tabletop exercise these were  
5 things that we didn't consider.

6 Q. Yes. And I think you have been asked since to perhaps  
7 look at this aspect of it?

8 A. Yes, we were asked a few weeks ago, in preparation for  
9 the Inquiry, whether we could do some more work on  
10 peer-on-peer abuse, and while -- the time limitations  
11 have not allowed us to do that, because actually we have  
12 also just given evidence to the Covid Inquiry, then we  
13 have undertaken to do that for you.

14 Q. Thank you very much for that.

15 Now, looking at the back up material, which I think  
16 fits into the numbers that are on the first page of the  
17 letter, the first question that you look at is:

18 'Any complaint of members of staff or any other  
19 person which has not resulted in an investigation.'

20 And that is the seven cases that you referred to on  
21 the first page?

22 A. Yes, that's it. Yes, thank you. It was just slightly  
23 down. So, yes, the seven cases there, yes.

24 Q. And the second question:

25 'Any internal investigations of members of staff or

1 any other person.'

2 Now, this is quite a bulky section. If I take one  
3 or two examples, a number of persons whose names have  
4 come across over the last couple of weeks feature here?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. For example, the witness who gave evidence this week,  
7 who took the pseudonym 'Jim' --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- he features quite significantly?

10 A. He does.

11 Q. And generally it is allegations of physical assault?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. The final column tells us how the complaint was dealt  
14 with. Sometimes we see there is reference to  
15 suspension?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And usually suspension pending fact-finding  
18 investigation?

19 A. (Nods).

20 Q. Then perhaps we might find an entry to say '~~fact-finding~~  
21 investigation inconclusive'?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Or 'Outcome unknown'.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Now, that reference to 'Outcome unknown'; is that simply

1 because you don't have a record?

2 A. That's right. We have not been able to follow that  
3 through to conclusion. So it could be that there are  
4 other sanctions that have been awarded that we haven't  
5 captured on the record there, or it could be that we,  
6 again, have not been able to find a -- conclusive  
7 evidence one way or the other.

8 Q. Another entry we come across is:

9 'Fact finding investigation written warning issued'?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you able to tell me: does that mean that a part of  
12 the allegation might have been accepted as being valid?

13 A. Yes, we would only award a sanction where we believe  
14 that something has been substantiated, and it may be all  
15 or part of it. And we would have a number of sanctions  
16 at our disposal. These could include just actually  
17 further training for a member of staff, but that would  
18 normally go alongside an oral warning of some sort.  
19 Then we would have a written warning, a final written  
20 warning, and dismissal.

21 Q. And there is at least one reference to dismissal.

22 I know you don't have the document, but it is on page 9.

23 It is -- I think it may be somebody who may have  
24 featured in the evidence called HVH, and it is

25 an alleged assault and excessive force during physical

1 intervention. The text tells us:

2 'Fact finding investigation undertaken.  
3 Disciplinary hearing dismissed.'

4 So clearly that was the basis for that dismissal?

5 A. Yes. We would have found that to be substantiated. And  
6 in fact in some cases, where we have dismissed, we have  
7 also referred to listing where we felt that was  
8 appropriate.

9 Q. There is one other example, I think, where the  
10 individual was being accused of behaving inappropriately  
11 with a former resident?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I think he resigned before he was dismissed?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is that the position? I think it is on page 3 of the  
16 document.

17 A. Yes, I think they were maybe also charged, but yes.

18 Q. Yes. And the third section of this document deals with  
19 any investigation by the police of members of staff or  
20 any other person. And there have been a number of  
21 police investigations?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I will come back to this, because I think you tell us  
24 there is an investigation as we speak?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. I will come back to that.

2 But, in relation to the list of names for the police  
3 investigations, EZD features largely?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think by the time any investigations had begun he had  
6 died?

7 A. That's right. And I believe most of that was reported  
8 historically.

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. Yes. So that was intimated to us by the police. We  
11 have cooperated with that as fully as we can. But  
12 EZD died in 2014, I believe.

13 Q. I think one of the complainers, one of the applicants,  
14 at least one of the complainers, who I think had the  
15 pseudonym 'Cheyenne' earlier on in this chapter.

16 And I think there is also a section here dealing  
17 with convictions, at question 5, and you only have the  
18 one conviction for Ian Samson at this time. But I think  
19 we now know that Gregor Dougal has also been convicted?

20 A. Very recently, yes.

21 Q. Very recently?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are we then talking, really, about only two convictions  
24 in connection with the three establishments?

25 A. Two convictions, yes, and that major investigation which

1 has not reached a conclusion because --

2 Q. And I will come back to you on that.

3 Can we then just go back to Geilsland? We have  
4 looked at Langlands Park, and let's just look at  
5 Geilsland for a moment or two. Could we have available  
6 the report for Geilsland, which is at COS.001.001.0038?  
7 That's the first page of the document. If we could turn  
8 to page 31. Just let me find it. Yes.

9 And here we have information about the staffing of  
10 Geilsland over much of its existence, and can we see the  
11 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] of Geilsland was Mr [REDACTED] EZD [REDACTED]?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. That was in 1964.

14 A. Oh no -- yes, that's right, yes.

15 Q. And he was there until 1982?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. A long time?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then you provide us with information of [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED].

21 As far as Ballikinrain is concerned, if we look at  
22 COS.001.001.0001, and again I think here we are looking  
23 at page 31; are we provided there with information as to  
24 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] were over the period?

25 A. Yes. That's correct.

1 Q. So then, going back to Geilsland, as you are aware,  
2 Vivienne, most of the applicant evidence in connection  
3 with Geilsland has focused on the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] SNR?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. And that may be because it is the applicants over that  
6 time who have come forward to the Inquiry.  
7 A. And it was a long time.  
8 Q. Yes. Was he an historical problem, as far as you can  
9 tell from the records?  
10 A. Yes. So we now have been looking into this, in  
11 preparation for this, to see whether we could find any  
12 more on the dealings with Mr [REDACTED], and we now know how  
13 much of a problem he was and the steps taken to try to  
14 bring him into line.  
15 Q. You now know. But was he recognised as a problem way  
16 back?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. From quite early on [REDACTED] SNR?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 LADY SMITH: I don't know if you are going to look into it  
21 just now, Mr MacAulay, but what sort of problem? Will  
22 we come back to this?  
23 MR MACAULAY: I am going to look at that now.  
24 LADY SMITH: I am very sorry. I didn't mean to jump in.  
25 MR MACAULAY: It is, in one sense, due to irregular

1           punishments again.

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   So, if I can look at SGV-000103018.  Now, can you turn  
4           to page 7 of the document?  Can I tell you, these are  
5           extracts that have been taken from a SED file.  And here  
6           we have a letter dated 1 July 1965; do you see that?

7   A.   Yes, I do.

8   Q.   It is an inspection that happened on the 24 June.  It  
9           begins in very complementary terms, complementing the  
10          school on how well they had done up until this point in  
11          time?

12  A.   Yes.

13  Q.   Because they had only been open for a short period of  
14          time.  About halfway down, the inspector says:

15               'Secondly, I must avert to the incidents of  
16               irregular punishment which you admitted as having  
17               occurred.  Irregular punishment is wrong, both in  
18               principle and in practice, and is clearly precluded by  
19               the rules.'

20  A.   Yes.

21  Q.   He goes to say --

22  LADY SMITH:  These would be the Approved School Rules.

23  MR MACAULAY:  It will be, yes.  He goes on to say:

24               'Apart from self-defence or action to avert imminent  
25               violence to others, there is no justification at all for

1 regular striking or cuffing, and anyone renders himself  
2 liable to dismissal or other disciplinary action.

3 'The head is not exempt from this.'

4 It was made clear to Mr EZD he should not be doing  
5 what he was doing, effectively?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And if we turn to page 5, this is a letter from the  
8 Church of Scotland Department of Social and Moral  
9 Welfare, and it is to the secretary of the Scottish  
10 Education Department, dated September 1966, and begins  
11 by saying:

12 'Further to our meeting on 14 September,  
13 arrangements have been made for the members of the  
14 Social and Moral Welfare Board as the responsible  
15 managers of Geilsland School to consider the action to  
16 be taken concerning SNR conduct.  
17 Considerations have been given to the possible results  
18 of this meeting and it would be helpful to the managers  
19 to have an assurance that if changes have to be made in  
20 the direction of the school the placement of new boys to  
21 the school could for a period be delayed.'

22 So is it clear from this, this is from, I think --  
23 is it the Reverend or Mr Beattie Garden that  
24 consideration was being given from the managers as to  
25 Mr EZD's position?

1 A. Yes, and I think this follows that initial episode of  
2 irregular punishment and looking at what sanction might  
3 be best for Mr EZD and a sense that actually this  
4 might be the end of his tenure.

5 Q. Yes. The thinking at that time was perhaps Mr [REDACTED]  
6 from Langlands Park would be moved over [REDACTED]?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then, at page 4 in the same file, this is a document  
9 dated 5 July 1973, and it relates to an inspection on  
10 the 29 June of Geilsland. I will just read the first  
11 paragraph. This, you may think, chimes with some of the  
12 evidence that the Inquiry has heard about education:

13 'I visited the school on 29 June and was disturbed  
14 to find that, once again, educational provision in  
15 Geilsland has been given the lowest priority. When the  
16 school opened about 8 years ago accommodation of all  
17 kinds was scarce and education, like all other  
18 activities at that time, existed in very poor  
19 conditions.'

20 It goes on to say:

21 'It has been possible to build residential  
22 accommodation ... but for education what has been  
23 provided is little better than large cupboards.'

24 And the third paragraph down:

25 'In these circumstances I have doubts about the

1 accuracy of continuing to describe Geilsland as  
2 providing education.'

3 So it is quite a scathing indictment of the state of  
4 education at Geilsland at that time?

5 A. It is absolutely scathing about the state of education  
6 at Geilsland at that time.

7 I saw this file this morning, in fact, and what  
8 I was reminded of when I went on to read the rest of  
9 that was a statement I think that comes to the Inquiry  
10 from one of your expert witnesses, which talks about  
11 Geilsland having suffered in terms of educational  
12 provision, as a number of establishments did, because of  
13 the numbers of children coming through the system at  
14 that time. So that actually while the plan was there to  
15 build classroom blocks, the need for accommodation  
16 overtook that. And so it did become the lowest  
17 priority, both I think at Geilsland, but also in terms  
18 of what was happening in terms of placing people at that  
19 time and forgetting that actually it wasn't just about  
20 care, that it should also be about education. And more  
21 should have been done to ensure that good education and  
22 accommodation was provided along with that  
23 residential --

24 LADY SMITH: Are you saying that you had the impression that  
25 the money wasn't there for both and the money, firstly,

1           was going to be spent on the accommodation, the  
2           residential accommodation?

3   A.   Yes, because there was such a pressure on the system.  
4           So it absolutely is scathing about Geilsland provision  
5           at that time, but I think the wider context is that of  
6           that pressure.

7           And I can't remember whether it was in the -- which  
8           of the documents it was in. It might be one of the  
9           Abrahams documents or the McKendrick document, but it  
10          actually talks about pressure on the system at the time  
11          and Geilsland losing out.

12   MR MACAULAY: I draw attention to that because you will have  
13          been listening to some of the evidence in the inquiry  
14          and what a stigma it has been for many in their lives,  
15          because they consider that they were deprived of  
16          a proper education, some not able to read or write.

17   A.   Yes. And I know from having done counselling with  
18          people, actually, they can tell you about all sorts of  
19          things. But one of the most shameful things that they  
20          sometimes tell you is that they can't read or write. It  
21          feels more shameful than some of the other things that  
22          they have been through. And so I know how difficult  
23          that can be for people and how that stigma stays with  
24          them.

25   Q.   Then, if I can take you on to another document in the



1 same file, this is at page 120. It begins at the top,  
2 Geilsland School, on 5 May. This is 1997:

3 'I visited Geilsland School.'

4 I'm sorry, I said 120; it is page 2, in fact.  
5 I think it is 120 in the folder, but it has been  
6 extracted.

7 It is dealing with a visit that took place  
8 in May 1977. If I could turn on to page 3, the next  
9 page ...

10 LADY SMITH: A visit by inspectors?

11 MR MACAULAY: By inspectors.

12 LADY SMITH: Okay.

13 MR MACAULAY: I think this was actually -- well, the person  
14 is described as a 'social work adviser'. He was there  
15 on inspection duties, I think.

16 If I turn then to page 3, it is the paragraph three  
17 from the top. I will just read that. Have you found  
18 that?

19 A. Yes, I have.

20 Q. 'Mr **EZD**, who was on duty himself with two other men,  
21 was determined that the two absconders, having been  
22 returned to him, should not get away again. One was in  
23 the segregation room and the other was handcuffed and  
24 kept in the general office. At night he slept on  
25 a mattress on the floor and was attached by handcuffs to

1 a heating pipe. The night supervisor uses the office as  
2 his base and was able to keep an eye on the boy most of  
3 the time.'

4 So do we see that we there have an example of how  
5 Mr EZD, at least on that occasion, dealt with a child  
6 who had absconded?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think we had evidence in the Inquiry from an applicant  
9 who said he had been handcuffed in this way and attached  
10 to a pipe or a radiator?

11 A. Yes, that's right.

12 Q. The final document in this collection of documents, it  
13 is page 1, you will see this is a letter dated  
14 7 May 1979 to Mr EZD. There appears to have been  
15 a meeting between Mr EZD and the author of the letter,  
16 who is the Director of Social Work, and not official  
17 correspondence. In the second main paragraph:

18 'Since these accusations concerning "unauthorised  
19 punishment" have been reported to me and since you  
20 accept that the accusations are correct, you will  
21 appreciate that I must report this matter to Social Work  
22 Services Group. I am sure you will understand that it  
23 is my intention to clarify this instruction regarding  
24 punishment, not only that it might be in accordance with  
25 the regulations, but so that no accusation can be made

1 by anyone against the methods of discipline at Geilsland  
2 School.'

3 So have we seen in this correspondence, spanning  
4 a period, virtually from the day the school opened for  
5 several years, that there are these issues arising in  
6 connection with the way in which Mr EZD SNR  
7 SNR ?

8 A. Yes, throughout that period. And yeah, I have now seen  
9 a fairly substantial document writing to him on at least  
10 two occasions with an undertaking that he would bring  
11 things back into line and him signing to say that he  
12 would.

13 Q. Can I put this document on the screen? You may have  
14 seen this before, certainly the Inquiry has. It is  
15 SGV.001.001.8545. This is the document that's headed,  
16 'A History of SNR', and it is date in 1967. I just  
17 want to look at the penultimate paragraph, although it  
18 is quite difficult to read. It says:

19 'Recently the Church of Scotland managers decided to  
20 enforce the resignation or to dismiss SNR one of  
21 their schools for a variety of irregularities. The  
22 conciliation machinery of EIS has saved him, at least  
23 temporarily, but there is an uneasy situation that the  
24 inspectors feel must eventually explode.'

25 LADY SMITH: The EIS is the Educational Institute of

1 Scotland, representing staff in schools.

2 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: That's right.

4 MR MACAULAY: 'Unhealthy situation which the inspectors feel  
5 must eventually explode and result in SNR [REDACTED]'s way  
6 going.'

7 Am I right in thinking that this relates to  
8 Mr EZD [REDACTED]?

9 A. Yes, it does.

10 Q. Notwithstanding the thinking in 1967 that he may have  
11 been saved, at least temporarily, in fact he was there  
12 up until 1982?

13 A. Yes, and I think this refers back to the document that  
14 we saw earlier, where the Church of Scotland are  
15 thinking about removing him. And then we get  
16 a conciliation attempt in from the EIS, being clear that  
17 that is a way that should be looked at first, and so  
18 Mr [REDACTED] doesn't end up going to Geilsland and Mr EZD [REDACTED]  
19 stays at Geilsland at that point.

20 LADY SMITH: I can't help but notice the words 'At least  
21 temporarily'.

22 A. I know.

23 LADY SMITH: So matters are such that the Church is not, at  
24 least yet, prepared to wholly let him off the hook.

25 A. That's right. And I mean, there is a fascinating

1 account of the whole period, where we actually have  
2 a number of young people speaking up for Mr [EZD] when  
3 the Church want to take action and actually stop as much  
4 work happening and all the rest of it.

5 So it is a very -- again, one of these very  
6 complicated situations, where some of the people who  
7 have felt more supported are supportive of Mr [EZD], as  
8 are some of the people on the local committee, and some  
9 aren't. I think in that situation it is very hard for  
10 the Church of Scotland managers to see the way forward.  
11 So he remains in post for some considerable time. And  
12 we can make that documentation available to you, if that  
13 would be helpful.

14 MR MACAULAY: I think we have seen some of that material,  
15 because there is no doubt that he was a powerful, if not  
16 even charismatic character. And the boys, some of the  
17 boys, were very much on his side, in the way [SNR]  
18 [SNR].

19 A. That's correct. And, you know, there's stories of  
20 people coming back and visiting him and talking very  
21 positively about the school. So it is that two sides of  
22 a coin. But I have to say, as we have said in our  
23 Part A and B, that the discipline there far exceeded  
24 what was permitted at the time, whether some people  
25 benefited from that or not, it was clearly not what was

1 expected.

2 LADY SMITH: Would you accept, Vivienne, that there is  
3 a risk wherever some people speak up positively about  
4 a person -- and these weren't just allegations, the  
5 Church knew he was getting things wrong.

6 A. That's it.

7 LADY SMITH: But, if some people speak up loud and clear in  
8 support of the person, what can be lost sight of is that  
9 there will be other children for whom his style  
10 certainly does not work --

11 A. Absolutely.

12 LADY SMITH: -- and may cause long-term damage, as we now  
13 know, lifetime damage, to them.

14 A. Absolutely. In fact, that might be the majority of  
15 children.

16 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

17 A. But because there is a swell of opinion in support, then  
18 we do lose sight of that.

19 LADY SMITH: Yes. And of course, typically, these -- let's  
20 just call them, for convenience, more vulnerable  
21 children -- typically, they are the ones that don't  
22 speak up.

23 A. Yes. Or are frightened to do it.

24 LADY SMITH: At all.

25 MR MACAULAY: Certainly looking at the evidence before the

1 Inquiry, if it is to be accepted, he terrorised children  
2 by his behaviour, and indeed there was the evidence  
3 given by 'Scott'. He described Mr EZD as 'an evil  
4 man', and there may have been a sexual element to his  
5 conduct, because he made 'Scott' run round a table  
6 naked --

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. -- as a form of punishment.

9 Now, if we go back to the CrossReach report, this is  
10 the section, Part D of the report, and it is at  
11 COS.001.001.0386. This is the part of the report that  
12 you have been asked about abuse and the response. The  
13 first question you are asked, for example:

14 'What was the nature of abuse and alleged abuse of  
15 children cared for at the establishment ...'

16 And here we are still looking at Geilsland. The  
17 response is:

18 'Sexual abuse and physical abuse.'

19 What did you have in mind there for the sexual  
20 abuse?

21 A. I think we have heard that in applicant evidence.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. Because it was reported historically, that's what we  
24 have heard. That type of evidence that we have heard up  
25 until now of Mr EZD exactly doing that; making people

1 run around naked or, you know, sitting them on a knee,  
2 I think.

3 Q. Yes, there has been that evidence.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then, at 5.2(i):

6 'What is the organisation/establishment's assessment  
7 of the scale and extent of abuse of children cared for  
8 at the establishment?"

9 I will just read the answer out:

10 'The organisation/establishment acknowledge that  
11 there appear to have been incidents of staff behaviour  
12 that were outwith the standards of practice expected and  
13 that the result of investigation (either the imposition  
14 of a disciplinary sanction or the identification of  
15 a requirement for training) would imply that the  
16 complaint was substantiated.

17 'The records available would suggest that the extent  
18 of abuse has been low.'

19 I just want to ask you about that. The reason you  
20 give for that, at (ii), is:

21 'Number of known complaints in comparison to number  
22 of placements.'

23 Can I ask you to elaborate on that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Again, perhaps looking at the whole picture.



1 A. Looking at the whole picture. Again, I think this is  
2 evidence given to you that was prepared in 2017.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. And before we had the evidence that obviously we have  
5 heard in the last couple of weeks. And I think before  
6 there was requests even from -- I mean, we know a lot  
7 more because of the numbers of people who have  
8 approached us through the redress scheme wanting to have  
9 records verified. Obviously not verifying abuse, but  
10 certainly wanting to have records verified in terms of  
11 going forward to the redress scheme.

12 So, based on that table top exercise, it looked like  
13 the number of reports that were being made were pretty  
14 low in terms of the overall numbers that were cared for  
15 in Geilsland, which I think we detail elsewhere on here.

16 That would now not be the case. We know of many  
17 more complaints at the time. So it suggests that the  
18 extent of the abuse has certainly been higher than we  
19 anticipated when we were first preparing this evidence.

20 Q. Yes. And I think it is the case that there are times  
21 when applicants will speak about the abuse to them, but  
22 also witnessing abuse?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And this comparative exercise that you have carried out  
25 doesn't really account for that?

1 A. It doesn't, no.

2 Q. Just looking at complaints that you have received, in  
3 the main; are these historical complaints?

4 A. Yes. Around Mr **EZD** **SNR**, they are mainly historical  
5 complaints.

6 Q. Yes. And we have looked at his track record, really,  
7 almost from the outset.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And many of those who might have been involved or abused  
10 by him will no longer be with us.

11 A. No.

12 Q. Or will not have come forward.

13 A. They will not have come forward, because they may not  
14 know how to come forward or they may, absolutely, no  
15 longer be with us.

16 Q. Now, if I move on to the second page of the document,  
17 page 2 of COS.001.001.0386, at (ix), you are asked:  
18 'Have there been allegations of peer abuse?'  
19 And you say yes to that. So although you haven't  
20 touched upon peer abuse in the earlier correspondence,  
21 you have evidence of peer abuse?

22 A. Yes, we do. We have complaints of peer abuse, yes.

23 Q. For Geilsland?

24 A. For Geilsland, yes.

25 Q. Well then, having looked at Geilsland; can we then move

1 on to look at the position with regard to Ballikinrain?  
2 And if I could take you to COS.001.001.0320 and at  
3 0348 -- can we go to 0348? So I think you carry out  
4 a similar exercise in connection with abuse at  
5 Ballikinrain and, again, at 5.1(i), you mention that you  
6 have evidence of sexual abuse and physical abuse?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. The sexual abuse that you are alluding to here; can you  
9 help me with that?  
10 A. Er, yes, that is allegations -- both peer-on-peer abuse,  
11 I think, at that point, but that there were staff who  
12 sexually abused children at Ballikinrain.  
13 Q. At this time you didn't have the information that you  
14 now have in connection with Gregor Dougal?  
15 A. That's correct. That's what I was trying to remember:  
16 when we knew about that.  
17 So that isn't included in that, yes.  
18 Q. No, because this is 2017.  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. But then the answer you give to the question, at 5.2(i),  
21 is relatively similar, if not the same, to the answer  
22 you give to the question for Geilsland. And when you  
23 are asked:  
24 'What is the basis of that assessment?'  
25 'Number of known complaints in comparison to number

1           of placements.'

2           Again, is that a flawed comparison?

3   A.   Yes, I guess, knowing what we do now and taking into  
4       account potential peer-on-peer abuse, which would be  
5       coming through bullying, and emotional abuse for those  
6       who potentially didn't experience abuse themselves or  
7       harm, but witnessed that of others, then, yes. It's  
8       a particular assumption, but it's not the whole story.

9   MR MACAULAY:   Okay. My Lady, that's 1 o'clock.

10   LADY SMITH:    Would that be a good point to break?

11   MR MACAULAY:   Yes.

12   A.   Could I just put the record straight on one thing?

13   LADY SMITH:    Yes, Vivienne, please do.

14   A.   I was not here a week last Wednesday. That was the one  
15       day that I wasn't here and I had somebody standing in  
16       for me.

17   MR MACAULAY:   You are entitled to a day off.

18   A.   Thank you.

19   LADY SMITH:    There has always been somebody in your seat, if  
20       I can put it that way.

21   A.   Yes, that's right.

22   LADY SMITH:    Thank you for correcting that, Vivienne, I am  
23       grateful. Let's pause for the lunch break now and  
24       I will sit again at 2 o'clock.

25   A.   Okay, thank you.

1 (1.00 pm)

2 (The luncheon adjournment)

3 (2.00 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Vivienne, are you ready for us to carry on?

5 A. I am.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Mr MacAulay.

7 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

8 Can we now look, briefly, at the position of  
9 Gregor Dougal, who, as we mentioned earlier, was  
10 convicted. He was convicted on 20 September 2023, last  
11 year. I won't take you to the part on the Ballikinrain  
12 response, but he was the deputy head of education --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- there. A position of some responsibility, I think?

15 A. Absolutely.

16 Q. Yes. Now, before he went to Ballikinrain -- and you are  
17 probably aware of this -- he spent some time at  
18 St Ninian's Gartmore and he left there in 1982 because  
19 it closed.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And he went to Ballikinrain. I just want to take you  
22 briefly to look at the charges that he was convicted of,  
23 and if I can give the reference for that, and that's at  
24 JUS-000000206. You will see quite a number of the names  
25 and locations have been blacked out.

1           The first charge that you are looking at relates to  
2           St Ninian's and you will see the timeframe for that. It  
3           is one occasion between [REDACTED] 1972  
4           and [REDACTED] 1975.

5           The second charge you need to look at is charge 5,  
6           because he was acquitted of 2, 3 and 4. Charge 5, that  
7           again relates to St Ninian's and you will see the libel  
8           runs on various occasions between [REDACTED] 1974  
9           and [REDACTED] 1977, so it covers a period of time and  
10          suggests that there were a number of occasions. This  
11          particular charge, as you read it, you can see it can be  
12          described as an indecent assault charge.

13        A. (Nods).

14        Q. These are then the St Ninian's charges.

15                If we then move on to what is charge 10, on page 2  
16                of the document, this charge libels that on an occasion,  
17                between [REDACTED] 1985 and [REDACTED] 1988, that he assaulted  
18                a child and this relates to a child at Ballikinrain.  
19                This child was not an applicant and you can see that the  
20                assault is one to severe injury.

21                The next charge, which does relate to Ballikinrain,  
22                is on various occasions between [REDACTED] 1974 and  
23                [REDACTED] 1976, at Ballikinrain, that he did  
24                indecently assault -- that's 'Jason', the person  
25                referred to as 'Jason' in the evidence --

1 LADY SMITH: Which charge?

2 MR MACAULAY: Oh, sorry, charge 11. It's on the screen.

3 LADY SMITH: That's 1994 to 1996.

4 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: You said 1974 to 1976. I think you meant 1994  
6 to 1996.

7 MR MACAULAY: I did, yes. You will see what's described  
8 there and, again, it is an indecent assault charge, and  
9 we heard some evidence about that from 'Jason'.

10 And then charge 12, again, we will see that this is  
11 on various occasions, between [REDACTED] 1998 and  
12 [REDACTED] 2001, that he assaulted a person and we are told  
13 what the nature of the assault was. This person was not  
14 an applicant.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. The final charge for Ballikinrain is one that on  
17 a particular date he assaulted a certain person, who was  
18 not an applicant, and we are told what the nature of the  
19 charge was. If you read on you can see that there is  
20 notice being given by the Crown that other allegations  
21 will be looked at in the course of the evidence, but  
22 these all relate to St Ninian's.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. Now, it is the case, Vivienne, that the staff member,  
25 like 'James', who gave evidence -- and I think that this

1 applies to other staff members -- that they never  
2 witnessed abuse by staff members on children. But,  
3 nevertheless, it is the case that Mr Dougal was  
4 convicted by a jury beyond reasonable doubt on these  
5 charges.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And I would imagine that this would have been news to  
8 you when it happened?

9 A. Yes. What I understand at the time was that sometime in  
10 2000 we were informed by our press officer that a story  
11 was about to break in the Daily Record or something like  
12 that, about abuse at St Ninian's. I am not sure if we  
13 knew that Mr Dougal was going to be named in the press  
14 article, but certainly it was known that he was the  
15 deputy head at Ballikinrain.

16 So the person in charge of Social Work Services at  
17 that time, Mr Iain Bailey, decided -- spoke to Greg and  
18 then decided, as a precautionary measure, to remove him  
19 while the police case was running, to remove him into  
20 the head office. Redeploy him, effectively, so he was  
21 no longer working with children. And of course that  
22 first time, as I understand it, there was no case to  
23 answer.

24 Then Greg Dougal retired from our head office in  
25 about 2009, I think. And then it was subsequent to



1           that, that we were then asked to cooperate again with  
2           a police inquiry, which we did.

3   Q.   Just that point you made about a staff member being  
4           moved from a position that would involve them dealing  
5           with the children to another position, I think in the  
6           list that you sent us that we looked at earlier we also  
7           see evidence of that happening?

8   A.   Yes.  So, sometimes while we are investigating  
9           something, we would take -- rather than suspend somebody  
10          we would redeploy.

11  LADY SMITH:  You of course have the ability to redeploy to  
12          a completely different place, not just in the same  
13          physical place, but in an administrative role.

14  A.   Into an administrative role.  So we would probably take  
15          them out of a caring role all together and, depending on  
16          what roles we had or jobs we had for people to do, that  
17          we would take them over and put them in  
18          an administrative capacity until we knew a bit more  
19          about what was happening, particularly with a police  
20          investigation to which -- you know, we don't have a lot  
21          of information about that, so it is not like we can go  
22          to our own records to work something out.  We would wait  
23          until the police were back in touch with us.

24  LADY SMITH:  But you are telling me, in Greg Dougal's case,  
25          you are actually able to put him in head office.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: A completely different location.

3 A. A completely different location and the other side of  
4 the country.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes.

6 MR MACAULAY: Can I then take you back to the responses that  
7 CrossReach has made? And I think this is the Part B  
8 part of the response for Geilsland and this is at  
9 COS.001.001.0038. And if you could turn to page 0073,  
10 so it is COS.001.001.0073. The page number I am looking  
11 at is page 36, at the bottom. Yes.

12 So we looked at the similar section in the Langlands  
13 Park document earlier this morning. This is where you  
14 are being asked to acknowledge abuse. The question  
15 being:

16 'Does the organisation/establishment accept that  
17 between 1930 and 17 December 2014 some children cared  
18 for at the establishment were abused?'

19 And the answer, the response is:

20 'On the basis of the information available to us we  
21 accept that there were occasions when the nature and  
22 extent of physical punishment administered at Geilsland  
23 were excessive, even when measured by the standards of  
24 the time.'

25 And does that remain the position or are you

1 prepared to elaborate on that?

2 A. So for Geilsland?

3 Q. Yes, for Geilsland.

4 A. Yes, we would accept that. And we now know of more  
5 cases where children were harmed and different types of  
6 irregular punishments were being used, for example,  
7 handcuffs, as we discussed this morning.

8 Q. If we look, then, at Ballikinrain, this is at  
9 COS.001.001.001, at page 35.

10 So, again, we have a similar sort of question.  
11 Again, I think the answer is relatively similar to the  
12 previous one for Geilsland. But then if we look at 3.3:

13 'Does the organisation/establishment accept that  
14 there were failures and/or deficiencies in its response  
15 to abuse and allegations of abuse of children cared for  
16 at the establishment between 1930 and December 2014?'

17 And the answer there is no; can you just help me  
18 with that?

19 A. Yes, so I think we were sufficiently reassured by the  
20 table top exercise we had done and the number of  
21 complaints coming forward at that point and the fact  
22 that there were no police investigations, that we didn't  
23 have a deficient response in terms of safeguarding  
24 children on the whole.

25 What we now know is because of the allegations,

1 particularly around about bullying and some of the  
2 reports of abuse about members of staff, then I think we  
3 would have to change that answer to yes.

4 Q. Can I then move on to consider another document?

5 I think in 2023 a number of provider establishments were  
6 circulated with what we refer to as a 'framework  
7 document', and I think CrossReach received a copy of the  
8 framework document?

9 A. (Nods).

10 Q. Indeed, you have made a response to that document?

11 A. Yes. I understand so, yes.

12 Q. And the framework document itself is at INQ-0000000738 .

13 What you have done in your response, I think, is point  
14 out what you say may be an error and also correct some  
15 of the statements that you have made.

16 So can we look at the -- I think -- can I just say  
17 I think your response to the framework documents, the  
18 first response at least, was on 12 June 2023. I think  
19 there are two responses we want to look at; is that  
20 right?

21 A. Okay, if you say so.

22 Q. Well, were you not directly involved in these responses?

23 A. I don't remember being directly involved in these  
24 responses, but I may have been. So, if there are two,  
25 then that's fine and we will have a look at them.

1 Q. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: We should probably, just for the notes,  
3 Mr MacAulay, record that the framework document is  
4 a document produced by the Inquiry after all the  
5 documentary evidence to which we had had access by the  
6 time it was written had been considered --

7 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: -- and certain matters had been set out as  
9 appearing to us to look like they were probably the  
10 circumstances at the relevant time for each of the  
11 places that are dealt with.

12 MR MACAULAY: And it covers a whole host of different  
13 parameters.

14 LADY SMITH: Absolutely. Although it is broadly headed  
15 'List D case study' not all the institutions looked at  
16 in this case study, of course, were technically List D  
17 institutions.

18 A. Yes, I understand that. And it would be -- even  
19 in June 2023, we would not have all the evidence we now  
20 have.

21 LADY SMITH: No, of course.

22 MR MACAULAY: And the first thing you do -- I will put this  
23 on the screen. It is difficult to put both documents on  
24 the screen at the same time, so I will put your response  
25 on the screen first of all, and that's COS-000001295.

1 And it is headed:

2 'Written response to the framework document on  
3 behalf of the Church of Scotland.'

4 At 1, you begin by pointing out a factual error in  
5 a footnote. Can I say, we can pick that up, and I think  
6 I understand the point you are making. But then, on  
7 page 50, you say, in paragraph 13.7, after the last  
8 sentence, which reads:

9 'The complaints had all been shared with the police  
10 and to our knowledge no further action has yet been  
11 taken by them.'

12 Now, you want to insert after that:

13 'The Church of Scotland are aware of a new  
14 significant police investigation which is ongoing and  
15 with which they are providing information to the  
16 police.'

17 I think you hinted at this before in your evidence;  
18 can you just elaborate upon that for me?

19 A. So in fact that one, in June 2023, would be the  
20 Gregor Dougal case.

21 Q. Would it? So that's come to a conclusion?

22 A. Yes, that's now come to a conclusion. So that would  
23 have to be, again, revised.

24 Q. Very well.

25 Then, on page 54 of the framework document, you are

1 looking at paragraph 14.2, and that's a paragraph that's  
2 headed:

3 'Retrospective acknowledgements and admissions.'

4 The framework document reads:

5 'The Church of Scotland acknowledges that "there  
6 were occasions on which complaints were made of the use  
7 of excessive force by staff and that the response to the  
8 investigation would imply that the complaint was  
9 substantiated".'

10 I think we have touched on that in passing:

11 'According to its records, complaints were upheld on  
12 around 15 occasions. The church does not acknowledge  
13 any systemic failures.'

14 And the change you want to make is at 3:

15 'In light of further information since the  
16 Church of Scotland gave evidence, they are open to  
17 accepting that systematic failures may have occurred and  
18 will take account of the wider evidence available.'

19 So that's the way it has been put, namely that the  
20 Church of Scotland are open to accepting that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Does that remain the position?

23 A. I think we might want to further revise that and I think  
24 we could send you some revised wording for that --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- in the light of the evidence that we have just heard  
2 over the last couple of weeks.

3 So, if you would give us a bit of time on that, I am  
4 sure we could come up with something else that talks  
5 about being more than open, but actually accepting.

6 Q. Okay. And then, at paragraph 4, in relation to  
7 page 56 -- 56 reads at present, at 15.4:

8 'The Church of Scotland indicates in its section 51  
9 response that to its knowledge the extent and scale of  
10 abuse at Langlands Park would be limited.'

11 And you want to add:

12 'Further evidence would indicate that this was more  
13 widespread than was previously thought, but it is  
14 believed that no systematic failure occurred at  
15 Langlands Park.'

16 Is that still the position?

17 A. Again, I think we could come back to you on that one  
18 because, in light of the evidence that we have seen,  
19 there were clearly issues with SNR and we  
20 would want to reflect that.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you. That would be very helpful.

22 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

23 I am now turning to the second response that has  
24 been made to the framework document and, again, this was  
25 in June 2023. It is at COS-000001300. You are



1 referring there to paragraph 13.7 and I will just get  
2 that.

3 You quote from page 50. You want to delete the  
4 sentence that begins:

5 'It caveats those admissions by indicating "that the  
6 complaints relate to a small number of young people  
7 compared to the total numbers which Geilsland has cared  
8 for over 50 years, and largely to a certain time period'  
9 and substitute, and this is what you want to  
10 substitute ...'.

11 'It is estimated that in over 50 years of care  
12 Geilsland has cared for something in the region of 2000  
13 young people. It seems that the complaints in question  
14 largely relate to the late 1970s/early 1980s time  
15 period.'

16 And is that the position you still maintain?

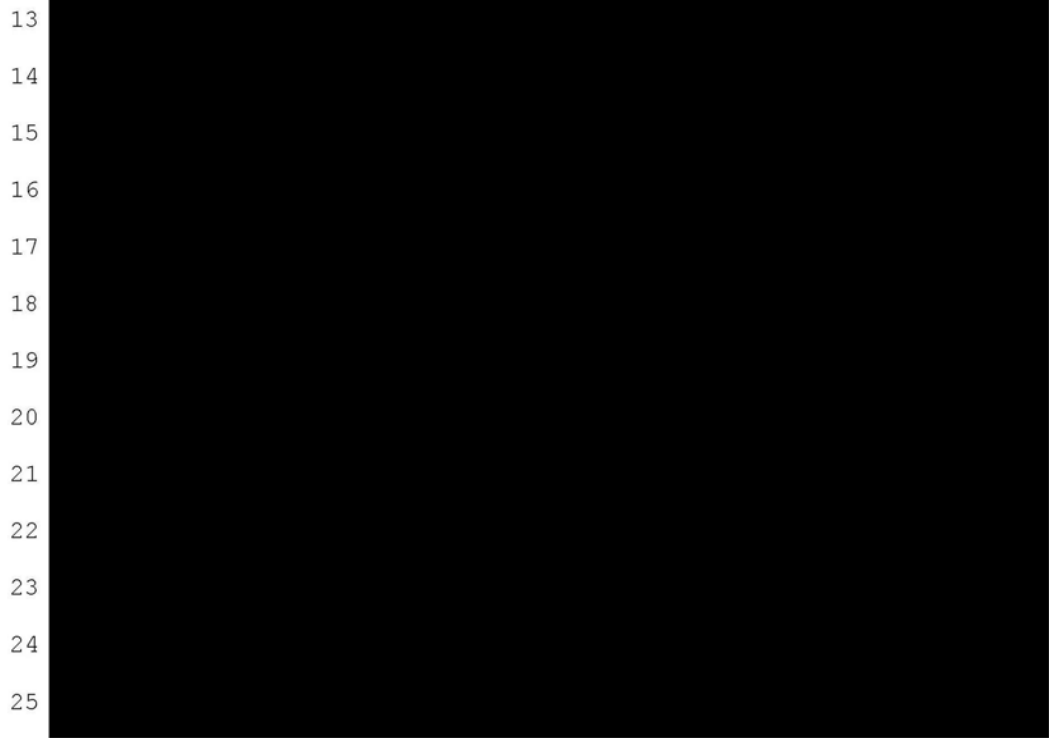
17 A. Yes, it does seem that that's where the bulk of  
18 complaints lie. But, again, we may want to refine that.

19 Q. Well, if you look at these matters and perhaps come back  
20 to us in due course, Vivienne?

21 A. Yes, happy to do that. And, actually, if I didn't  
22 remember contributing to this, we would have done it in  
23 collaboration. I have no doubt it wouldn't have passed  
24 over my desk before it went in, so I am very happy to  
25 accept responsibility for that.

1           We may now wish to comment, having seen it again  
2           this morning, as it came out in the additional evidence,  
3           on things like training, recruitment and selection,  
4           because we, you know, have done a bit of work on that as  
5           well. So it may be it is not just the establishment,  
6           but there might be other bits in the report that we feel  
7           we have something to add to.

8    Q. I will touch upon training in a moment. But you also  
9           raised another point in this particular document,  
10           perhaps you could just look at that again, because I had  
11           some difficulty in identifying exactly what the point  
12           was.



1

2

3

I will read the paragraph out, then:

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

And that's where it goes.

11

LADY SMITH: And that was for Geilsland?

12

MR MACAULAY: Well, that's paragraph 15.7.

13

A. That's Langlands Park.

14

LADY SMITH: It sounds more likely to be Langlands Park if

15

it was SNR .

16

MR MACAULAY: Yes.

17

LADY SMITH: Because although Geilsland took girls, I don't

18

think you ever had SNR .

19

A. We never had SNR at Geilsland. And

20

Geilsland -- at neither Geilsland nor Ballikinrain as

21

they were at the time took girls. We now have a co-ed.

22

I am not sure where to go with this one.

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

7 MR MACAULAY: But coming to aspects of training in relation  
8 to some of the evidence we have heard, and I can just  
9 take this example of 'Jim', who was a miner and seems to  
10 have gone pretty well straight into work in caring for  
11 children. It may be he learned on the job and so on.  
12 But do you have any comments to make about that?

13 A. So, yes, it is one of the surprising elements, I think,  
14 of listening to all the evidence, both the impact on the  
15 young people in care, but also the impact on staff. And  
16 it has really made me think about what support and  
17 training there was around at the time.

18 So I have done a wee bit of work on that and if you  
19 are happy for me just to refer to my notes?

20 MR MACAULAY: Yes, please.

21 A. Because what evidence do we actually have that staff  
22 were trained, even if they don't particularly remember  
23 it as training? So what was around at the time? And,  
24 actually, what did we expect of child care workers as  
25 opposed to educators?

1           So the first entry I could find on training is  
2           actually in the Langlands Park file, which is 18 on our  
3           inventory and it is after disruption in the home. And  
4           we have the inspectors coming in and they are saying --  
5           I am paraphrasing here --

6   LADY SMITH: Sorry to interrupt, Vivienne. Do you have  
7           a date for that?

8   A. Yes, that would be 1964, I think.

9   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 A. It goes on to say:

11           'The disturbance and handling of such is not the  
12           fault of the staff, but it is a consequence of the  
13           emotional and behavioural problems of the girls which  
14           are unresolved.'

15           And effectively need careful psychological  
16           treatment. So this is in the Langlands Park file. And  
17           the official goes on to say:

18           'The staff do not have the time nor are they  
19           sufficiently trained to get down to the basic needs of  
20           such girls.'

21           And I thought that was a really interesting thing;  
22           that in 1964 we are recognising the emotional  
23           disturbance of the young people coming in and the  
24           paucity of training for the staff to be able to cope  
25           with that and respond sensitively, potentially, to that.

1           It is also mentioned at the end of the Inquiry's own  
2           report into the historic system to protect and prevent  
3           abuse of children in care in Scotland in 1948 to 1995.  
4           So Abrahams and Fleming at that point speak of the lack  
5           of training for residential child care workers, even as  
6           late as 1989. And it says -- I won't read out the whole  
7           paragraph:

8           'The lotus status of residential workers in  
9           comparison with that of field workers also remains  
10          problematic. In 1989, it was stated that within staff  
11          in residential work as a whole, there are enormous  
12          numbers in direct caring roles who have no form of  
13          social work or social care qualification, no less than  
14          85 per cent of houseparents.'

15          So that would suggest to me that actually we are not  
16          getting training right globally, and so what were we  
17          doing within the Church of Scotland and CrossReach at  
18          that time?

19          So the size of the challenge was known and training  
20          would have absolutely been an issue in the CrossReach  
21          homes and approved homes. I have no doubt about that  
22          and as has been referenced by a couple of staff members  
23          who have given evidence. However, there is information  
24          to suggest that there was some training in place or at  
25          least policies, procedures and protocols which developed

1           into training over time.

2           So, in December 2016, if you remember, I think we  
3           handed over the independent review that we had done on  
4           the Lord and Lady Polwarth Home as part of the evidence.

5   MR MACAULAY:   Yes.

6   A.   And Professor Andrew Kendrick had summarised something  
7           of the Church's training at that time.  And there is  
8           an entry on training, as well as recruitment selection.  
9           Again, I don't propose to go over that because that's  
10          available to the Inquiry.

11          But he reported, unsurprisingly, that there was no  
12          formal training section in the 1970s, but there was  
13          evidence of some training being delivered through  
14          Langside College in the west and Moray House in the  
15          east, and that was directly for staff.  There was also  
16          evidence of the use of films and discussion and  
17          training, as well as residential conferences.  So, in  
18          1972, for example, one residential conference for staff,  
19          field staff at children's homes and hostels included in  
20          the programme film and discussion on the theme of growth  
21          towards independence, current trends in child health,  
22          children's hearings and the role of the residential  
23          establishment and discussion around children's homes and  
24          girls hostels.

25          I don't have the attendance list for that, so

1 I can't definitively say that some of the members of  
2 staff from the Approved Schools would be on that. But  
3 it is likely that as it was a wide conference for staff,  
4 particularly talking about child health, that they would  
5 be included in that.

6 He also reports that the Board of Social  
7 Responsibility had a number of subcommittees which sat  
8 under the board of social services, including ones on  
9 staff training, counselling, fire precautions, and  
10 personal relationships. They went on to develop  
11 guidance notes and procedure, notably recruitment and  
12 selection training and children's homes regulations.

13 The first reference I can find for training in  
14 Approved School files is actually again in that  
15 Langlands Park file in the document schedule. So, in  
16 1964, the briefing of staff in the necessary  
17 observations and care when using the detention room. So  
18 it might have come out as a briefing, but, essentially,  
19 that is a form of training, and that's why I wonder  
20 whether some of the staff have not articulated training  
21 as opposed to an on-site briefing.

22 1965, people coming into train the staff in peer  
23 group counselling following recognition that staff were  
24 not trained to deal with that -- psychological problems  
25 of the girls. And this had already been introduced in



1 other Approved Schools.

2 Around then, too, training to be provided by the  
3 Kibble headmaster, Mr Dunphy, if you remember he came in  
4 to Langlands Park for a bit to steady the ship and he  
5 was on secondment, and his experience would be used for  
6 the -- in training of the staff. It says that in the  
7 note in the file.

8 And then I can't see much else in the Langlands  
9 Park -- directly referencing training until a report  
10 which tells us a member of staff undertaking a training  
11 programme to achieve a Certificate of Social Service in  
12 which she would graduate in 1985. That, of course,  
13 being the pre-runner to our SVQs. And these -- that  
14 certificate of social services had been available since  
15 1975. So I imagine that if we had been sending one  
16 member of staff from an Approved School on such  
17 a course, it is likely, I think, that other members of  
18 staff would have been at least afforded that  
19 opportunity. But I would -- as we haven't got the  
20 training files, I am not able to definitively say how  
21 many.

22 There is also reference to the Approved School Heads  
23 Conference where information and advice around Approved  
24 Schools and good practice would be disseminated and  
25 evidence that our heads attended that.

1           Then, by the 1990s, we did have a training section  
2           which delivered basic skill training, record keeping,  
3           keeping people safe modules around dignity and respect,  
4           and I have been told that by a retired member of staff  
5           who was involved with the training at the time. The aim  
6           at that point was to try and bring in some consistency  
7           across the organisation in standards of care.

8           The Church of Scotland Child Protection Office was  
9           set up in 1998 and it seems from the assembly reports  
10          that training at a local level within congregations was  
11          already happening, and you heard some evidence earlier  
12          that one of the members of staff that gave evidence  
13          accessed child protection training through their local  
14          church. And some of the inspection reports refer to  
15          training in this area, as well as the need for more.  
16          And that's from one of the Geilsland reports, that  
17          actually there is some child protection training going  
18          on and that needs to be intensified.

19          So, despite all that, much of the training, as  
20          described to you and understood by me in wider  
21          discussions, would have simply been that on the job  
22          training, with a wide scope for being influenced for  
23          good or ill by the tone being set by those that you were  
24          shadowing. Not a lot of time for reflective practice,  
25          which in itself is a form of training, although I think,

1 as I recall, both Ballikinrain and Geilsland did have  
2 a consultant psychologist coming in from the 1980s to  
3 support staff as well as pupils.

4 And we brought in a staff handbook in the early  
5 1990s, which set out all members of new staff,  
6 documenting all the policies and procedures. And the  
7 Inquiry, of course, has seen the Disciplinary Restraints  
8 Policy in 1997, as -- Ballikinrain, as provided by  
9 a member of staff.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. But I think things didn't really begin to change until  
12 SSSC came along in 2000, the opening of the register to  
13 child care staff. And then TCI training, safeguarding  
14 training, and seeing other evidence of other courses  
15 being delivered at that time, including first aid at  
16 work, NHS Forth Valleys training on sexual health,  
17 protection working with vulnerable young people, fire  
18 safety training, et cetera.

19 LADY SMITH: Vivienne, just hark back to Ballikinrain and  
20 Geilsland being provided with a consultant psychologist  
21 from some time in the 1980s; was that an educational  
22 psychologist or a clinical? Do you remember?

23 A. I think clinical, but I will check. It was Joe Nee.  
24 I can name the psychologist. I can check that out. He  
25 might want to redact his name.

1 LADY SMITH: One would hope so, because that gives you the  
2 broader view that the schools would need.

3 A. I will check that out. That is when things became very  
4 professionalised.

5 However, I was really struck by one of the comments  
6 from one of the applicants yesterday, because I have to  
7 say that the comments about pay, terms and condition of  
8 social care staff and recognising their value remains  
9 an issue today and in fact continues to affect  
10 recruitment.

11 LADY SMITH: I have heard that in other case studies as  
12 well. Foster care is an example.

13 MR MACAULAY: Thank you for that. We will look at that  
14 carefully.

15 Just in connection with training or perhaps more  
16 relevant to staffing, there has been some suggestions  
17 that there may also have been times when they were short  
18 staffed?

19 A. Absolutely.

20 Q. For a variety of reasons, and clearly that just puts  
21 pressure on the staff who are there?

22 A. Absolutely. And I think there is reference to that in  
23 one of the Langlands Park documents. I think it talks  
24 about a member of staff assaulting one of the girls, but  
25 she had been on duty herself for something like 48 hours

1 at that point.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. So it is not an excuse, but it sets a bit of context  
4 about why it was sometimes difficult for staff to  
5 maintain that professional boundary.

6 Q. And we saw from the film yesterday, that was filmed  
7 a bit later than perhaps the periods we have been  
8 looking at, in 2007 or thereabouts, that the staff were  
9 dealing with quite troubled children?

10 A. Absolutely.

11 Q. We mustn't lose sight of that.

12 A. We mustn't lose sight of that. And while I have been  
13 very moved, in fact, by the tales of the applicants, it  
14 has really caused me to think about the trauma to staff.  
15 And particularly when we were hearing, you know, there  
16 you have Mr EZD and others in post for quite a length  
17 of time, but a member of staff saying, you know, you  
18 burn out after three or four years in these posts and  
19 actually something about that resonating with the trauma  
20 that must have been around in these establishments. And  
21 potentially us not recognising that if you don't have  
22 staff who are dealing with their own trauma, then they  
23 are not well placed to deal with the trauma of a child.

24 LADY SMITH: I have been wondering also, Vivienne, whether  
25 you might have felt, having heard our evidence when it

1 comes to recruitment, the ideal is identifying a person  
2 who simply has the right instincts for children who are  
3 coming from backgrounds that probably have trauma in  
4 them and certainly serious difficulty in them.  
5 Instinct, then the right training and the learning on  
6 the job, if it just means being led by somebody who is  
7 already working there who perhaps has been doing things  
8 badly is not what I have in mind with training. But  
9 then continuing support, encouragement and assessment of  
10 the person to see, as you say, whether they are coping  
11 or not, whether they need a bit of time out or not,  
12 whether something has to be addressed in the assessment  
13 of what exactly they are being asked to do in their  
14 daily life at work.

15 A. Yes, I think you can't train for that basic instinct.

16 LADY SMITH: No.

17 A. We try and assess that early on in the recruitment  
18 process, but you can train for skills. But that has to  
19 then be embedded. The training has to be good, it has  
20 to be embedded and we have to supervise. That's all in  
21 place now: regular supervision; appraisal; staff  
22 development; reflective practice. All of that now is in  
23 place. And in fact we have put our whole staff through  
24 trauma-informed training in the last couple of years,  
25 but that also encourages people to think about the

1 trauma that they experience themselves.

2 So, yes, I am in broad agreement. First of all, you  
3 need to have the right person, because you can get some  
4 very well trained people who are not right to work in  
5 care and that's equally a problem, and then you need to  
6 train well, supervise and continue to support.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR MACAULAY: I suppose the approach that the Church has now  
9 taken to providing accommodation for children of this  
10 kind is that you are dealing with much smaller units.  
11 For example, that has an impact on how prevalent  
12 bullying might be.

13 A. Yes, and we actually see that, as sometimes happens,  
14 things get smashed, but you heard the young people on  
15 the boys of Ballikinrain talking about smashing things  
16 up. Since we moved into the smaller houses there are  
17 far fewer episodes of children kicking off, needing to  
18 smash the place up, all of that. And very few  
19 complaints of bullying. In small houses, we try to  
20 create that family feel.

21 Now, bullying happens in families. You know,  
22 children do fall out, but it is much easier, I think,  
23 for us to keep on top of the numbers of staff and the  
24 numbers of children that we now have in these houses.  
25 Tricky, though, when recruitment is an issue and not so

1 much in children's houses, but elsewhere. You are  
2 occasionally relying on -- well, quite a lot of the time  
3 now you are relying on agency staff to come in and that  
4 doesn't help you to keep up the standards of quality  
5 that you would always want.

6 Q. I think it comes out of the material in relation to  
7 Geilsland that although EZD had a particular  
8 approach to care and he, himself, if the evidence is to  
9 be accepted, was a brutal person, SNR did appear  
10 to reduce bullying to a minimum. That's one of the  
11 ironies that comes out of the material.

12 A. It is. And there is, again -- I think it is available  
13 to the Inquiry or perhaps we have got that and we could  
14 hand it over -- there is some really excellent debate in  
15 a document about -- the Church of Scotland want to ban  
16 corporal punishment at Geilsland. They just want to  
17 stop it all together and that comes over really, really  
18 clearly, because we haven't introduced it back, although  
19 we could have done, and it is forbidden in girls'  
20 schools.

21 And EZD comes back a couple of times to  
22 say: but what are you suggesting I put in, in its place?

23 That goes back and forward and back and forward, and  
24 Scottish Office officials are obviously involved in that  
25 and all of the rest of it. And eventually -- I think we



1           were wanting to ban it in something like 1969, is when  
2           we first start that, and we set up a committee, of  
3           course we do.

4   LADY SMITH: Yes, it was very early in relation to national  
5           pressure to ban corporal punishment.

6   A. That's it. Crime and punishment, we set up  
7           a committee -- because that's what we do -- in 1969, and  
8           yet corporal punishment actually isn't ruled on by the  
9           Scottish Government until 1980 -- well, I think Approved  
10          Schools stopped in 1984.

11           And it is really interesting that following that  
12          debate about actually inspectors not liking regimes  
13          which are too lax, because you get insubordination and  
14          riots, and inspectors not liking regimes which are too  
15          punishment heavy because, you know, they instill fear  
16          and people can potentially be psychologically and  
17          physically harmed by that, but no real sense of what we  
18          can do in the middle to really make a difference. And  
19          I think it is just an interesting document. I have no  
20          idea what the answer would be.

21   MR MACAULAY: You can perhaps send it on to us.

22   LADY SMITH: Yes.

23   A. Probably staffing and training and all the rest of it  
24          would be what we need in the middle of that.

25   MR MACAULAY: Well, very well, Vivienne. That's really all

1 I want to ask you today. Is there anything further  
2 would you like to add to what you have already said?

3 A. No, no, I think we have covered the evidence well. We  
4 will come back to you on the framework document and we  
5 will provide any additional evidence to the Inquiry.

6 I would like to say we are part of the redress  
7 scheme. I know a member of staff said somebody was  
8 inciting people to go forward to the redress scheme. We  
9 would absolutely invite that; anybody who feels that  
10 they would want to either engage further as part of the  
11 redress scheme or just go ahead and claim, then they  
12 should be encouraged to do so, not discouraged.

13 LADY SMITH: When you say you are part of the redress  
14 scheme; are you telling me that the Church is  
15 a contributor?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: And practically anybody wanting to make  
18 an application goes to Redress Scotland?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: And they will handle it?

21 A. And they will handle it, and they will get in touch with  
22 us. People are welcome do that anyway about personal  
23 apology or anything of that nature, outwith the  
24 financial contribution.

25 LADY SMITH: That's very helpful. Thank you, Vivienne.

1 MR MACAULAY: Just one other point. We did touch about the  
2 ongoing police investigation that you recorded more  
3 recently, and you said that was in connection with  
4 Gregor Dougal. There isn't another police  
5 investigation, or is that it?

6 A. I believe that's it.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. I presume the Mr EZD police investigation is  
9 discontinued.

10 MR MACAULAY: Well, very well, Vivienne. Thank you for your  
11 contribution and for coming to give evidence today to  
12 the Inquiry.

13 A. Okay, thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Can I add my thanks, Vivienne. I am mindful of  
15 the demands we have placed on CrossReach for a number  
16 of years now, and we are still doing that, when you are  
17 also meeting the demands of another public inquiry.  
18 I do appreciate that it cannot be easy and CrossReach  
19 has other things to do with its daily life as well. But  
20 I don't need to tell you; you know this is important  
21 work and I am really grateful to what you have  
22 contributed to it. Thank you.

23 A. Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, that concludes the oral

1 evidence.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MR MACAULAY: My learned friend Mr Brodie will be aware that  
4 he requires to come back on the 10 May and present  
5 a closing statement.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes, so that's a week tomorrow.

7 MR MACAULAY: A week tomorrow.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you very much. Well, I look forward  
9 to seeing Mr Brodie then and others who should be  
10 interested in what we are going to cover that day.

11 Meanwhile, I will rise until we complete, finally,  
12 this chapter, in a week or so's time.

13 (2.45 pm)

14 (The Inquiry adjourned until Friday, 10 May 2024)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I N D E X

1  
2  
3 'Liam' (read) .....1  
4 'Cathy' (read) .....16  
5 'Katie' (read) .....30  
6 'Mandy' (read) .....44  
7 Vivienne Dickenson (sworn) .....69  
8 Questions by Mr MacAulay .....70  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

