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Wednesday, 29 May 2024

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning. Today we return to evidence that we're hearing in Phase 8 of our investigations and this, as you will remember, is Chapter 6, Dr Guthrie's and Loaningdale Schools in particular being focused on here. This morning we are about to turn to oral evidence from some witnesses and, I think, Ms Forbes, we have a witness ready, have we?

MS FORBES: We do, my Lady. It's an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'John'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'John' (sworn)

LADY SMITH: 'John', you will see in the folder you've just opened that your statement's been put in there, the written statement you provided to us previously, and that of course is part of your evidence to the Inquiry.

But, today, we would like to focus on some of the things that you've mentioned in your written statement and hear from you directly about those.

But, before we do that, 'John', one or two things I want to make clear to you. First is, I know that what you've agreed to do here is difficult. It's not easy to come into a public place and talk about your own life, and particularly your own life going back to your

1 childhood, when some things that happened were upsetting
2 and distressing.

3 If there's anything we can do to help you give your
4 evidence as comfortably as possible, despite all that,
5 do speak up and let me know. If you want a break at any
6 time, just say, whether it's sitting where you are or
7 leaving the room, that's not a problem at all.

8 If we're not explaining things properly so that you
9 can understand them, that's our fault, not yours. We
10 have to try harder, so tell us if you don't understand
11 anything that we're asking; okay?

12 A. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: The important thing is I want to help you give
14 your evidence as well as you possibly can.

15 A. Thank you.

16 LADY SMITH: Let's try to do that. If you're ready,
17 I'll hand over to Ms Forbes and she'll take it from
18 there; is that okay?

19 Ms Forbes.

20 Questions by Ms Forbes

21 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

22 Good morning, 'John'. As her Ladyship has said, the
23 statement you have in front of you is one that you've
24 given to the Inquiry. Just for our records, I'm going
25 to read out the reference number for that statement, but

1 you don't worry about that. It's WIT-1-000000880.

2 'John', if I could ask you to just turn to the very
3 last page of that statement in the folder, each
4 paragraph's numbered and there's a paragraph, I think at
5 the end, 128, where there's a declaration there which
6 says:

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

11 Then you've signed it and there's a date there, but
12 I think that date might be a mistake.

13 A. Yes, it wasn't 2001.

14 Q. No, it was maybe 2021; is that right?

15 A. Aye, I noticed that.

16 Q. 5th December 2021. And is that still the position, that
17 you have no objection to your statement being published?

18 A. No. No, objection, no.

19 Q. If you want to just go back to the beginning of your
20 statement or put it to one side, whatever you want to do
21 with it, 'John', I'm just going to start by asking you
22 some questions about your life before you went into any
23 of the institutions that you are here to talk about.

24 Now, you tell us, 'John', you were born in 1956; is
25 that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you tell us about your life before going into care
3 from paragraph 2 of your statement and you say that you
4 were born in the Gorbals area of Glasgow; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you live together there with your parents and your
7 three older sisters, first of all? Is that right?

8 A. I did, yes.

9 Q. Then I think there was, later, two younger brothers and
10 twin sisters and then another sister?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But some of them were maybe much later; is that right?

13 A. Uh-huh. One brother was a year younger than me.

14 Q. A year younger than you, yes.

15 A. Yeah, it was that age, when I was ...

16 Q. So, altogether I think, if I'm right, there were about
17 nine of you altogether? Nine children; is that right?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. It doesn't matter too much.

20 A. Five sisters, two brothers and myself, because eight and
21 my parents was ten. Not at the one time, you know.

22 Q. Yes. I think when you were quite young, as you said,
23 you had these three older sisters and then there was a
24 younger brother --

25 A. Then my -- one younger brother, aye. So that would be

1 five.

2 Q. Five at least, when you were at home.

3 A. Aye, aye, when I was young.

4 Q. And I think you tell us, 'John', that even though there

5 was about five of you at that time, when you were young,

6 there was a one-bedroom house that you stayed in?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Is that right? Your parents would have to sleep on the

9 couch?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. There would be the four or five of you then in the one

12 bed?

13 A. In the one bed, yes.

14 Q. And in relation to school, 'John', I think you tell us

15 that you started school in the Gorbals?

16 A. Mm-hmm, I did.

17 Q. But you weren't there very long before you moved to

18 Parkhead; is that right?

19 A. Yes. I don't remember the name of it -- even remember

20 the name of the primary school I started. I don't

21 remember.

22 Q. I think you say, 'John', that you moved after that to

23 Shettleston and then, after that, you moved quite a few

24 times and you went to a number of different schools; is

25 that right?

1 A. The first school I remember going to was Quarry Brae,
2 that's when we moved from the Oatlands, the Gorbals
3 area, to Parkhead. I went to Quarry Brae Primary
4 School. I remember that.

5 Q. You were certainly in a few primary schools at least
6 anyway; is that right?

7 A. Aye, but I don't remember them.

8 Q. That's okay.

9 I think you say, 'John', as well, at paragraph 4,
10 there were about 12 or 13 different houses that you
11 lived in when you were growing up?

12 A. There was actually more because I remember -- since
13 I spoke to -- I gave my statement, I remember
14 another couple of houses I stayed in, but obviously
15 they're not in my statement, so there was more.

16 Q. But quite a significant number of different places that
17 you stayed?

18 A. Yeah, we moved all the time.

19 Q. And you describe this life that you had with your
20 parents, at paragraph 4, 'John', saying that your dad
21 didn't work; is that right?

22 A. No, he didn't work, no.

23 Q. You would remember him tampering with the electricity
24 and the gas?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Then you would have these frequent moves. You would
2 stay in one place for about a year, year-and-a-half, and
3 then have to move?

4 A. Sometimes shorter, sometimes six month or nine months,
5 and then we'd move again to another house. And it was
6 the same routine for years.

7 Q. I think you say, 'John', because of that it's difficult
8 for you to remember people from primary school or any of
9 your teachers that you had?

10 A. I don't remember any at all. Nothing.

11 Q. You tell us, 'John', that when you were young you seem
12 to get a lot of injuries. This is at paragraph 5 of
13 your statement. You seemed to receive stitches quite
14 often and, indeed, that led to an article being printed
15 in [REDACTED]?

16 A. Aye, that's correct.

17 Q. Yes. Was that them commenting that you'd had more
18 stitches than a professional boxer and you were only
19 six?

20 A. Yes, and there was a photo in the paper. When I was
21 six-year-old, there was a photo, because of 19 stitches
22 with different accidents. They were all accidents.
23 They weren't -- he never done anything deliberate, you
24 know?

25 Q. And I think you tell us you actually found that article

1 years later and there was a picture of you?

2 A. Yes, I found it in the Mitchell Library and I took it
3 out the paper, which I shouldn't have. But I did take
4 it to show my friend and all that.

5 Q. And you say there was a picture of you with a man that
6 you thought was called Pat Roller?

7 A. That's who took the photo of me and asked me what
8 happened with the stitches and all that. It's that
9 boundary area. He was a patroller. He patrolled all
10 the different areas, but I thought -- when he took my
11 photo and all that. He said, 'Pat Roller', so I thought
12 that was his name. Then I found out years later on it
13 was 'patroller'.

14 Q. That was his job?

15 A. Aye, patrolling. If he heard of something he would go
16 and investigate it. So I don't know how he knew in the
17 1960s -- I don't know who told him or anything like
18 that.

19 Q. And you describe a little bit, 'John', at paragraph 6,
20 about the type of life you had when you were an early
21 child. There had been rats at the back of the
22 tenements?

23 A. Aye, plenty, plenty.

24 Q. And outside toilets?

25 A. Yeah. One toilet in each landing. You know, like, it

1 was three people staying on one landing and there'd be
2 one toilet. Then three people staying on the next
3 landing and they had one toilet. But then they were
4 outside, they weren't in the houses. They were on the
5 landings.

6 Q. And you also say there were no baths in the houses?

7 A. Aye, no baths. No, nothing like that. No showers.

8 Q. Something you used to do was to go to the swimming baths
9 once a week to wash your hair and get a wash?

10 A. That was when I was a bit older. Not at that age.
11 I remember I used to get a bath in the sink when I was
12 about maybe five, six, four, and a bucket of water. But
13 I didn't go to swimming or anything like that.

14 Q. I think you say this life that you are describing before
15 you go into care, 'John', you were quite happy, but even
16 every year or so you were having to move and make new
17 friends?

18 A. I didn't really make new friends, that's the thing.
19 I did make new friends, but they didn't last long
20 because we always moved again. So I never kept up with
21 any of my friends, if you know what I mean?

22 Q. But at that time at least there wasn't any social work
23 involvement at home?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And at that time, you weren't in trouble with the

1 police?

2 A. No.

3 Q. But then there came a time, 'John', when you moved to
4 Shettleston, when you were about eight years old; is
5 that right?

6 A. Round about that.

7 Q. This is when you started then breaking into places; is
8 that right?

9 A. Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: 'John', can I just ask you to move a little way
11 from the microphone. You don't need to be too close to
12 it. It will pick you up.

13 A. Is here okay? Aye.

14 LADY SMITH: That's much better. We'll hear you much more
15 clearly. Don't get any closer to it than that. Thank
16 you.

17 MS FORBES: This breaking into places; was it places that
18 had food? Is that right?

19 A. Yes, mostly bakery shops and things like that, you know?

20 Q. And what were you doing with the things that you would
21 get from there?

22 A. I would take them home.

23 Q. You tell us, 'John', that you think you got away with
24 that for a couple of years, but you eventually got
25 caught --

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. -- just after you turned ten you think?

3 A. Round about that.

4 Q. And you were taken to the Sheriff Court; is that right?

5 A. It was called Lanarkshire House at the time. It wasn't

6 a Sheriff Court. It was Lanarkshire House, but it was

7 a court.

8 LADY SMITH: I think there was a time that Lanarkshire House

9 was like an annex to the Sheriff Court.

10 A. It was for juveniles, I think, or younger people.

11 LADY SMITH: It would be a Sheriff that was sitting there?

12 A. Yeah. Oh, yeah, yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS FORBES: And this seemed to be in relation to an incident

15 that you were involved in with your brother; is this the

16 brother that was a year younger than you?

17 A. No, no, it was a (indistinguishable). It wasn't my

18 brother. It was the very first time I was put in --

19 took away, detention, that was for assault and robbery,

20 with my brother. This time, the second time, I was

21 myself.

22 Q. Okay. So I think you tell us the first time was

23 involved with your brother and that was in relation to

24 a Boy Scout's collection box being stolen?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Assault and robbery; is that right?

2 A. Yeah, my brother stole it, hurt the boy, ran away.

3 I didn't run away. I stayed there and I got caught.

4 I was talking to the boys, sat helping them. My brother

5 bust his mouth and ran away. I didn't tell the police

6 it was my brother. I didn't think nothing was going to

7 happen, until I got took to court. I don't know how

8 long -- when I got took to court, but ... and I was

9 sentenced to 14 days' detention in Larchgrove. I didn't

10 know where Larchgrove was or what detention was.

11 I never knew.

12 Q. This was the first time that you'd --

13 A. That was the first time.

14 Q. -- been caught for anything?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And the first time you'd appeared in court or something

17 like a court?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 9. I think you say

20 that your parents were there at court; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. After you were sentenced to this 14 days' detention in

23 Larchgrove, you tell us about how you felt at that time

24 and you say that you were grabbing onto your mum and

25 didn't want to let her go; is that right?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. And you were screaming your head off?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. But that you were taken down to the cells?

5 A. Mm-hmm. Normal cells.

6 Q. But there was another boy there, who was a little bit
7 older than you?

8 A. Aye. He kind of talked to me and said, 'Don't worry
9 about it. It's only 14 days. It's nae problem and it's
10 only up Easterhouse. It's not that far away'.

11 So that's what happened.

12 Q. And this is when you are taken from that building to
13 Larchgrove; is that right?

14 A. Aye, yes.

15 Q. You think you were about ten years old at that time?

16 A. Aye, about that.

17 Q. Now, 'John', you tell us about being in Larchgrove from
18 paragraphs 10 to 26, and I think you are already aware
19 that this part of your statement has already been read
20 in to the Inquiry at an earlier stage. It was on
21 22 March of this year, which was Day 427, just for our
22 records.

23 So I'm not going to go through what happened at
24 Larchgrove in minute detail, but we'll go through it
25 a little bit, just to see how you got on there.

1 I think you tell us, 'John', that this was 14 days
2 that you were in Larchgrove the first time?

3 A. Yes, 14.

4 Q. But then there was a time when you went back again for
5 another period of about five or six weeks?

6 A. It could have been longer; it could have been shorter.
7 I'm no absolutely positive.

8 Q. You think you were about 11 then?

9 A. Round about 11. Ten-and-a-half, 11.

10 Q. And you tell us, 'John', quite a lot about the details
11 of Larchgrove, so I'm not going to go into too much
12 detail about that with you just now. But it was
13 dormitories; is that right?

14 A. Uh-huh, yes.

15 Q. And they were locked at night?

16 A. Yes, they were.

17 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 12 of your statement
18 that there would be some older boys fighting among each
19 other, but you didn't take anything to do with that; is
20 that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You talk about some boys running away. In particular,
23 you mention two boys who escaped from your dormitory --
24 and this is at paragraph 20 -- and you tell us, 'John',
25 that you remember them being caught a couple weeks later

1 and when they were brought back they were put into
2 a holding cell in Larchgrove?

3 A. Yes, yes, that's correct. That's what happened when we
4 ran away.

5 Q. And this was something I think you describe that had
6 a spyhole that you could look through when you went
7 past?

8 A. Yes, anybody could look in it.

9 Q. But that was not a place that you were ever put into, in
10 Larchgrove?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. I think you tell us you never tried to run away from
13 Larchgrove?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You say that was because you were too scared?

16 A. I didn't want to go into the holding cell, for a start.

17 Q. There was an incident that you tell us about at
18 Larchgrove. This is at paragraph 23. This is in
19 a section of your statement that is headed:
20 'Abuse at Larchgrove.'

21 I think you say there was an incident when you were
22 in the gym hall waiting to go to have a shower?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you tell us, 'John', what happened at that time?

25 A. You were put into rows and everybody would be waiting

1 their turn and they put stuff on your head. One of the
2 teachers would put stuff on your head for head lice,
3 things like that. There was no speaking at all. There
4 was an older boy behind me and he kept kicking me, and
5 I would turn round and tell him to, 'Stop kicking me.
6 Stop kicking me', and one of the teachers seen me and
7 thought I was speaking to him, so he came up and gave me
8 like a slap and then a kick, and I said, 'Look, he's
9 kicking me'. And basically it happened a couple of
10 times and then I ended up getting moved away from that
11 guy and there were no problems after that.

12 But the older guy, he didn't get a slap or a kick.
13 It was me, because the teacher told me because
14 I'm turning round talking to him, so the teacher thinks
15 that I'm turning round speaking to him and I'm telling
16 him to stop kicking me.

17 That's basically what happened.

18 Q. I think you say, 'John', that this was a teacher, but
19 you don't remember what his name was or anything like
20 that?

21 A. No, I don't remember the names.

22 Q. But I think you also tell us, 'John', that you did see
23 other boys getting a kick or a slap --

24 A. Aye, in the hole. Aye, a few times, because boys would
25 talk. You know, boys would talk and they would get a

1 kick or a slap in the back of the head, things like
2 that. And they wouldn't give them a good kicking, if
3 you know what I mean?

4 Q. I think you say that you didn't see any boys injured as
5 a result of any of these kicks or slaps?

6 A. No.

7 Q. But I think you do comment that it tended to happen to
8 the younger boys?

9 A. Yeah, more than the older boys. And I was one of the
10 youngest ones that was there, I recall at the time.

11 Q. I think you say, 'John', that the second time you went
12 to Larchgrove when you were a bit older that you didn't
13 have any problems like that?

14 A. No, no, because I knew from the first time exactly what
15 it was about. I knew the routine, what to do, because
16 I was in for the two weeks, so I learnt quite a lot in
17 the two weeks.

18 Q. The way you describe it is that you -- the second time
19 you had wised up a bit?

20 A. Aye, I knew what the score was, sort of, what the
21 routine was.

22 Q. So, after this 14 days in Larchgrove, you went back
23 home?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. To your parents; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And I think you tell us -- this is at paragraph 25,
3 'John' -- that you had moved addresses and things at
4 home were just much the same again; is that right?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You were involved again in stealing from -- stealing
7 sweets and biscuits from a shop?

8 A. No, this is the thing, on my previous conviction it's
9 got 'theft by house breaking'. The shop was already
10 being broke into by older boys, what got around. So
11 I went up intending to steal biscuits and things like
12 that. But I went into the shop and I actually got
13 caught inside the shop by the police, so I didn't
14 actually steal anything out the shop and I didn't break
15 into the shop. But, on my record, it says 'theft by
16 house breaking', which it shouldn't have been. But, at
17 that time, I didn't know what was happening. It was not
18 talked about. Years later -- like, I shouldn't have
19 been charged. I should've been charged with attempted
20 theft, which I was going to do, I'll admit that. I was
21 going to steal biscuits and cakes, whatever I could.

22 The older boys had already took cigarettes and beer
23 and things like that, you know, whisky. I wasn't
24 interested in that. I was interested in the food.

25 I got caught inside the shop by the police, so I

1 didn't actually steal anything or break in. It was
2 already broken into, but that's on my record, so ...

3 Q. That's what the police took you away for and then that
4 led to you going back to Larchgrove for that second
5 time; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think you tell us, 'John', you think that you were
8 about 11, but that might not be right.

9 A. About ten-and-a-half, 11, aye, about that age.

10 Q. This time you were there, as we've said, it might have
11 been a bit longer than five or six weeks, but there
12 weren't any issues that second time as far as you're
13 concerned; is that right?

14 A. Not had any issues at all.

15 Q. And that was sort of a holding place at that point
16 before you were sent to Dr Guthrie's?

17 A. Yes, but I thought I was only going -- I thought when
18 they sent me back there a second time I was only going
19 for two weeks, but I -- because I didn't know what
20 an Approved School was. I didn't know what an Approved
21 School was, but I thought: I'm going back to the same
22 place for two weeks and I'll get back out again.

23 But, obviously, it was a lot longer, which I found
24 out after that.

25 Q. Were you told how long you would be going to any of

1 these places for?

2 A. No, no.

3 Q. And when you went to Dr Guthrie's; were you given any

4 information about how long you were going to be there

5 for?

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. Now, Dr Guthrie's, was in Edinburgh?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. I think you say that's a place at that point you had

10 never been before?

11 A. No, I'd never been to Edinburgh before.

12 Q. You say the only time you'd left Glasgow was to go to

13 Saltcoats with your family?

14 A. Maybe Ayr, maybe Largs, but I remember Saltcoats,

15 basically.

16 Q. So this is a whole new city, a place you'd never been

17 before?

18 A. No, I'd never been.

19 Q. Dr Guthrie's, 'John', you tell us about that from

20 paragraph 27 onwards and, again, you think maybe you

21 were ten or 11 when you went there. I think you say

22 that you can't really remember how you got there or

23 arriving there?

24 A. No.

25 Q. But one thing you comment on when you got there and you

1 saw -- you say it was massive?

2 A. It was big, yeah. It was big. Just like a big, massive
3 school, like a college or just a big, massive building.

4 Q. And you tell us -- this is at paragraph 27 -- that you
5 actually went back to visit the building as an adult?

6 A. Yes. I took my granddaughter, just to see how far away
7 it was and what it was, because I forgot. It was years
8 ago. And I wanted to see how big it was and how far
9 away it was and things like that. So I took my
10 granddaughter when she was maybe a two-year old, two or
11 three-year old. So that would be about five or six
12 years ago, something like that.

13 Q. At that time, anyway, it was fenced off and being made
14 into flats?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. So that's the sort of time period that you went to visit
17 it?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. And did that come about, 'John', because you'd found the
20 address for Dr Guthrie's on a letter?

21 A. I don't know, because I found -- or I just wanted to see
22 where it was and how far away it was. But then
23 (indistinguishable) that's where I got the address from,
24 the letter. And I came into Edinburgh, asked a bus
25 driver, he's taking me on the bus and told me where to

1 get off, and the address and everything like that.
2 That's why I went, basically, to see what size it was.
3 But, like, it was -- I had thoughts in my head about --
4 like it was that, but I wasn't that sure, so I was
5 always wanting to go find it.

6 Q. And was this letter something that you found in your
7 father's house?

8 A. Aye. Yes, after he passed away, I think it was.

9 Q. Was it a letter that you'd written to him from
10 Dr Guthrie's?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And is that something you still have? Is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. We'll maybe come back to that letter, 'John', a little
15 later on when we talk more about your time at
16 Dr Guthrie's.

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. But you then go on, 'John', in your statement to
19 describe Dr Guthrie's. This is from paragraph 28.
20 I think you tell us you don't remember too much about
21 it, but it was on more than one level. It was a lot of
22 stairs and that the headteacher's office was on the
23 ground floor?

24 A. Yes, that's right. I remember that.

25 Q. There was a big dining hall as well?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. That was also on the ground floor?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And there was a separate school building?

5 A. Yes, separate from the dormitories and where you got
6 your lunch and thing like that. You know, that was
7 separate. The school was separate.

8 Q. There was also a swimming pool that was separate?

9 A. Yeah, that was separate as well.

10 Q. You tell us, the time you were there, your impression
11 was that there were hundreds of boys there?

12 A. Yes, there was. I don't know -- approximately --
13 I couldn't say 200, 400, 600, but I would say a couple
14 of hundred, easy.

15 Q. And the age range was about ten to 15?

16 A. From about ten up to 15. If you were 16 you weren't
17 sent there, you would be too old. You had to be under
18 16.

19 Q. Were you one of the youngest boys in the dorm?

20 A. Aye, I reckon I was.

21 Q. I think you comment that most of the boys there were
22 from the Edinburgh area or so you thought?

23 A. Well, aye -- yeah, well, I knew -- they weren't speaking
24 Glaswegian, so I knew they -- they could be from Fife,
25 but I took it most of them were from Edinburgh.

1 Q. Do I take it from that then, 'John', there wasn't a lot
2 of people that you remember with your accent?

3 A. No, not at all.

4 Q. You tell us a bit, 'John', about the members of staff
5 that you recall. This is at paragraph 29. You say that
6 pretty much all the staff were male, apart from one
7 female member of staff?

8 A. Aye, that's correct, yeah.

9 Q. There would have been a headteacher, but you can't
10 remember the names of the staff?

11 A. No, no, none of them, nobody.

12 Q. Apart from a music teacher that you have named?

13 A. Aye, that's the only one.

14 Q. But you -- the way that you spoke to teachers was to
15 address them as 'teacher' or 'sir'?

16 A. 'Sir' or 'teacher', yeah.

17 Q. So you weren't using their names?

18 A. No, I didn't know any of their first names.

19 Q. And in relation to you, you weren't called by your first
20 name while you were there?

21 A. No, I was just called GGY.

22 Q. And you then give us a little bit of information,
23 'John', about the routine at Dr Guthrie's and I'm just
24 going to go through that with you.

25 First of all, you talk about the morning routine and

1 you say that there were dormitories again, like
2 Larchgrove?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. But were these bigger?

5 A. They were bigger, a lot bigger.

6 Q. And the dormitories had names, but you can't remember?

7 A. I don't remember the names.

8 Q. You think there was maybe about 40 or so boys in your
9 dormitory?

10 A. Easy, aye. Easy, 20 each side.

11 Q. These were single beds, not bunk beds?

12 A. Single beds.

13 Q. But there wasn't much space, I think you tell us,
14 between these beds?

15 A. No, no. No, not at all. Maybe about a foot-and-a-half.

16 Q. I think you comment you could actually reach over and
17 give the boy in the next bed a slap?

18 A. Aye, you could if you wanted, aye. That's how close
19 they were.

20 Q. And at night you were locked up; is that right?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. That was the position until the lights came on in the
23 morning?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In the morning then, 'John', I think you tell us you

1 would get woken up by staff; is that right?

2 A. Yeah, the lights would go on first and then the staff
3 would come in.

4 Q. And then the routine was you would get washed and brush
5 your teeth before going down for breakfast?

6 A. Yes, that would be the routine.

7 Q. But, if you didn't get out your bed, staff would
8 intervene?

9 A. They -- your bed would get tipped up, so you'd end up on
10 the floor. So nearly everybody got out their bed,
11 because nobody wants to be tipped up on the floor. And
12 I heard of that happening, but I don't think I'd seen
13 it. I'm not sure.

14 Q. It didn't happen to you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Is that because you made sure you were up?

17 A. I got up.

18 Q. But, in relation to being locked in, I think you tell us
19 you couldn't go to the toilet during the night?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And that you had to make your bed every morning yourself
22 and then it would be inspected by staff?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. In relation to boys who wet the bed, they had to then
25 wash their own sheets?

1 A. Well, that's what I believed at the time, aye. I didn't
2 wash mine because I didn't wet the bed, I don't think.

3 Q. And I think you tell us, 'John', you don't know whether
4 there was any sort of punishment for wetting the bed
5 because you didn't do that?

6 A. No, I never got punished for doing it.

7 Q. Moving on then, 'John', to the meal times, you describe
8 this dining hall at Dr Guthrie's at paragraph 33. What
9 you say is:

10 'There is a massive dining hall with long tables all
11 joined together, a bit like Oliver Twist.'

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. And there would be a serving hatch where you would get
14 your food?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. But you could sit wherever you wanted?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. But for you, when you initially arrived, breakfast
19 became an issue; is that right?

20 A. Aye, a big issue. Yes, it did.

21 Q. What was it that was happening, 'John', at breakfast?

22 A. Most breakfasts we got porridge and I couldn't eat it.
23 I just couldn't eat porridge. I didn't like porridge. I
24 just didn't like the sight of it. And the first time
25 I ate breakfast it might have been cornflakes or

1 whatever and would have been fine. The second day it
2 might have been the porridge and that's when the
3 teachers came up and I left the porridge, and the
4 teachers -- only one or two, said, 'Eat your breakfast',
5 and I told him, 'I don't like that, I'm not eating it',
6 and before you know it there were maybe about three
7 forcing the porridge. One holding my mouth open and the
8 other one is trying to put the porridge in my mouth, but
9 I'm trying to bite them. I'm spitting it out,
10 I'm nearly being sick, and all the other boys are having
11 a laugh. And I don't think the teachers liked that,
12 because all the boys were having a laugh. So it's --
13 that's what happened and I didn't eat it. To this
14 day -- I don't like porridge to this day. I hate the
15 sight of it. I just couldn't eat it.

16 Q. 'John', what you seem to be describing there is more
17 than one member of staff taking hold of you and trying
18 to force you to eat the porridge?

19 A. Sometimes there were three, one on top of my head, one
20 with my mouth opened, and one with the spoon trying to
21 put it down, but I would be trying to bite them and just
22 spitting it out. I wouldn't be actually sick or nearly
23 sick. I would be boaking, if you know what I'm talking
24 about, what boaking is. But that was the routine.

25 I don't know how long it went on for, but that's

1 what happened.

2 Q. You tell us a wee bit more about that, 'John', later in
3 your statement. If we maybe just go to that now, it's
4 at paragraph 51. And this is where you describe what
5 you've just told us. If we can go to that paragraph.

6 A. What number?

7 Q. It's 51. This is really what you've told us just now,
8 'John'. You say that when that would happen -- and
9 you're not sure how long that situation went on for; do
10 you mean you're not sure how many weeks that went on for
11 or how many days that went on for?

12 A. No, because that went on for two days and then the third
13 day we would get cornflakes and it wouldn't be a problem
14 because I like cornflakes. And then the fourth day it
15 might have been porridge again and then the same thing
16 would happen. And I knew it was going to happen anyway.

17 Q. When they weren't successful in getting you to eat the
18 porridge; what would happen to you?

19 A. I just got took out the dining hall and put in a room
20 and locked in until after breakfast.

21 Q. Did that mean you didn't get any breakfast?

22 A. No, I didn't want porridge anyway. So I would never --
23 I would never -- I wouldn't have any breakfast anyway.

24 I was locked in there to (indistinguishable) and
25 everybody was took to school and then I would get took

1 to school.

2 Q. Separate from the breakfast issue, 'John', I think you
3 also tell us that there was a problem -- you mention it
4 being dinner. Do you mean lunch? Were you given soup
5 for lunch or was this dinner time, in the evening?

6 A. No, it was lunchtime. Lunchtime.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Nearly every single day. It would be the same soup.
9 I couldn't eat it.

10 Q. I think you explain that's because it had barley in it
11 and vegetables as well?

12 A. Aye. I didn't like vegetables. I would never -- I had
13 never been used to vegetables or anything like that and
14 I just didn't like the look of that barley and I just
15 couldn't eat it.

16 Q. Again, what would happen?

17 A. It would be the same routine as they done with the
18 porridge. They would try to force me to eat it and
19 I would be sick, and nearly sick, and locked in the room
20 again, same thing. Nae difference.

21 But I got a way round that, because I used to go to
22 my gran's house and she would make soup with barley, but
23 I would get the spoon and just take the gravy at my
24 gran's house. So, after this happened a few times,
25 I don't know how many times, I took the spoon and

1 I would take the gravy and they wouldn't bother me.
2 That was the end of that. They didn't bother with the
3 soup after that, because they thought I was eating it.
4 I was actually eating the gravy. I was leaving the
5 vegetables and the barley, but it was not a problem.

6 Q. So there came a point when they weren't trying to force
7 you to eat it anymore because, as you've said, 'John',
8 they thought you were actually eating it?

9 A. I was eating the gravy, aye. I was putting the spoon in
10 and getting the gravy without any vegetables and without
11 any barley and I was quite happy with that.

12 Q. Now, if we just go back in your statement -- because we
13 have gone forward a little bit there, so if we go back
14 to paragraph 34, that's where you tell us about your
15 workaround that you did with the soup and just eating
16 the gravy, as you put it, the liquid?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You go on to say that you didn't have any problems
19 with -- this is at paragraph 35 -- tea. So the evening
20 meal; is that right?

21 A. No, there was nae problem with that.

22 Q. And you don't remember seeing any other boys having
23 problems with the food?

24 A. No, none at all. None.

25 Q. Moving forward then to washing and bathing, 'John', you

1 say that there was these open showers?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. In a block; is that right?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. You could have a shower about once a week?

6 A. Uh-huh, may have been about maybe ten separate showers.

7 Q. And you say there were teachers watching when boys were

8 having showers?

9 A. Yeah, there were no curtains. You could see -- having a

10 shower --

11 Q. The microphone will still pick up what you are saying,

12 so you could move it a little bit away. Don't worry,

13 it's quite sensitive, so we should be able to hear you.

14 LADY SMITH: In a moment, we'll give you some help to

15 position the mic a little bit better.

16 (Pause)

17 MS FORBES: So there's one part of your statement there,

18 'John', I want to ask you about, where you say:

19 'There would be three or four teachers watching us,

20 having a laugh.'

21 I just wanted to ask you what you meant by that.

22 A. I don't really know what they were laughing at to be

23 honest, but they were having a laugh.

24 Q. It's the teachers that would be having a laugh?

25 A. They could be joking among themselves. We don't know.

1 We wouldn't ask them what they're laughing about.

2 Q. You talk about the fact you'd go to the swimming pool at
3 Dr Guthrie's as well and you'd get a shower when you
4 went there?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Thinking about clothing then, 'John', you say that you
7 can't remember what you wore --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- but it wasn't your own clothes?

10 A. No, no, it wasn't my own clothes.

11 Q. You all wore the same thing?

12 A. Yeah, everybody.

13 Q. So it was like a uniform, was it?

14 A. Yeah, it must have been because we all wore the same
15 stuff, I know that.

16 Q. Was there anything to identify your clothes as belonging
17 to you that you were given?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Going forward then, 'John', you talk about getting some
20 schooling while you were at Dr Guthrie's.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. You say, at paragraph 38, that you know you went to
23 school because you learned how to read and write there?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And there would be different subjects like a normal

1 school; is that right?

2 A. Aye. I was there longer than any other school, so

3 I thought I done okay.

4 Q. I think you say that you learned more in Dr Guthrie's

5 than you did in any other school?

6 A. In any school when I was out, yes, I did. I learnt

7 reading and writing. Did a lot of things, played chess,

8 dominos, a lot of things like that, so I did learn

9 things.

10 Q. And this was a place -- I think you comment that you

11 were there for longer than you were at any other school

12 that you attended?

13 A. Aye, yes. Definitely, aye.

14 Q. This was something you seem to quite like?

15 A. Aye. I quite liked learning.

16 Q. The teachers who were in the school were okay?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Going back to the swimming pool then, I think you tell

19 us about leisure time at Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 39.

20 This was a swimming pool that was at -- on the grounds

21 of Dr Guthrie's?

22 A. On the grounds, yes.

23 Q. In a separate building?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you would go there; was this just at the weekend?

1 A. I'm not too sure if it was once a week or the weekend,
2 to be honest. I can't remember at all.

3 Q. You describe, 'John', a situation where you would all
4 line up and then dive in and whoever got to the other
5 end first got a toffee?

6 A. A bar of toffee and you're talking maybe over 100 people
7 coming in at one time, from one end to the other end.

8 Q. And when you were doing this, 'John' -- it might sound
9 like a strange question, but: what were you wearing at
10 the swimming pool?

11 A. I can't remember whether it was swimming trunks or just
12 shorts on. I think it was just shorts. We weren't
13 naked. And I know that, I don't think we were naked.
14 Because we had to walk from the building to the swimming
15 pool, so we wouldn't be walking naked. I would have
16 remembered that.

17 Q. So swimming was something that you remember doing.
18 I think you talk about, also, draughts and playing
19 chess?

20 A. Table tennis, things like that.

21 Q. But I think, 'John', what you talk about a bit in your
22 statement is your love of football?

23 A. Aye. Oh aye, always loved football. I used to play in
24 the street when I was six, seven, eight or nine, just
25 even kick a ball about myself.

1 Q. So when you were at Dr Guthrie's you played on the team
2 for Dr Guthrie's; is that right?

3 A. They didn't have an actual team. They had a team, but
4 we didn't play in a league or anything like that. But
5 they had a team.

6 Q. Would the team or whoever was put into play, would they
7 play against other schools sometimes?

8 A. Sometimes, yes.

9 Q. And there's a particular game that you recall, that you
10 talk about paragraph 40, 'John', where you say you
11 played against a Catholic school?

12 A. That's correct, aye.

13 Q. Can you tell us a little bit what happened during that?

14 A. Well, I remember we were getting beat by 2-0 and I
15 scored two goals in the first half and so it was 2-2 at
16 half time. And the headteacher told me, 'If you score
17 another goal and get hat trick and we win, I'll give you
18 weekend leave', and I didn't know if he was kidding on
19 or not kidding on. But I did get another goal and he
20 did give me weekend leave, so he kept his word.

21 Q. And --

22 A. That's the first time I had weekend leave.

23 Q. So that's the first time --

24 A. I'd been out.

25 Q. -- you'd been out home, from Dr Guthrie's?

1 A. Mm-hmm, yep.

2 Q. And are you able to give us an idea roughly of how long
3 you had been there by that point?

4 A. No, I can't remember, honestly. Maybe a week or two.
5 It would be a lot longer than that, you know.

6 Q. Longer than a week or two?

7 A. Oh, aye, yes.

8 Q. Maybe a few months?

9 A. Maybe -- it could be six months, eight months, seven
10 months. (indistinguishable) three, four, five weeks, I
11 know that.

12 Q. Thinking about the whole time that you were at
13 Dr Guthrie's, 'John'; was that the only time you got
14 home at the weekend?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So that one weekend was it in the whole period that you
17 stayed at Dr Guthrie's?

18 A. Yes. All at once, yeah.

19 Q. It seemed to be because you scored this hat trick?

20 A. That's what I remember.

21 Q. I think you tell us you must have played more games of
22 football there, but that's the one that sticks in your
23 mind?

24 A. Aye, because I got three goals and I got weekend leave.
25 So I was happy, as you can understand. I was happy

1 I was getting to go home to see my family. I didn't
2 believe it until I actually got let out for the weekend.
3 I thought I'd not get out.

4 Q. Now, when you came back from that weekend leave; was
5 there an issue about you getting back late?

6 A. Yeah, I got back late. I can't remember, but I got back
7 late.

8 Q. And was that something that you got into trouble for?

9 A. I got a couple of slaps and a couple of kicks here and
10 there, but not too bad. But I didn't tell my father
11 that. I wrote a letter to my father and told my father
12 I got home late, and I watched a film and things like
13 that. If I'd have told my father I was getting kicked
14 about or slapped, my father was a bit hot headed, he
15 would have been through and caused trouble. And I know
16 that myself, you know? So I didn't want to tell him
17 nothing.

18 Q. So I think --

19 A. And I never did.

20 Q. -- this incident you're talking about is described
21 a wee bit more at paragraph 56 of your statement. If we
22 can just go to paragraph 56 for a few minutes and have
23 a look.

24 Now, at paragraph 56, you tell us about the fact
25 that you were late getting back to Dr Guthrie's after

1 this weekend leave. Now, this was the only weekend
2 leave, as you've said, that you had whilst you were
3 there. I think you tell us that the other boys were in
4 bed when you got back?

5 A. Aye, because I was late getting back.

6 Q. I think you mentioned that you got a couple of punches
7 and slaps?

8 A. Aye, that's what I said a minute ago, aye. Not bad for
9 a beating.

10 Q. Who was it that did this?

11 A. Two teachers. I can't remember their names.

12 Q. The male teachers?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think what you tell us is:

15 'I was slapped in the face and I got a few punches
16 to my stomach. I wasn't badly injured.'

17 A. No, I wasn't badly injured.

18 Q. You mentioned this letter, 'John', that you had to write
19 to your father; who got you to write this letter?

20 A. One of the school teachers. A couple of days later,
21 I think it was.

22 Q. Was that one of the teachers who had been involved in
23 giving you a slap or a punch?

24 A. No, no. No, no.

25 Q. A different teacher?

1 A. No, no, one of the school teachers in the school.

2 Q. And you -- is this the letter that we talked about
3 earlier, that you found in your father's house?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. And I think we've got what it says in the letter there
6 and I'll read it out:

7 'Dear father.

8 'Just a few lines to let you know I arrived safely
9 on Saturday night, but I was late. It was very stormy
10 and snowy. We saw the film Rio Bravo with John Wayne
11 and Dean Martin. It was good and we saw all of it.
12 I got swimming on Sunday and it was very good. Five of
13 the teachers have to play five of the boys football.
14 Today, it is dry and sunny, but it is still windy. That
15 is all I have to say. Tell the family I was asking for
16 them. That is all. Your loving son.'

17 Then your name.

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. I think you comment that when you found that letter,
20 thoughts went through your mind about it; what were
21 they, 'John'?

22 A. It was the way it was wrote, like, a full stop and that,
23 an apostrophe. I don't know how you say that word.
24 I've never written a letter and I never knew how to do
25 all that, so I was -- that letter was forged I was told

1 what to say -- a teacher. So that's all I can recall
2 about that.

3 Q. I think you say that you wondered what you told all
4 those lies for. When you say 'lies'; what part of the
5 letter do you think was not true?

6 A. Because I told my dad I got home safely and everything
7 was okay and that made me tell me dad lies, which
8 I shouldn't have. But, as I say, he was a hot head and
9 he might have come through Edinburgh the next day or
10 following day and caused trouble. I don't know.

11 LADY SMITH: When you say that was lies; are you referring
12 to you having been hit and slapped when you got back?

13 A. No, no, I said to my dad I got back safely and
14 everything was okay. That was -- I was telling my dad
15 lies.

16 LADY SMITH: What was the lie?

17 A. I told him I got home safely and everything was okay,
18 which it wasn't. I didn't want to tell him I was
19 slapped about because I got home late, a couple of
20 slaps, a couple of kicks, which is nothing. It's
21 nothing.

22 LADY SMITH: So it was you, as you put it in your statement,
23 getting a doing when you got back.

24 A. Aye.

25 LADY SMITH: That showed you weren't safe; is that what

1 you're saying?

2 A. No, I wouldn't say a right doing, just a couple of
3 slaps, a couple of boots in the leg, a couple of punches
4 in the stomach. Not a right kicking, they wouldn't put
5 me in hospital or anything like that or badly injure me.

6 MS FORBES: Kind of -- was it a lie by omission? You
7 weren't telling your dad the full truth that actually
8 something had happened to you when you got back?

9 A. No, I didn't want to tell him.

10 Q. But did you see the film Rio Bravo with John Wayne and
11 Dean Martin?

12 A. I'm sure I've seen it, aye. I've seen it a few times
13 since, as well.

14 Q. But that's something you remember watching?

15 A. Aye, I remember watching that, aye, because I don't
16 think I would have wrote that on the letter if I didn't
17 watch it.

18 Q. I think that there is a record, we can see, that that
19 film was actually played on Christmas Day in 1966 on
20 normal television, let's just say, so it was televised.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Would that sound about right if it was Christmas
23 Day 1966?

24 A. I could have been there on Christmas Day. I can't
25 recall, but it could have been. I've got my previous

1 convictions, that gives you the dates, my lawyer's got
2 them.

3 Q. But, if you were ten or eleven, it would probably fit
4 around about that time?

5 A. Aye, that's the time before I'm coming out round about
6 then, I think, but I've been in umpteen times since then
7 and I've watched it a couple of times. I wouldn't watch
8 it now, you know.

9 Q. Something that sticks in your mind?

10 A. Aye, aye. I like cowboy films. I like John Wayne.

11 Q. And I think you do tell us there was a TV room at
12 Dr Guthrie's?

13 A. Aye, yes, there was.

14 Q. This is going back to paragraph 41 of your statement,
15 'John'. You say that sometimes you would get to watch
16 films, but not every night?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. And you particularly remember watching the 1966 World
19 Cup final there; is that right?

20 A. I'm quite positive we watched that in black and white.

21 Q. That was on 30 July 1966?

22 A. I don't know. I just know it was 1966.

23 Q. So that would again fit in with -- if you were about ten
24 when you were there; would that be right?

25 A. That would be right.

1 Q. You comment you think you must have been out of
2 Dr Guthrie's by the time Celtic won the European Cup, in
3 1967?

4 A. Yes, because I remember being at Parkhead when they come
5 round on the top of an old coal lorry. I remember being
6 in amongst the crowd.

7 Q. This is when they came back from Lisbon having won and
8 they were doing the sort of celebratory parade?

9 A. Yes, you get in for nothing and that when you're that
10 age. You didn't have to pay, you get in for nothing.
11 So I went to see my team that I supported.

12 Q. That was May 1967, so you think you were certainly out
13 of Dr Guthrie's --

14 A. Aye, I must have been out, because I wasn't on home
15 leave or anything, so I must have been out.

16 Q. You would have been 11 at that point?

17 A. I must have been, about 11, 11-and-a-half. I don't
18 know.

19 Q. Because you say that since that date you've supported
20 Celtic ever since?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Something that sticks in your mind as well?

23 A. Yep.

24 Q. Just going forward in your statement then, 'John',
25 looking at trips and holidays whilst you were at

1 Dr Guthrie's. This is at paragraph 43, you remember the
2 female member of staff, this was the only female member
3 of staff at Dr Guthrie's that you remember --
4 A. Aye.
5 Q. -- taking you hillwalking and rock climbing in
6 Edinburgh?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. And there was also some cross-country running?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. But that was the only time that you left Dr Guthrie's?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. And the cross-country running, 'John'; was that in the
13 grounds of Dr Guthrie's or was that somewhere else?
14 A. No, no. No, it was across the road. You crossed the
15 road. There was a line, a row of shops, and then there
16 were fields and the field just went for miles and miles
17 and miles and into the woods and you just -- sorry.
18 LADY SMITH: You were up in Liberton. If I said the Braid
19 Hills to you; would that mean anything?
20 A. No.
21 LADY SMITH: Okay. Open ground?
22 A. No.
23 LADY SMITH: You were running in open ground or in trees?
24 A. No, open ground. Yes, there were fields and plenty of
25 space and things like that.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS FORBES: But there were no trips or holidays as such that
3 you recall whilst you were at Dr Guthrie's?

4 A. No, no, nothing at all. No days out. No trips. Nae
5 beach. Just hillwalking and my cross-country. I don't
6 know how many times we did cross-country. I don't know
7 if it was once a week or once a fortnight. I don't
8 recall.

9 Q. At paragraph 45, you say that you think you were at
10 Dr Guthrie's for Christmas and if you did watch that
11 film with John Wayne on Christmas Day that would fit
12 with that, but you can't remember much about Christmas
13 there?

14 A. No, I don't remember.

15 Q. But there wasn't a religious element that you recall to
16 Dr Guthrie's? You didn't have to go to church or
17 anything like that?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. In relation to getting visits or any inspections, you
20 tell us, at paragraph 46, that you didn't get any visits
21 when you were at Dr Guthrie's?

22 A. No, none. None at all.

23 Q. And I think earlier in your statement you said you think
24 you were there for maybe ten or 11 months altogether?

25 A. Could have been 12 months. Between ten and 12, yeah.

1 Q. In that whole period, we know about your one visit home
2 for the weekend --

3 A. That was it.

4 Q. -- that was the only time you saw your family?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And if we're right about your ages, you would have been
7 ten at that time?

8 A. Ten-and-a-half, say, roughly.

9 Q. So it's quite young to be away and not have any family
10 visits?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. You tell us, 'John', about a sports day that was
13 happening not long after you arrived and that this was
14 during the time period when you were still having
15 an issue about them trying to force feed you porridge
16 and soup. You took the decision to write a letter home
17 to your parents?

18 A. Yeah. I told them not to come.

19 Q. You told them about the sports day, but you told them
20 not to come?

21 (Pause)

22 I think you tell us you put on the back of the
23 letters that they shouldn't come.

24 A. I did. I wrote on the back of the letter 'don't come'.

25 Q. Why did you feel at that time you didn't want them to

1 come to the sports day?

2 A. According to this, because I had been slapped about in
3 the afternoon. I don't know if it was about the soup or
4 whatever, I can't even remember. I don't even think
5 I took part -- as I say, I don't even think I took part
6 in the sports day.

7 Q. Did it have anything to do with the fact that you were
8 having this issue with being force fed and the porridge
9 and the soup?

10 A. It could well have been. I'm not 100 per cent sure, but
11 it could well have been. I just didn't want to see my
12 parents there.

13 Q. I think you say that you asked them about that when you
14 saw them. You asked them why they didn't come and they
15 said because you told them not to?

16 A. That's right, because I wrote on the back of the letter
17 'don't come'.

18 Q. But all the other parents were there for the other boys?

19 A. Not everyone. Mostly. Quite a lot. But not -- some
20 parents weren't there for some boys, but there were
21 quite a lot of parents there.

22 Q. Apart from the sports day, 'John'; do you remember other
23 boys, whilst you were there, getting visits from their
24 family?

25 A. No.

1 Q. So that's not something that happened as far as you
2 were --

3 A. I don't remember anybody getting visits.

4 Q. And you didn't see a social worker while you were there?

5 A. No.

6 Q. But certainly you wrote home a lot whilst you were
7 there; is that right?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. And you tell us that your father would write back to
10 you?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. But, at this time, your parents didn't have a phone in
13 the house?

14 A. No, no. There was nae phone.

15 Q. So it would just be by letter that you would keep in
16 touch?

17 A. Aye, maybe once a week you'd get a letter. It could
18 be -- even might have been once a fortnight. I'm not
19 positive.

20 Q. Now, we talked earlier about Larchgrove and boys running
21 away. Just looking at Dr Guthrie's then, 'John', in
22 relation to that, you tell us that Dr Guthrie's wasn't
23 locked, you weren't locked in?

24 A. No, no, you could walk out easy.

25 Q. And some boys did --

1 A. You'd -- there were nae gates. There were gates, but
2 weren't locked or anything like that. There wasn't big
3 barbed wire fences or nothing, so you could walk out if
4 you wanted to.

5 Q. And some boys did?

6 A. Oh, aye, some boys did. Absconded. They called it
7 abscond. If you abscond, you ran away.

8 Q. But they would come back again after that, when they
9 were caught?

10 A. Yes. Nine out of ten maybe brought back to
11 Dr Guthrie's.

12 Q. Were you aware of what happened to them when they were
13 returned?

14 A. Yeah, they got the belt on the backside.

15 Q. Do you know who did that?

16 A. It was -- I never seen it happening, but most people
17 I spoke to and the rumours went about the headteacher.
18 I don't know his name.

19 Q. And did you ever see any injuries to those boys?

20 A. Yes, in the showers.

21 Q. And what did you see?

22 A. Just a black and blue arse, like. But they always used
23 the belt, used to get the school leather one,
24 (indistinguishable) school, and that was along the
25 backside, black and blue. But we never spoke much about

1 it.

2 Q. When did you see that?

3 A. In the showers.

4 Q. But running away was not something you did when you were
5 at Dr Guthrie's?

6 A. No, I don't know what happened. I think the boys --
7 some of the boys were told to say nothing about it, to
8 be honest. But I can't be 100 per cent sure.

9 Q. In relation to discipline that you were aware of,
10 'John' -- this is at paragraph 49 -- you say there were
11 obviously rules in Dr Guthrie's and what you recall is
12 that there would be a notice that would be put up in the
13 playground on a Friday and that was in relation to the
14 football team?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. And would that be to say who had made the team?

17 A. Who was going to be starting, who's going to be the
18 starting 11.

19 Q. If you you'd done something wrong during the week, if
20 you'd been arguing with another boy or something like
21 that, then you wouldn't get on the list?

22 A. No, you wouldn't get on the team. You wouldn't get
23 a game.

24 Q. I think you say that after a while you didn't get into
25 any trouble because you wanted to be on the team.

1 A. No, I loved my football.

2 Q. But, in relation to bullying, you say that you don't
3 remember there being bullying specifically, although
4 there were fights between boys at Dr Guthrie's; is that
5 right?

6 A. Aye. There was fights, aye. There's basically -- in
7 every institutions I've been in, every one, there's been
8 fights.

9 Q. If there were fights between boys; what would happen to
10 them?

11 A. Most of the teachers -- the teachers would break them
12 up. Some happened in the playground and they had a --
13 the boys had a fight with each other and it would be
14 broke up before the teachers even came.

15 (indistinguishable). Sorry. Sometimes stone
16 (indistinguishable) and we'd be running about and just
17 playing about and they would be fighting, but no staff
18 would be involved. And when the staff was involved,
19 they would just separate them. I don't know what
20 happened after that.

21 Q. I think you say that sometimes there were boys -- if
22 they'd been fighting, they would be taken away. I think
23 you describe, at paragraph 50, that they would be locked
24 up; is that something you were aware of?

25 A. I can't really remember that. But if I say that,

1 obviously it would have happened.

2 Q. I think you say that they would be taken away and locked
3 up for hours and hours?

4 A. Possibly.

5 Q. Can you recall any particular place where, at
6 Dr Guthrie's, boys would be taken to be locked up?

7 A. The only place I got locked up would be just that room
8 I was telling you about when I wouldn't eat my porridge
9 and that. It wasn't a cell. It had a locked door and
10 things like that and a bench, but that was it.

11 If anybody was going to get put somewhere, that is
12 where you would be put. There was nowhere else to put
13 you. There wasn't cells or anything like that. This
14 wasn't a punishment block, so ...

15 Q. So this was a room -- this is after the force feeding
16 would happen, there would be a room you were taken to --

17 A. And locked in. There was a bench. That was it. No
18 window, nothing, just a bench.

19 Q. Just a bench and nothing else?

20 A. That was it.

21 Q. But that's the only place that you're aware of anyway?

22 A. Aye, that anybody would be took.

23 Q. We're just going to look at the section of your
24 statement that deals with abuse at Dr Guthrie's. We've
25 already talked about quite a few of the incidents that

1 you mention here.

2 But, if we go to paragraph 53, this is where you
3 talk about a female teacher. You don't remember her
4 name. You say she was -- you tell us she was in her
5 mid-20s and quite pretty?

6 A. Uh-huh.

7 Q. And she was somebody who had a private bedroom at
8 Dr Guthrie's?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. What do you remember in relation to her?

11 A. She is the one who used to take you hillwalking and
12 things like that, and rock climbing. She wasn't
13 a teacher in the school. I didn't see her about the
14 place much at all. You know, daytime and things like
15 that, that the other teachers done, so ...

16 But I know she was a teacher because she took us out
17 rock climbing and walking and things like that. I knew
18 she was a teacher, something to do with the place and
19 she had her own bedroom.

20 Q. Was there a time when you would go to her bedroom?

21 A. I have been took there a couple of times, yes.

22 Q. How did that come about?

23 A. A member of staff would come and get me. We were locked
24 in at night and then the door would open and the member
25 of staff would come over and say, 'Come with me'. And

1 the first time I was took down there I didn't know where
2 I was going and, obviously, it was a bedroom, like
3 a bedroom. There was a bed and wee TV and things like
4 that. And the female teacher would be there and I would
5 be left with her and there would be treats, sweeties,
6 crisps and juice and things like that, and get to watch
7 a wee bit of telly.

8 Q. I think you say that you and her would both lie on the
9 bed?

10 A. Uh-huh. I remember that, aye.

11 Q. And that you would be there in your pyjamas at that
12 time?

13 A. Uh-huh, I wore pyjamas to bed every night.

14 Q. And the TV would be on?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. And you mentioned that you would be given sweeties and
17 crisps?

18 A. Aye, juice.

19 Q. And how long -- I think you say you would be there for
20 maybe a few hours?

21 A. Could be an hour, two hours, three hours. At that age,
22 I don't know how long time is. It could be one hour or
23 four hours. At that age, time didn't bother me.

24 Q. Then, at some point, another member of staff would come
25 and take you back to the dormitory?

1 A. Aye, take me back to my normal bed. Open the door and
2 just let you in and then lock the door again. That was
3 it.

4 Q. Apart from that, you can't remember anything else?

5 A. No, I can't.

6 Q. Nothing untoward happening when you were there?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you go to her room more than once?

9 A. Aye, I did. I don't know. I couldn't tell you
10 a specific number, but I know -- between maybe three and
11 five. I can't say it was 10 or 20 or 30, I couldn't say
12 that.

13 Q. Was that spread out during the whole time you were at
14 Dr Guthrie's or can you not remember?

15 A. I can't recall if it was at start or middle or near the
16 end. I can't recall.

17 Q. But certainly it was something you quite liked, because
18 you were getting sweeties and crisps?

19 A. I was getting treats and she was pretty.

20 Q. I think there is a part of your statement earlier where
21 you say you don't remember there being a sort of tuck
22 shop or somewhere to get sweeties in Dr Guthrie's?

23 A. No, there was nowhere we could buy -- we didn't get any
24 money. There was nae tuck shops anyway, to buy sweets.

25 Q. This is the only time during that period you were

1 getting these things?

2 A. I was getting crisps and juice and sweets. To me, it
3 was good.

4 Q. The time that you would go to her room; was it after
5 lights out in the dorms?

6 A. Yes, yes, and the dorm would be locked. And I don't
7 know what night it would be. It could be any night.
8 I could be lying down and the door opened and the member
9 of staff came in. GGY, and right, I knew after
10 once or twice -- I knew where I was going anyway and
11 they would be back down and I wouldn't care because
12 I know I'm getting me treats. So it didn't bother me.
13 I wasn't going to get beat up or anything like that, you
14 know.

15 Q. Well, I think, 'John', you tell us that there was a time
16 in the dormitories when you were first there where your
17 bed was pushed up against another bed at nighttime by
18 a teacher?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. So was this pushed up against the boy next to you?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Do you know why he did that?

23 A. No.

24 Q. But what happened then after he did that?

25 A. The boy in the next bed starting touching my privates

1 and I think I touched his. I'm not 100 per cent sure,
2 but I think I did.

3 Q. And would this be after lights out again?

4 A. Oh, aye. Yes, aye.

5 Q. Did this happen more than once?

6 A. I don't think so.

7 Q. I think --

8 A. I don't think I liked it.

9 Q. I think you say that you told him to stop it?

10 A. Aye. I didn't like -- I don't think I liked it, so it
11 wouldn't have happened again. Nae, not happening.

12 Q. In your statement, 'John', you tell us that when you
13 told him to stop it, he said he would tell the teacher
14 when he came in the morning?

15 A. Could of.

16 Q. Do you remember that? And that it continued to happened
17 for about once a week.

18 A. No, it wouldn't happen that long, I don't think so.
19 I wouldn't let it happen that long.

20 Q. So that's not --

21 A. I wouldn't say that was accurate.

22 Q. You go on, 'John', to say:
23 'He made me touch him as well. For some reason it
24 stopped after a while.'

25 A. It could be accurate, but I'm not 100 per cent sure. So

1 I'm not going to say it happened once a week if I'm not
2 accurate. I wouldn't want to say it happened three
3 times a week or once a week unless I was absolutely
4 sure.

5 Q. 'John', looking back now; do you think that you going to
6 that female teacher's room had anything to do with what
7 happened with that boy?

8 A. No, I don't think so, no.

9 Q. You don't think you were maybe being taken out after
10 lights going out until people went to sleep or anything
11 like that and then brought back again?

12 A. Can you repeat that?

13 Q. It's my fault, 'John', for not asking the question
14 right.

15 It may be difficult to say, and if you don't know or
16 you haven't thought about it, just say. But you have
17 told us about this female teacher and going to her
18 bedroom and nothing bad happened there.

19 A. Not that I can remember.

20 Q. After a while you would be taken back to the dorms?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And this was after lights out?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. So I take it you don't know whether that was happening
25 because of maybe what was going on in the dorms between

1 boys?

2 A. No, I don't think so. I couldn't say. I couldn't say
3 one way or another.

4 Q. Certainly, you didn't tell anyone about what happened
5 with that boy at the time; is that right?

6 A. No, no. I've told my son everything about Dr Guthrie's,
7 but I've still not told him that.

8 When I first told him what happened about the soup
9 and all that. He used to -- my son used to slag me and
10 say, 'Aye, the teacher probably was doing this to you
11 and doing that to you. (indistinguishable) fucking
12 (indistinguishable) and you let him do that, blah, blah,
13 blah', and my son used to wind me up, so I didn't
14 mention that to him, because I know he was -- he said he
15 didn't want know that, so I wouldn't mention that to
16 him.

17 Q. It's maybe a difficult thing to talk about, 'John'?

18 A. It's only when I say that about Dr Guthrie's and the
19 Daily Record one day, a couple of guy about my age from
20 round about that time were complaining about it, and I
21 seen the -- they brought me the paper and about the
22 Inquiry and they said, 'They've been writing about it,
23 ring it', so I rang it and then that's when I told my
24 son and I said I was in there. It was my son that said,
25 'You should phone that number and tell them, because

1 (indistinguishable). You're an only child', so I phoned
2 them. And that's what happened.

3 Q. You seeing that article in the Daily Record is what made
4 you get in contact with the Inquiry; is that right?

5 A. Yeah, because I never heard anything mentioned.

6 My ex-wife was in care with nuns and knew it was
7 happening. She was being at inquiries and things like
8 that and court, so I knew about that, but I didn't hear
9 anything about Dr Guthrie's or nothing, so I never
10 mentioned it to anybody. I thought: nobody else has
11 mentioned it, so I'll not mention it until it's in the
12 paper. And then that's when I phoned the Inquiry team.

13 Q. I think you tell us, 'John', that when you read that
14 article you were quite upset about it?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. Is that right?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You describe --

19 A. I was crying. Aye, I was crying.

20 Q. You tell us you're not somebody who cries?

21 A. No.

22 Q. But that certainly had an effect on you at that time?

23 A. Aye. At that time, aye.

24 Q. Just going back, 'John', to before we leave this part of
25 your statement at Dr Guthrie's, I think you tell us, at

1 paragraph 57, that there were maybe other times when you
2 got a slap here and there, is the way you've described
3 it, but you can't remember them. But you saw other boys
4 getting slapped if they were cheeky; is that right?

5 A. Aye, that's right, aye.

6 Q. Sometimes staff would get them a punch in the stomach or
7 something like that?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And boys who ran away got the belt, as we've talked
10 about?

11 A. Aye. I got a couple of slaps here and there.
12 I wasn't -- I wouldn't say I was the best well behaved
13 boy in Dr Guthrie's. I could be cheeky as well.
14 I mean, I'm from Glasgow -- brought up in Glasgow
15 schemes, so I knew how to swear, knew how to tell them
16 to F-off and all that, so maybe I deserved a slap now
17 and again. I don't know. But it didn't really bother
18 me, know what I mean? Didn't bother me.

19 Q. That's the way you kind of felt back then because of
20 where you'd come from and what happened?

21 A. Aye. Nothing really bothered me. You know, getting --
22 1960s, when I was six, so a couple of slaps here and
23 there wasn't going to bother me. A couple of kicks --
24 the worse thing that bothered me and the worse thing was
25 getting force fed and being sick and all the boys all

1 laughing and all that. And that made the teachers worse
2 because they were all having a laugh. So they were all
3 having a laugh and the teachers (indistinguishable).
4 Then there's no way I was eating it. There was no way I
5 was eating soup or no way I was eating porridge.
6 I've never had porridge in my mouth to this day, ever.
7 My kids have never had porridge, never.

8 Q. Is that something that has stayed with you?

9 A. My grandkids have never had porridge, not in my house
10 anyway. I wouldn't have it.

11 Q. 'John' --

12 A. And my ex-wife -- I'm divorced now. My ex-wife or one
13 of my aunties makes soup, they make sure they don't put
14 barley in it because they know I won't eat it
15 (indistinguishable). Not everybody, but my ex-wife and
16 things like that. She'll not put barley in the soup.
17 She's like, 'Don't worry, there's nae barley in it',
18 because she knows I don't want it.

19 Q. So these are the things that you've carried with you?

20 A. Aye, all my life. I don't like soup.

21 Q. You tell us, 'John', then, that leaving Dr Guthrie's --
22 you think you were there for altogether maybe ten or
23 11 months, but I think you've said it could have been a
24 year or so?

25 A. It might be several months, I'm not too sure. I need to

1 get my previous convictions in front of me. But it
2 still gives -- doesn't give you the date on the previous
3 convictions. Only gives you the date when I went in
4 there. It doesn't give you date when they let you out.

5 Q. Certainly, as we've talked about, 'John', you think you
6 were out to see Celtic --

7 A. Aye, definitely in 1967, to see Celtic.

8 Q. So you were out of Dr Guthrie's by then?

9 A. I must have been.

10 Q. When you left Dr Guthrie's, I think once again your
11 parents had moved?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. But you knew about that from a letter and you went back
14 to their house on the edge of the Gorbals; is that
15 right?

16 A. Just near the Gorbals again. Not that far from where
17 I was born. It was not that far away again, but we were
18 back there again after all these years, after ten or
19 eleven years. We weren't that far away from where I was
20 born. So we moved back to -- it's called the Oatlands.
21 It's not called the Gorbals. It's near the Gorbals.
22 Some people call it Gorbals, some people call it
23 Oatlands, but I think the right name is Oatlands. So we
24 moved back there while I was in Dr Guthrie's, so I
25 didn't know whether that was Oatlands.

1 Q. I think you say after you left you went to secondary
2 school. I think you'd already started, you think, by
3 then. But it was difficult because you didn't know
4 anyone at the school?

5 A. Well, when I got out at Dr Guthrie's, I went to stay in
6 Oatlands. I started secondary school and it was the
7 Adelphi Secondary School. I didn't know anybody because
8 I didn't go to the primary school. I didn't know
9 anybody from the primary school or anything like that.
10 So I knew nobody from Adelphi Secondary School, nobody.
11 I had nae friends. Not that I ever wanted friends
12 because I was a bit of a loner anyway by this time.
13 I didn't really care.

14 Q. I think then that you tell us that you went to another
15 secondary school, Finnieston?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. It closed down, then you went to St George's Road?

18 A. That was my last school.

19 Q. You left there when you were 15?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. But, life back at home, you tell us a wee bit about
22 that. It was tough and this was to do with money; is
23 that right?

24 A. Aye. Always. Always tough, always.

25 Q. Your dad would rake the middens during the night and

1 used to hire a horse and cart and you used to go with
2 him?

3 A. Then we would pick up scrap and things like that, scrap
4 metal. Then maybe take it to the scrapyard at
5 Gallowgate and he would gain money for -- he would weigh
6 in the scrap, then depending on how much scrap he got,
7 he -- my dad would get paid.

8 He would go out during the night and rake middens
9 and come back with old clothes and shoes and things like
10 that, and me and my family would fight who -- 'That will
11 do me', 'It will fit me', 'It will fit me'. We had
12 nothing.

13 Q. You were still breaking into places, and although you
14 didn't get caught for about five or six years --

15 A. I wasn't breaking into places for the whole five or six
16 years, but I did break in at some places, aye.

17 Q. But I think you tell us, 'John', that by the time you
18 got to 16 you were drinking alcohol quite heavily?

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. And that not long after you turned 16 you were given
21 three months detention?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. You tell us you were on bail at the time and then there
24 was an incident where you were accused of breaking into
25 pubs?

1 A. Yeah. I was on bail for breaking into pubs and I got
2 arrested and I forget what it was for. But that's what
3 I got three months' detention for, and I done my
4 three-month detention. But didn't do the full lot. I
5 done so much, then got out early for good behaviour.

6 And once I got out I had to go to court again for
7 the one I was out on bail for, and again I got remanded
8 to Longriggend and then got sent to borstal for that
9 one.

10 Q. As you know, 'John', because we've talked about this
11 before today, that part of the evidence, in relation to
12 you going to Longriggend, Glenochil and Polmont, and
13 Barlinnie and Norarside, has all been read in at an
14 earlier stage, this was on 10 November last year. It
15 was Day 388 of the Inquiry. So I'm not going through it
16 in detail with you.

17 I'm just going to highlight some of the things that
18 you've told us about, which are that you were at
19 Longriggend twice. This is from paragraph 64 onwards.
20 You say that it was not some place you liked; is that
21 right?

22 A. I didn't like it, no.

23 Q. And you were in for a second three-week period when you
24 were still 16 and I think you comment that you made more
25 friends in there than you did on the outside?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. But certainly you didn't have any trouble whilst you
3 were in there?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You were at Glenochil for the three-month detention,
6 this was the 'Short, Sharp Shock Treatment', as it was
7 known at the time?

8 A. Yeah. It was run basically like an army camp and I was
9 16, and you had to do everything just like army, just
10 like you were a cadet or something like that.
11 I've never been a cadet or something like that. But you
12 had to bull your shoes up and wear best parade and make
13 all your bed block in the morning and they'd come every
14 morning and inspect your room, look for dust and things
15 like that. And if they found any dust you never got
16 watching Top of the Pops. You had to go and scrub
17 a corridor for hours. So, yeah.

18 Q. You set that all out in your statement and you tell us
19 about what you have described as a harsh, regimented
20 routine there?

21 A. Oh, aye, no smoking, nothing.

22 Q. There was a Digger and you were never in it, but there
23 were boys that you would see who came back with black
24 eyes after a week or two?

25 A. Aye, aye. I got took down to the Digger.

1 Q. You stayed out of trouble and only had to do two months,
2 eight days. But then this charge that was hanging
3 around from before, once you got out came back again.
4 And then you were remanded to Longriggend again and then
5 went to Barlinnie before you ended up at Polmont
6 Borstal?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. You have said in your statement that was because, back
9 then, you were only supposed to do one period of the
10 detention centre --

11 A. You could only do one detention and one borstal.

12 Q. -- and one --

13 A. You'd take the 'Short, Sharp Treatment' first, which was
14 three months usually. And if you were bad after that,
15 it would be a borstal, and that's what happened to me.

16 Q. You say that you were still only 16 when you went to
17 borstal, to Polmont, but you were there four to six
18 weeks before you went to Noranside?

19 A. Aye, that was an open borstal.

20 You went to Polmont and there was a place called
21 allocation and they took you into classrooms, even
22 though I was 16, and they would assess you and then
23 after about six weeks they would decide if you were
24 staying in Polmont or you were taken to a place called
25 Castle Huntly or you were going to Noranside. And I was

1 put down for Noranside, an open class borstal and that's
2 where I went.

3 Q. I think after that you were remanded to Longriggend and
4 then went to Barlinnie for three months and that was in
5 1973 --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- when you were about 17. You were there for about
8 two-and-a-half months and you didn't have any issues?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. That was the last time you were in prison?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You comment, 'John', that after -- the day you left you
13 ended up going to the pub and getting quite drunk and
14 nearly getting yourself arrested again?

15 A. Aye. I was only a couple of hours out and I was nearly
16 back in again.

17 Q. Looking then to your life after you came out of
18 Barlinnie, you talk about that from paragraph 112
19 onwards. You say you met your girlfriend, who later
20 became your wife, at 18; is that right?

21 A. No, she was 15 and a half, I was 18. I got out of
22 Barlinnie after the three months in the Young Offenders.
23 I was in Barlinnie at the time. I was 18 and my wife
24 was 15-and-a-half, and that's when I met her, when she
25 was 15-and-a-half. And we married when she was 17.

1 Q. I think she was pregnant about 16-and-a-half and then
2 you got married before your daughter was born?

3 A. A couple of months.

4 Q. Just looking then, we have all the detail in your
5 statement, so I'm not going to go through it in a lot of
6 detail. But you tell us you got a job in a book factory
7 for a while and you moved away together and I think
8 there was some time when you were squatting --

9 A. Aye.

10 Q. -- before you got a council house in Possilpark and then
11 your son was born --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- in 1980 and you worked as a bus conductor for a time,
14 and did some other jobs?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But, sadly, you were divorced later and you tell us
17 about problems that you've had with alcohol since
18 leaving --

19 A. Drug abuse and alcohol for a few years. But I don't
20 take any drugs, only medications off my doctor. I do
21 still drink, aye, but I'm not an alcoholic. I don't get
22 up in the morning and want a can of beer. I wait until
23 maybe six or seven at night until I'm settled in. I
24 (indistinguishable) and I'll sit and open a couple of
25 cans of beer most nights. No more. I don't take any

1 drugs or anything like that. But what it was like with
2 my wife, I was really bad at that time, aye.

3 Q. I think you say, 'John', in relation to impact about all
4 of this, some of the things you say in this later part
5 of your statement we've already gone through today, and
6 that's in relation to you seeing that article in the
7 Daily Record and things like that.

8 But, if we go to paragraph 123, when you deal with
9 impact, you talk about the fact that sometimes you blame
10 yourself for breaking into places. But then you ask
11 yourself: why were you breaking into places?

12 And you comment that it was to get things that you
13 needed.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. We have talked about that. These were places that had
16 food and sweets and things like that, and is that
17 because of the situation at home?

18 A. Aye. I don't think we were getting enough at home.
19 (Indistinguishable) some chips and that, a piece of
20 bread, that was your dinner. We were really, really
21 poor, so I broke into a shop and a bakery and got a
22 packet of cakes and biscuits. My mum and dad knew I'd
23 broke into a shop and got them, but the family ate them,
24 all the family ate them. So maybe I should have blamed
25 my mum and dad, but I don't want to blame anybody. It

1 was me that done it, so ...

2 Q. You told us you were taking some of these things back to
3 your family house as well?

4 A. Every time, just about.

5 Q. Looking at 'Lessons to be learned', paragraph 127 of
6 your statement, you tell us that obviously you don't
7 think children should ever be force fed?

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. And that nobody should be allowed to batter a child, is
10 what you've said there.

11 A. Yes, that's correct. Even slap a child, you shouldn't
12 be allowed to.

13 Q. You comment that you never got any support when you were
14 in care?

15 A. Nope.

16 Q. It might have helped you if you had.

17 A. I've never been on probation. I never got probation
18 reports, nothing. If I had been on probation for a year
19 for some of these offences when I was younger, I may
20 have been out of trouble all my life. I don't know.
21 I never got much of a chance. I never got probation or
22 a fine. I just always seemed to get imprisonment, and
23 I think that's because the very first offence was
24 assault and robbery when I was like ten-year old, even
25 though I told you it wasn't me; it was my brother. But

1 the judge didn't look at that. He looked at the assault
2 and robbery, ten-year-old, and I never had a chance, to
3 be honest. I don't think I got treated very fair.

4 Q. One thing you say, 'John' -- and this is a little
5 bit earlier in your statement, paragraph 126 -- is that
6 you looked after your grandson from the age of about
7 seven?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. So you were able to raise him, and to do that you had to
10 get disclosure, which gave you some details about when
11 you were in some of the places we've talked about?

12 A. Yes, to be a carer I had to get a disclosure, to be a
13 carer for my grandson. And I took him off my daughter
14 because she was highly, highly bad with heroin and not
15 looking after him. So I took him when he was
16 seven-year-old and I had him for 17 years. He's now
17 been away for a year and a half in his own house, so
18 I get peace now.

19 Q. That was something you were able to do --

20 A. Yes, I was still drinking, but I could still get his
21 uniform washed and pressed for school and take him to
22 school and pick him up. There was nae choice. It was
23 either that or he'd be took into care. And I wasn't
24 going to allow him to be took into care.

25 Q. That is probably something that you could be proud of,

1 that you were able to --

2 A. Oh, aye.

3 Q. -- get custody of him or residence of him and bring him

4 up?

5 A. He's a good boy. He's never been in trouble. He has

6 worked all his days, he's never claimed any benefits.

7 He's played rugby for years and years and he's got his

8 wee house now and his wee dog. He's a good boy. He's

9 never been in trouble with the police ever, which --

10 I'm glad. He's even thinking of joining the police.

11 Q. 'John', that's all I questions I want to ask you today.

12 So unless there's anything you want to say that you feel

13 you haven't had a chance to say?

14 A. No, no. I'm quite happy.

15 Q. Okay. Well, thank you very much for taking the time to

16 answer my questions today.

17 A. Okay. Thank you for listening.

18 LADY SMITH: 'John', let me add my thanks. It's been so

19 helpful to hear from you in person in addition to having

20 been able to read your statement that you give us

21 earlier, so I'm delighted now to let you go, but you go

22 with my thanks, don't forget that.

23 A. Okay. Thank you for listening. I hope everything

24 I said is 100 per cent or 99 per cent right, you know.

25 Shall I take this?

1 LADY SMITH: If you leave that there, we'll clear it away.

2 Thanks.

3 (The witness withdrew).

4 LADY SMITH: It's just after 11.30, so we'll take the
5 morning break and move on to the second witness after
6 that. Thank you.

7 (11.33 am)

8 (A short break)

9 (11.47 am)

10 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

11 MR SHELDON: My Lady, we have another live witness. This is
12 another witness who wishes to be anonymous and he's
13 known as 'Mij'.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Mij' (affirmed)

16 LADY SMITH: 'Mij', let me just explain a few things before
17 we begin.

18 First of all, if at any time you feel it's warm
19 enough to take your jacket off, don't worry, you are
20 perfectly welcome to do that.

21 The red folder that's on the desk there has your
22 written statement in it, which I have read and it's been
23 really helpful to have that in advance. It will be
24 available for you to refer to as we go through your
25 evidence. We'll also put the statement up on the screen

1 and you'll see the parts that we're talking about coming
2 up there, if that, also, is helpful. Some people don't
3 like seeing their statement on the screen. If you don't
4 like that, just tell me and we'll switch your screen
5 off.

6 But, otherwise, 'Mij', I imagine that you're feeling
7 quite nervous and anxious about this whole business of
8 giving evidence here in a public inquiry and I hope we
9 can try to make it as comfortable for you as possible.

10 If you have any questions, don't hesitate to speak
11 up. If you just feel upset at any time, that's quite
12 okay. People do get upset and I fully understand why.
13 So, if you want a break or a breather or just to have
14 something explained again, that is not difficult for us
15 to do. The key is: if it works for you, it will work
16 for me, and we want to try to help you give your
17 evidence as well as you possibly can; okay?

18 A. Hmm.

19 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Mr Sheldon
20 and he'll take it from there; all right?

21 Questions by Mr Sheldon

22 MR SHELDON: Good morning, 'Mij', and as Lady Smith has
23 said, your statement is in front of you in the red
24 folder. Perhaps you could just open that for me,
25 please, and have it in front of you. You don't need to

1 worry about this. It's just for our records, but the
2 reference of the statement is WIT-1-000000884.

3 'Mij', could I ask you now to look at the last page
4 of the folder, please? Just right at the foot of that
5 page, do we see that you say -- it's paragraph 61:

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

10 And is that right, 'Mij'?

11 A. Yes, yes. Yes.

12 Q. And is that your signature?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Dated as 6.1.22?

15 Now, I don't need your date of birth, 'Mij', but
16 I think you were born in 1958; is that right?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. And this is just going back to the first page of your
19 statement. It might help if you turn back to that,
20 actually. You tell us in the first few paragraphs
21 something about your home life. I think you grew up in
22 Dalkeith, and I think you tell us you had quite a happy
23 childhood until you were about ten; is that right?

24 A. Yes, about ten-and-a-half, eleven. I was in -- well,
25 they started fighting and arguing and she left. I was

1 about nine or ten, and I was about ten-and-a-half when
2 I first went into Liberton Remand Home.

3 Q. Could I just ask you about that: how did your mum
4 leaving the house, leaving the family -- how did that
5 affect you?

6 A. It was just constant fighting all the time and I would
7 lie in my bed at night and hear them smashing and
8 fighting. And also she had another child outwith the
9 marriage.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. So, as I got older, I realised she had to get away
12 because she knew the other child was there and I think
13 she felt embarrassed, like, about it.

14 Q. She left home; what happened to you at that point?

15 A. Well, she left and I started staying out late because my
16 dad always -- he worked shifts, three different kind of
17 shifts, and I was being left on my own for a lot of
18 time. I had a lot of free time and that, and my dad was
19 always working, so I hardly ever seen him. And I just
20 started getting in -- petty crime, things like that,
21 breaking into shops and cars. And even when I went
22 front of the court -- it was the juvenile court at the
23 time, it was still running ...

24 I forgot what I was going to say.

25 Q. Take your time. You were talking about going to the

1 juvenile court.

2 A. Oh, aye. Went to court and then they remanded me
3 because of social work reports. They couldn't get in
4 touch with my father because they kept going down to see
5 him during the day and he was never in. He was always
6 working.

7 Q. Because he was working shifts?

8 A. Because he was working, aye. He was never there.

9 Q. So I think you said you were remanded; was that at
10 Liberton Remand Home?

11 A. Remand home, aye. I think it had two or three different
12 names, remand home, assessment centre --

13 Q. That's right.

14 A. -- and something else. It's been called two or three
15 different names.

16 Q. That's right. It's quite confusing, but it was a remand
17 home and then became an assessment centre.

18 A. The last time I got in trouble, the juvenile courts were
19 about to get stopped and people like myself, under 15
20 and 16, started going in front of Children's Panels.
21 And every time I went in front of a Panel, good, bad or
22 indifferent, they wouldn't let me out. Basically, my
23 dad had three kids there and a job to look after, so
24 I was just a sideshow.

25 Q. All right. You tell us a little bit about both the

1 juvenile court and children's hearings in paragraph 7 of
2 your statement.

3 Just while we're looking at that and looking at
4 Liberton and your times there; did it make any
5 difference to the way you experienced the process that
6 you were in front of a Children's Hearing as opposed to
7 the juvenile court? Was it any different?

8 A. It was supposed to be -- it was more informal. You went
9 in front of a Panel, it was three people and you just --
10 you went in front of them, as opposed to going in front
11 of a judge or Sheriff, opposed to going in front of
12 them.

13 Q. Did you find it any easier to understand what was
14 happening in front of the Children's Panel?

15 A. No, I didn't know what was happening. For a few years,
16 like, I hadn't a clue.

17 Q. Did nobody explain to you what was happening and what
18 was going to happen to you?

19 A. No. The social workers always told me: in cases like
20 mine people were just getting -- I don't know what they
21 got, but they never got sent to the Approved Schools,
22 and I just got sent to Approved School basically because
23 they were saying I hadn't no home to go to.

24 And my dad was a pretty simple man. I never spoke
25 to him about it, like, but it was a shame for him,

1 really, because he worked all his life and he just
2 struggled to bring up three kids. Well, four, because
3 [REDACTED], my youngest brother, he was a baby. He was still
4 in nappies and the neighbours in the street looked after
5 him when my dad was working. So they got together and
6 helped him, like. You know, it was a big help.

7 So he instead of doing three shifts at the pit, he
8 got put on one shift, basically from 9 o'clock to
9 3.30/4 o'clock, so he was there basically when we
10 finished school. An hour later, he would be coming in,
11 like, and that was a constant -- that's why the social
12 workers couldn't get him at all because he was always
13 working, like.

14 Q. We understand, 'Mij', thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: 'Mij', can I take you back a moment to Liberton
16 Assessment Centre, something you say in your statement
17 at paragraph 6? Towards the end of it, you say you
18 remember the mantra was to never say you were
19 a Catholic, so you weren't sent to St Joseph's in
20 Tranent.

21 A. Now, I knew people that were Catholics, their folks were
22 staunch Catholics. But, if you went in there, you would
23 say, 'I'm a Protestant', because there is a bad
24 reputation in Tranent. The monks were really nasty
25 pieces of work.

1 LADY SMITH: This is about 1969 when you were there.

2 A. Yes, 1969.

3 LADY SMITH: Had you heard about that reputation before you
4 went in there?

5 A. Not really, no. When I went to Edinburgh, Liberton and
6 Guthrie's, I had never been out of Dalkeith in my life.
7 I'd been there all my life.

8 LADY SMITH: That was a discovery you made there, that the
9 last thing you wanted was to be sent to St Joseph's; is
10 that correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: And that was, as you understood it, a place
13 that was run by a Catholic order?

14 A. That's right, aye.

15 LADY SMITH: It was in fact run by the De La Salle Order at
16 that time. I was just interested that you had heard
17 that reputation at that time. Thank you.

18 MR SHELDON: Just following up on that, you say in the
19 statement that the monks had a bad reputation for being
20 violent.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Did people give you any details about that?

23 A. No details, just talk. Just people talking with
24 themselves, like. You can tell they were talking and
25 telling the truth, like. You could see they were

1 petrified to go there. It was a scary place.

2 Q. People were afraid of it?

3 A. Oh definitely, aye.

4 Q. Right. Can I just go back a little and just ask you
5 a little bit about Liberton? You say you were there
6 three or four times. First time, probably in 1969?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. The records that we have seen bear that out. It would
9 have been, perhaps, [REDACTED] 1969 that you were there; would
10 that sound about right?

11 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. You say that on each occasion you were there for two or
13 three weeks.

14 How many other children were there at that time in
15 the home?

16 A. At Liberton?

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. A junior section, a senior section, and there was
19 a girls' section. I would say probably 40, 50,
20 something like that, including the girls as well. They
21 were on a different wing.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. I'd say 40 or 50.

24 Q. How did the accommodation work? Were you in dormitories
25 or individual rooms?

1 A. A lot of dormitories there. There were single rooms as
2 well, but it was mainly -- I think it was three or four
3 to a dormitory, something like that.

4 Q. Thank you. I think, as you say, it changes its name and
5 it became an assessment centre, so-called, later; were
6 you conscious -- were you aware of anyone doing any
7 assessment?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did anyone say --

10 A. Not at all. Just a fancy name they got.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Not at all, like.

13 Q. Did you speak to social workers while you were there?

14 A. Probation officers there.

15 Q. Probation officers.

16 A. If you asked to see them, you got to see them. But not
17 right away, but. And I never spoke to them much.

18 Q. They didn't come to you to talk to you?

19 A. Not really, no.

20 Q. Was there any education when you were there, any
21 classes?

22 A. All the times I was away, from ten-and-a-half, eleven,
23 right up to 14-and-a-half, I never sat one exam and
24 I can't remember anybody sitting any exam whatsoever.
25 It was like the teachers were multi-tasking. We never

1 got any exams or nothing like that. Nae education.

2 Q. Sorry. But, in Liberton, are you telling us that there
3 were teachers or did you go out to school?

4 A. No, everybody stayed inside. I think there were three
5 or four classrooms there. It wasn't very much. They
6 used to show us maps, 'That's there, that's there', but
7 nothing like, 'What's four times nine?' all the rest of
8 it. You never sat an exam. You weren't taught nothing.

9 Q. How much time would you spend in classes each day,
10 roughly?

11 A. Sometimes, if you were on cleaning duty or worked in the
12 kitchens, or worked in the fields, the allotments at the
13 back, depends how well you behaved yourself. If you
14 behaved yourself, you got out to the fields, pick
15 potatoes and different things. There was a big
16 allotment there. Mostly it was secure. It was locked
17 up.

18 Q. So, going out to the fields, picking potatoes or
19 whatever it was; was that instead of classes?

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. Okay. So, moving on in your statement, you then go on
22 to look at your time at Dr Guthrie's and, again, I think
23 according to our records you would have been there --
24 you would have gone there first probably in [REDACTED]
25 1970; does that sound about right?

1 A. About that, aye.

2 Q. You say you were there on two separate occasions. The
3 first occasion, you would have been about
4 ten-and-a-half. I think perhaps if that was the
5 timescale you would have been about eleven; does that
6 sound right?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. Then later up to about 14-and-a-half, which is what you
9 were telling us earlier on. You say that Dr Guthrie's
10 was run by the council; what made you think that? Did
11 someone tell you it was run by the council?

12 A. I don't know, really. I don't know. Aye. I don't
13 know.

14 Q. That's all right. Over the page, you are telling us
15 about the age range of the boys, that was from eight to
16 16. You tell us that you didn't know any of the other
17 boys when you were there.

18 Roughly how many boys were in Dr Guthrie's when you
19 were there, would you say?

20 A. There were four wings, Argyll, Belhaven, Jeffrey and
21 Stair, and I would say probably about 30 people in each
22 wing.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Two smaller dormitories -- so the kitchen, boys who
25 worked in the kitchen, they were up early in the

1 morning, 5.30/6 o'clock, sort of a privileged job to get
2 in the kitchen. It was quite a big school.

3 Q. Sure. So maybe about -- as many as 120 pupils?

4 A. I would say -- aye, it was a big place.

5 Q. All right. What were your first impressions of
6 Dr Guthrie's?

7 A. I was just totally lost. I never knew nobody there.
8 I hadn't been out of Dalkeith before.

9 Q. We have seen pictures of the building. What effect did
10 seeing the building have on you --

11 A. Bit scary. Big, massive, old-fashioned building, like,
12 pretty intimidating.

13 Q. What was it like inside?

14 A. I got -- when you go in there, they encourage you to
15 write letters to your folks, and if you didn't write
16 letters to your folks it sort of went against you
17 because you got points every week to get out for the
18 weekend and ...

19 Q. It's all right. Don't worry. I'll ask you a bit more
20 about the points system later on. You talk about that
21 a bit later in your statement.

22 In paragraph 10, you are telling us a little bit
23 about the layout of Dr Guthrie's and you talk about the
24 shower rooms and the swimming pool. The swimming pool
25 was on site; was it actually attached --

1 A. That was part of the school. It wasn't a big, huge
2 swimming pool, but it was big enough, like.

3 Q. Were there changing rooms at the pool or did you have to
4 change in the school and then go to the pool?

5 A. Well, everybody -- you never got any trunks or shorts.
6 Everybody was naked when they went into the pool. There
7 were female staff in that school and people in there,
8 young guys, 15 or 16, basically kind of young men, but
9 they just didn't care. Never got swimming trunks,
10 nothing like that.

11 Q. How did that work? Did -- were you just expected to
12 strip off when you got to the pool?

13 A. There were changing rooms there and you stripped off and
14 jumped in the pool and that was it, like.

15 Q. Again, we'll come back to that, because you do talk
16 about that later on in your statement.

17 But, moving on, you talk about some of the staff
18 from paragraph 11. The first member of staff that you
19 mention is Mr zGFC, and you say that he was a nasty
20 piece of work with the belt?

21 A. Oh, aye. He was nasty man, like.

22 Q. Perhaps you can just tell us about that. In what way
23 was he a nasty man?

24 A. Just he was -- there was a big square where everybody
25 went, his office looked right over the square and he was

1 always there, like, always there. And if you done
2 anything wrong, sometimes two days later you would get a
3 tap and woke up in your bed at 12.30, 1.00 am,
4 'Mr zGFC wants to see you', and he used to get kids
5 up at all times in the morning and you'd get down there
6 with your pyjamas on, and he would tell you to take your
7 pyjamas off and he would just hit you with a belt.

8 Q. He would wait until the middle of the night?

9 A. He always done that, always done that.

10 Q. And did someone come and get you or was it him that came
11 and got you?

12 A. One of the older boys came up and told me, 'You're
13 wanted down the stairs', sort of thing.

14 Q. All right. You say he was a nasty piece of work with
15 the belt. Again, perhaps you can just tell us a wee bit
16 about that?

17 A. Well, he just hit you with a belt and that was it. It
18 doesn't matter if you were screaming or not, he just
19 kept on doing it.

20 Q. Where would he hit you?

21 A. On the backside and the back of your legs.

22 Q. Was this over trousers or with your trousers down?

23 A. You'd have your pyjamas on, but he would make you take
24 your pyjamas off.

25 Q. On bare skin?

1 A. It was totally degrading, like. It was, aye.

2 Q. You also talk about Mr GVI and you say that he was
3 also handy with the belt?

4 A. Not so much the belt, but it was fists and feet. That
5 was his thing.

6 Q. He would hit you?

7 A. He would just belt you, hit you, punch you. He was
8 a nasty piece of work, like.

9 Q. Okay. You talk about some other members of staff. You
10 say LXT was a teacher that you were allocated to
11 speak to if you had any problems and that he was a maths
12 teacher.

13 You mention some other members of staff. You talk
14 about a science teacher who was nice. Mr LYI was
15 an art teacher and you say he was a good artist.

16 A. He was, aye.

17 Q. And what was -- you say a little bit about this, but
18 what was he like to deal with, Mr LYI?

19 A. He was like old school. He seemed like he came out the
20 army or something, but he was actually all right. He
21 wouldn't go nuts at you and he was quite keen to sort of
22 help you. But he never done it to me, but I knew he did
23 hit a couple of boys. But never done it to me, like.
24 He always knew who to stay away from.

25 Q. Okay. You gave him a wide berth?

1 A. Oh, aye.

2 Q. Over the page, you talk about some members of staff who
3 didn't have a teaching role, a male cook and two female
4 cooks and so on. You have already told us that your
5 first impression of Dr Guthrie's was that it was
6 massive?

7 A. Oh, aye.

8 Q. Quite intimidating?

9 A. It was like, aye.

10 Q. Can you help us with the outside layout? Were there
11 playing fields at Dr Guthrie's?

12 A. Yeah, there was a -- there was a gymnasium next to the
13 swimming pool and there was a football pitch.

14 Q. Was that at the front of the school?

15 A. No, at the back of the school. That was on the Liberton
16 side or Gilmerton side. One was in Gilmerton, one was
17 in Liberton. And it was a brand new gym. I can't
18 remember if it got built when I was there, but certainly
19 it wasn't -- it was round about that time because it was
20 a brand new building, like.

21 Q. And were there fields, just normal fields or --

22 A. Yes, the football -- they had a football team there and
23 they had local schools come in to play football against
24 the boys.

25 Q. Sure. But, beyond that, was there farmland or something

1 like that, or was it all built on?

2 A. At the front of the building, it was big trees and big
3 lawn and always well kept. At the back of the football
4 fields, gymnasium and swimming pool, in touching
5 distance of each other.

6 Q. You go on to talk about sleeping arrangements, and you
7 say that the dormitories were mixed age. So when you
8 first went to Dr Guthrie's; did that mean you were in
9 with some boys that were quite a lot older?

10 A. There were boys in there around seven, eight, up to 15,
11 16.

12 Q. Okay. All mixed in together?

13 A. All mixed in, aye.

14 Q. You talk about the routine. It sounds like an early
15 start, but early to bed as well; is that how it worked?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. You talk about meal times and food. You say that the
18 food wasn't too bad, apart from the soup; what was
19 terrible about the soup?

20 A. It was bad. You had to -- they were pretty strict. It
21 was Mr LYI [REDACTED] actually, he done it. If you kept
22 yourself clean on your jersey from soup marks you got
23 extra points. At the end of the week, the best table
24 would get a big bowl of ice-cream, like, so everybody
25 was trying to keep it -- I seen people putting things in

1 their pocket because if you never finished your meal you
2 would get it later on.

3 Q. So there was plenty of food? There was food left over
4 that people could --

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. I think you say people could barter it for cigarettes?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. Over the page -- this is paragraph 17 of your
9 statement -- you talk more about the dining room and
10 Mr LYI [REDACTED]. You say that he would walk around with
11 a clipboard; was the clipboard used to keep track of
12 points?

13 A. I think it was something like that. It was clipped on.
14 But, if you spoke or something, he would batter you on
15 the top of the head with a folder.

16 Q. Can you tell us about the points system? How did that
17 work? What was the point of it?

18 A. Maybe there was about ten -- four, four, four -- ten
19 people to a table and every single person got marked
20 points. So if you went -- if you weren't doing what was
21 proper, the rest of the boys would get on your back,
22 like, 'You're going to cost us ice-cream'. It was silly
23 wee things, but ice-cream was a big thing.

24 Q. Did the point system operate in other areas of the
25 school?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Was it everything you did that counted towards the
3 points system?

4 A. At the end of the week you would get a card thing and
5 you had to go round all the -- because you had to go
6 round -- every teacher who taught you for a day or so,
7 you had to go up to him at the end of the week and he
8 would give you points. He would give you points if --
9 done for your work or behaved yourself and all this.
10 And he was just ...

11 Q. Don't worry, take your time.

12 A. I forgot what I was saying.

13 Q. You were talking about the teachers giving you points as
14 well as Mr LYI .

15 A. You had to go -- woodwork classes, even like the gym
16 instructor, they would give you points, how you
17 performed that week. And the more points you got --
18 because they let you, on a Friday night, 6 o'clock, on
19 Saturday morning, breakfast time and Saturday lunchtime,
20 that was the three times you got out, and the more you
21 behaved yourself they would let you out on Friday and
22 tell you to come back on Sunday night, at 7.30. But the
23 majority of people got out on Saturday morning and you
24 had to come back for Sunday night, 7.30.

25 Q. And that was the result of the points system?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Did it ever get to the stage where people didn't get out
3 at all if they hadn't got enough points?

4 A. I never got one visit, one letter all the time I was in
5 there.

6 Q. I was just wondering whether there were people who
7 didn't get out at the weekends at all, because of the
8 points system?

9 A. There were two or three people I got to know because at
10 the weekends it was actually all right because the place
11 virtually emptied and there's me and maybe another 30/40
12 guys. So you had the whole run of the place. You could
13 go to the gymnasium, the swimming pool, the football
14 fields. It wasn't a busy place at the weekends, but it
15 was 50 or 60 people, really.

16 Q. Thank you.

17 You talk about the bathroom and that you had to have
18 a shower every day. Were there shower cubicles --

19 A. No, it was just a row, seven or eight showers and a big
20 bath at the side.

21 Q. You tell us that there was always a member of staff
22 standing at the door telling you how to wash yourself?

23 A. Particularly LXT [REDACTED], like. He was always -- that
24 LXT [REDACTED], he was always like -- always -- every time you
25 seemed to be there he was there, like.

1 Q. Did that seem strange to you at the time?

2 A. It did, because he was showing you how to wash yourself,
3 how to do this and how to do that. He was just a freak.

4 Q. We'll come back to him. But, in the meantime, you talk
5 a bit about your uniform.

6 About halfway down paragraph 19, you say that you
7 had boots for working in, shoes for drum marching, and
8 rubbers for the gym. First of all, if I can ask you
9 about the boots for working; what sort of work was this?

10 A. Well, just if you're working in the workshops. We used
11 to make beds, tables, tent pegs for the tents at summer
12 time.

13 Q. And I think --

14 A. There wasn't really any work to do. You were always
15 cleaning, everybody was cleaning. Once the cleaning was
16 basically done that was it, like.

17 Q. You say that there was some drum marching; what do you
18 mean by that?

19 A. Well, I was -- every stair -- maybe 30 people on each
20 landing. It was just like being in the army. The guy
21 at the front would tell you -- he would teach you how to
22 march and how to do this and how to do that and how to
23 shuffle up the line. He was -- it was always there.

24 Q. Was this every day?

25 A. Every morning. Basically, high kit in the morning.

1 Q. And you say that you had rubbers for the gym; is that
2 plimsolls?

3 A. Aye, just plimsolls.

4 Q. In paragraph 20, you talk about the seamstress. You say
5 that if you damaged your clothes you had to go and see
6 her and if you damaged your clothes she would give you
7 a clout. What was that about?

8 A. No, she gave (indistinguishable).

9 Q. How did she do it?

10 A. She was -- everybody really liked her and you sort of
11 knew you were going to get a slap from her, because your
12 buttons were loose or wear and tear. She had piles and
13 piles of new stuff. She wouldn't hand it out. She
14 would rather take it to the seamstress and sew it all
15 up. She was okay. Just like an old granny who hit you
16 on the back of the head. She was like that.

17 Q. So just a fairly gentle slap then?

18 A. Sometimes she hit you a beauty, but, as I say, I don't
19 mean to mock it, but some of the guys would take
20 a competition to see how many times they would miss
21 getting hit by her for something to do. That's what
22 they done.

23 Q. All right.

24 Over the page, you talk about education and you say
25 that you didn't get much education because you were so

1 busy doing chores. And a bit later you talk about
2 classes like woodwork or art.

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. Were there any other subjects? Did you get taught
5 English or --

6 A. LXT, he taught geography. I'm sure it was maths as
7 well. Every teacher multi-tasked. As I said before,
8 I never ever -- done my times tables or anything at all
9 when I was in there. You never got educated. You would
10 be handed a drawing book and a map of the world and tell
11 you to draw Scotland. It wasn't an education, like.

12 Q. Paragraph 22, you talk about chores and some of the
13 chores sound pretty hard. You talk about digging up
14 slabs of concrete?

15 A. That was like -- you would get out the weekend and --
16 that LXT took me to a couple of places, couple of
17 schools and there were three or four of us there and
18 we're all fixing the playground for the kids and the
19 swings and that. You were doing things like that,
20 painting people's houses, old folks' houses. Half the
21 houses we painted belonged to the staff.

22 Q. You were doing work for some members of staff?

23 A. I wasn't personally, but people would paint their
24 windows and doors and that.

25 Q. I'll perhaps come back to that in a moment or two, but

1 first can I just ask you about writing letters.

2 You say that LXT would show you how to write
3 a letter. Did he tell you what to write or just how to
4 write it?

5 A. I can't remember, like. He just showed me how to write
6 a letter, name and address and the rest of it. I can't
7 remember what I said in the letter, but I was getting
8 a bit of stick after a couple of weeks because I wasn't
9 getting any replies and somehow they were blaming me for
10 it for some reason. I don't know what happened. But
11 LXT said he was going to sort everything out for
12 me.

13 Q. You later discovered that your father wasn't replying
14 because really -- I think you say that he couldn't, is
15 that right?

16 A. Sorry, what was that?

17 Q. You tell us that you discovered later that the reason
18 you weren't getting any replies was because your father
19 couldn't reply to you, is that right?

20 A. That's right, aye. That's right, aye.

21 LADY SMITH: Did you discover that your father had
22 difficulty in reading?

23 A. He always had a paper, so obviously he could read
24 because it wasn't until years later, must have been
25 mid-1980, I walked into his house, he got a house in

1 Dalkeith, a new house, and he was sitting at the kitchen
2 table and he was trying to fill a passport form in and I
3 looked at him and I said, 'Dad, what you doing?' and he
4 said, 'I'm filling in this passport ...' Honestly, it
5 was like he was writing Chinese and everything came back
6 to me, that's why I never got a letter because he
7 couldn't write.

8 LADY SMITH: But did it seem that Dr Guthrie's assumed that
9 parents who received the letters would be able to read
10 them and write back?

11 A. Well, aye.

12 LADY SMITH: They hadn't thought about that?

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: Because it would all depend on what sort of
15 education your parents had had?

16 A. If you never wrote letters, that was a mark against you,
17 because they weren't letting you out if your parents
18 were in touch with you. I wasn't the only one. There
19 were a few that never got letters, but we used to get
20 picked on by the older boys because they all accused
21 like my dad of being on the dole, 'Your dad's a lazy
22 get, he's on the dole', but he never stopped working.

23 MR SHELDON: For boys that did get letters, 'Mij', how did
24 that work? Were the letters handed out?

25 A. Yeah, next to ^{zGFC} office there was -- he was --

1 the guy was called the accountant, and every week he
2 used to put a list up in his window to see how much
3 money you've got in the bank. Sometimes we would get
4 money for doing wee chores or your parents would give
5 you money and I was always on the bottom of the list
6 because I never got any visits, like, and you got a bit
7 of a hard time for them.

8 Q. Sure. Were letters to boys, were they handed out
9 individually --

10 A. Yeah. On a Monday or Tuesday everybody looks to see how
11 much money they've got and the guy that done the
12 accounts, sort of thing, would hand out letters to
13 everybody, like.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 You've told us a bit about the point system and you
16 then go on to tell us about an occasion when you did get
17 some home leave, but things at the house were in a bit
18 of a mess and you went to stay with your gran?

19 A. It was bad, aye.

20 Q. But that was a problem because the social workers were
21 keeping an eye on you. How did you find that out?

22 A. I don't know. I'm trying to think what you said there.

23 Q. You tell us that the social workers were keeping an eye
24 on you and because you hadn't stayed at your father's
25 house you weren't allowed home leave again. So how did

1 that come about? Did someone tell you later that: 'We
2 saw you', or 'We didn't see you at your father's and
3 you're not getting back out'?

4 A. I lost what you said there.

5 Q. It's my fault. I'm putting it badly. Were you told at
6 some point that you weren't getting leave again?

7 A. Yeah, oh, aye. Every week I was told --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I was getting a wee slap, 'Write your letters, keep in
10 touch', but it never worked.

11 Q. Were you told at the time why you weren't getting out
12 again?

13 A. No, no, they wouldn't tell you. They would just refuse
14 you leave.

15 Q. Moving on to paragraph 27, you mentioned earlier that
16 boys swam naked and that there were female teachers
17 supervising. Did you know why you were required to swim
18 naked?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Nobody told you: 'This is because X, Y or Z'?

21 A. Standard thing. The whole time I was there, probably up
22 to three year, it was the same. Boys who were swimming
23 swam naked and that was it.

24 Q. Again, did that seem strange to you at the time?

25 A. I just joined in with everybody else, I think. I just

1 joined in, like. I don't know what I was thinking, to
2 be honest with you.

3 Q. That is what happened and that was part of life?

4 A. Aye.

5 LADY SMITH: So at Dr Guthrie's were boys not provided with
6 swimming trunks?

7 A. No, no, never got any swimming trunks. Like I said,
8 there were people in there, 15, 16, they were more or
9 less men really and just jumping in the swimming pool
10 and there was one teacher there, Ms Jack, she was there,
11 always in the swimming. She was always there. But
12 I can't remember anybody saying to me, 'This is
13 embarrassing, this is terrible'. Everybody just done
14 it. Even when -- it must have been a theme thing
15 because every summer we used to go to Thornton Loch at
16 Dunbar and used to stay in these army tents and you
17 could see the red cross and there were stains, it was
18 old army tents, and you see all the blood stains, and
19 take us down there and every morning you were up at
20 6 o'clock and look at it, 80 to 90 boys all walking and
21 naked. Everybody was naked walking into the sea. It
22 was freezing as well. That's what they done.

23 Q. Just before we leave the naked swimming issue, can
24 I just ask you about Ms Jack. What sort of age was she
25 at the time you were there?

1 A. Ms Jack, she wasn't married. I'm trying to think.

2 Probably be -- I would say early 30s. Just what I can
3 remember, like. She was a big woman.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 In the next paragraph, you talk a bit about the camp
6 at Dunbar and naked swimming there as well. Just in the
7 first and second sentences in that paragraph you talk
8 about staff members getting their favourite boy to go
9 and work in their home and dig their garden?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. What did you mean by 'favourite boy'?

12 A. Well, the sort of boys like myself who weren't getting
13 any weekend leave. Sometimes you would go three or four
14 or five of you, go somewhere -- we used to go to
15 Edinburgh Castle, (inaudible), Holyrood, Edinburgh
16 Castle, Dr Guthrie's seemed to have a list, excess
17 tickets like and whoever behaved themselves got out.
18 I can remember we went to see the film, Mary Queen of
19 Scots, must have been '70 or '71 and when we got there
20 the place was full. So we ended up watching
21 Paint Your Wagon. You ever seen Paint Your Wagon?

22 Q. Many years ago.

23 A. That's when I first came out, we were in there and we
24 ended up seeing Paint Your Wagon. It was supposed to be
25 an educational visit with Mary Queen of Scots. I think

1 it was Linda Redgrave or somebody was in it, but we
2 ended up having a laugh going to see Paint Your Wagon,
3 like. There was no point wasting the tickets. We went
4 in there. But we used to go all over the place,
5 everywhere.

6 Q. You talk about favourite boys going to go and work in
7 staff members' gardens, work in their home and so on and
8 you talked earlier about people painting --

9 A. Digging the garden, take the weeds out, paint the
10 windows, things like that. There were always people
11 getting took out with staff everywhere.

12 Q. Do you know if boys ever stayed over at staff members'
13 houses?

14 A. Every weekend they stayed somewhere. I couldn't say
15 where they stayed, like.

16 Q. But you just know they stayed out of the school
17 somewhere?

18 A. I never experienced it myself. I knew when I was
19 getting kept all weekend -- what was I saying?

20 Q. You were just talking about boys staying out of the
21 school at weekends somewhere and you told us that you
22 had never experienced that yourself. You were kept in
23 the school all weekend, is that right?

24 A. Apart when LXT -- told me, 'Don't worry, I'll get you
25 weekend leave. I'll get you out for the weekend'.

1 I assumed that I would be going out to my dad's, but it
2 was never. It was just with him.

3 Q. You tell us that you never had a visit during your time
4 at Dr Guthrie's. Would [REDACTED] have been aware of
5 that?

6 A. He seemed to take a keen interest in me. He knew things
7 about me -- well, obviously, the staff must have had
8 files there or something, but he seemed to know a lot of
9 things about me, and that's when it all started when he
10 showed me how to write a letter and it just escalated
11 from there like.

12 Q. We'll come back to Mr [REDACTED] in a moment or two.

13 I just want to ask you briefly about the
14 psychologist that you occasionally spoke to. You say in
15 paragraph 30 that there was a psychologist who would
16 come into Dr Guthrie's and that you spoke to him a few
17 times.

18 Would you have felt able to tell him about any of
19 the things that were happening to you?

20 A. No, no, no, no.

21 Q. Was there anyone that you felt able to confide in?

22 A. No. If you opened your mouth, that was it, you're
23 finished.

24 Q. Okay. You say that boys ran away regularly. They'd get
25 belted and you've talked about Mr [REDACTED] and Mr [REDACTED]

1 using the belt on you and how they did that. And over
2 the page you talk about boys who wet the bed. This is
3 paragraph 33.

4 You say that the boys who wet the bed got a hard
5 time?

6 A. Oh, aye, big time.

7 Q. From the staff?

8 A. Aye.

9 Q. In what way did they get a hard time?

10 A. Just they're always -- I can remember -- getting
11 ridiculed in front of everybody for peeing the bed. You
12 had -- they give them a big thick, rubber sheet, the
13 thickness of this table, and you can see them at night
14 they were just slipping off it. If you wet the bed you
15 put a rubber thing on and it was pretty old-fashioned,
16 like.

17 Q. And was that handed out to the boys in public, as it
18 were?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Right. What sort of things would the staff say to boys
21 who wet the bed?

22 A. I can't remember exactly what they say, but they got
23 a few slaps, a hard time in front of everybody. So it
24 was really quite embarrassing for them, like. I never
25 wet the bed, so I never had that problem, like.

1 Q. All right. Thank you.

2 You have already told us about Mr zGFC and the
3 fact that -- well, just -- I want to make sure
4 I've understood this correctly.

5 You talked about Mr zGFC getting someone to wake
6 you up in the middle of the night?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And then taking you downstairs and belting you?

9 A. Yeah, yeah.

10 Q. Did you have any understanding of what it was that you
11 had done wrong and when you had done it?

12 A. It was always if you'd looked up at the window and
13 looked into the yard, he was always sort of standing
14 there and he always seemed to know everything that was
15 going on, like. And maybe you got caught smoking or
16 something, you thought you'd got away with it. But, two
17 days later, you would get a wee tap on the shoulder to
18 go downstairs.

19 Not just me. It happened to a lot of boys, like.
20 He was -- he must have been an insomniac because he
21 was -- the only time you'd see him is like Dracula at
22 night.

23 Q. He was making you wait?

24 A. Big time, aye.

25 Q. You say that Dr Guthrie's was a strict place and that

1 you marched everywhere; how did that work? Were you
2 marching from classroom to classroom?

3 A. It was like that. When you broke up for the -- everyone
4 went their separate ways to different classes and you
5 had to sort of march to your door. They weren't too
6 strict about that, but you had to sort of keep in line,
7 sort of thing, like.

8 Q. Sure. You say there was bullying amongst the boys and
9 in fact you were bullied?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. What sorts of things happened to you?

12 A. Well, when I started complaining about things, not
13 telling people, but telling Mr GVI . When I started
14 telling him things, I would get a severe slap for it and
15 I guarantee you, within a couple of hours or the next
16 day, two of the older boys would come up and start
17 giving me a slap or a punch and they started accusing me
18 of being a grass. I didn't ken what a grass was.

19 They started accusing me of being a grass, but
20 obviously zGFC and GVI sent his goons up and you
21 got a couple of slaps and told if it happened again you
22 would get it again. And I was getting a few slaps every
23 week until I got a bit bigger and I started standing up
24 for myself.

25 Q. Was this after you tried to tell zGFC and GVI

1 about Mr LXT ?

2 A. Yes. I never so much told zGFC , but I did tell

3 GVI , like, and it was a bad, bad mistake, like.

4 Q. All right. And it was after that that boys started

5 coming after you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay. Before that, was there any problem with boys

8 bullying you?

9 A. I was -- not just me. There were a few of us that never

10 got any letters, never got any visits, so I wasn't like

11 sort of pigeon holed between the three of us, but that

12 was all an excuse. You'll get a slap, aye. You're not

13 getting weekend leave. Your dad's on the dole. It was

14 pretty tight. You come from -- what is it they called

15 it? Come from a broken home. I didn't ken what

16 a broken home was. I hadn't a clue.

17 Q. You say there were gang fights as well; what were they

18 like?

19 A. Well, it was just the boys from Liberton, Gilmerton,

20 Niddrie, Drylaw, and they all had their own wee gangs.

21 I never joined any gangs or nothing like that. But

22 there were certain people, and you knew if you attacked

23 them you would get it back tenfold from somebody else.

24 Q. The boys from these different neighbourhoods stuck

25 together; is that how it worked?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 37, that Mr GVI would belt
3 the boys and that he physically beat you up when you
4 tried to report things to him. We'll come back to that.
5 But I want to ask you, if that's all right, about
6 LXT.

7 You tell us that he was the maths teacher at
8 Dr Guthrie's and that he told you that he'd been a pilot
9 in the Second World War. You say he started being nice
10 to you because you didn't have weekend leave; what sort
11 of things would he do to be nice to you?

12 A. The first I learnt to write a letter, he was always
13 there and showing me what to do and all the rest of it.

14 I have forgotten what I was going to say again, man.

15 He would show me how to write a letter. Then, after
16 a couple of months, the boy that used to clean up in the
17 classroom, he left the school, so LXT picked me.
18 Basically, when everybody left the room, I had go round
19 and pick up the pencils and rubbers and put them back in
20 his drawers and that, and the chairs, put the chairs
21 away and sweep the floor. And that's when he started --
22 he was always there like, he's doing different things,
23 like.

24 Q. You said that he -- when you were cleaning the
25 blackboard, he would come up behind you and push into

1 you --

2 A. He was always coming close to me, aye. That's all he
3 done for ages, up close to me, always rubbing my neck,
4 my face. He was always touching me.

5 Q. You say that you had, as it were, replaced a boy who had
6 left and who had been doing that before; do you know or
7 did you have any feeling that he might have done that to
8 any other boys before you?

9 A. I never -- I didn't -- I don't know, like. I don't
10 know.

11 Q. Okay. You tell us then that LXT started giving you
12 cigarettes and so on, and you've told us --

13 A. You never -- he never actually gave me cigarettes.
14 There was a big desk and all the pencils, rubbers,
15 rulers all went into certain section. And in the corner
16 I noticed there was like the size of a cigarette packet,
17 but it was a folder that you put -- container you put
18 your cigarettes in to stop them from getting wet and
19 I used to go into the drawer and I opened it up to see
20 what it was, and I could see maybe 10/12 cigarettes
21 there. So I started taking one every day and after
22 a week or so -- usually, before 4.30, the boys all left,
23 he would go out, go to the staffroom, whatever he done,
24 and come back in about half an hour. But he started
25 staying in the classroom with me and said, 'We've got

1 a problem. I've been getting cigarettes stolen.
2 Somebody's been stealing my cigarettes. If this gets
3 out I'm in serious trouble'. Not me, him, he was in
4 serious trouble. He said, 'You can't do or say anything
5 about this', because he would get in trouble. That's
6 what he kept on telling me, he would get in trouble.

7 Q. This was about the cigarette matter?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I used to take one every day and I started getting
11 cocky, took two, and that's when he sort of clamped down
12 on me.

13 Q. So he knew about that?

14 A. Oh, he knew. When I think about it, he definitely knew.
15 I was there, like.

16 Q. You say in paragraph 40 that on one occasion you went to
17 see a film with LXT [REDACTED] and, after the film, he took
18 you back to his flat on [REDACTED] and you said
19 you thought the flat belonged to Dr Guthrie's?

20 A. Aye. I don't know why I've got that idea, but I think
21 he wasn't the only person that used that flat. So
22 I don't know if it was his or accommodation for staff,
23 whatever it was. But it was a -- I walked in. I had
24 never seen it before. It was a bedsit.

25 Q. Just him --

1 A. The bed came out the wall. The bed came out the wall
2 and the table and chairs, that folded away. There was
3 only a small living room, kitchen, and bathroom and that
4 was it. Just one room.

5 Q. He was living there alone?

6 A. I don't know, actually, if he lived there, but he
7 certainly took me there plenty of times. I think his
8 main residence was at [REDACTED], the caravan park, in
9 [REDACTED], that was his main residence.

10 Q. You thought this was a temporary, overnight thing?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. So you get back to the flat; can you just tell us what
13 happened then?

14 A. I always seemed to have a high temperature. He was
15 always telling me, 'Oh, you're awful hot, take your
16 shirt off, take this off, take that off'. He asked me
17 if I liked apple juice and I had never drunk apple juice
18 in my life. It wasn't until a couple of years later I
19 realised he was actually giving me cider in a glass.
20 And on a few occasions he would give me -- he would say,
21 'Take this tablet because you've got a temperature', and
22 he would give me a wee tablet and it was just like I was
23 away with it, ken. Didn't know where I was, like.
24 I started doing that. I was away with it.
25 I always knew -- when he gave me that tablet I knew

1 I was getting fucking raped.

2 Q. It's all right. Take your time.

3 (Pause)

4 'Mij', we know this is really difficult and if you
5 need to take some time, that's fine.

6 (Pause)

7 LADY SMITH: 'Mij', do you feel okay to carry on?

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Just remember we can have a break at any time
10 if that would help. I know some people prefer to just
11 keep going if they can, but you tell me what's best for
12 you.

13 A. Okay.

14 MR SHELDON: 'Mij', do you feel able to tell us a bit more
15 about what LXT did to you on these occasions?

16 A. I always knew I was getting raped at the weekend when he
17 would take me to his caravan and I would potter about in
18 the garden on a Saturday, give me a couple of cans.
19 That was brutal. He was a nasty, nasty bastard.

20 Q. So this happened a number of times; is that right?

21 A. Multiple times.

22 Q. Do you have any recollection of how many times, roughly?

23 A. When we went to the caravan I knew that was it. He
24 started taking me up -- he would take me up to the --
25 not to the Highlands. He would take me to places that

1 he must have knew -- they were pretty secluded, so we
2 weren't going to meet many people there. He'd come out
3 the back of the car and he'd bring a hamper and he'd
4 make it out to be a fucking picnic. It was a picnic for
5 him, but not for me.

6 He was getting worse and worse all the time, and the
7 first time I told GVI [REDACTED], I got into the locker room,
8 it must have been back of six and I was sitting changing
9 and I could hardly walk. It was agony.

10 Q. Because --

11 A. GVI [REDACTED] came in and seen me. I was a bit upset. He
12 came in and asked me what's wrong. I said, 'I'm all
13 right, I'm all right'. He eventually gave me a wee
14 cuddle and it scared the shit out of me and the next
15 thing he asked what happened. I told him LXT [REDACTED] was
16 touching me up and doing things to me. I never said he
17 raped me. I just said, 'He is touching me'. He hit me
18 so hard. He took me head off my shoulders, like, and
19 that's when I knew I had to shut up.

20 The next day, I would get a couple of slaps again
21 from all the boys, like.

22 Q. I think you tell us that Mr GVI [REDACTED], also took you to
23 see Mr zGFC [REDACTED]; is that right?

24 A. Sorry, what was that?

25 Q. You tell us in the statement that Mr GVI [REDACTED] also took

1 you to see Mr zGFC ?

2 A. Aye. He did, aye.

3 Q. What happened with Mr zGFC ?

4 A. Oh, just ... he was just a nasty, nasty man, like. He

5 said he liked dishing it out, like, with a belt. He

6 would never punch or kick you, but he had the belt. It

7 was a solid belt. It was like -- it was fucking really

8 painful.

9 Q. And did he belt you on this occasion?

10 A. I can't remember if he did on that occasion. It wasn't

11 long after it, like.

12 Q. You are clear that Mr GVI hit you --

13 A. Oh, definitely.

14 Q. -- when you told him about Mr LXT ?

15 A. He hit me a few times.

16 Q. You tell us in your statement that after you tried to

17 report what happened, you decided to keep your mouth

18 shut; is that right?

19 A. It was easier, aye.

20 Q. You say that you started getting into more and more

21 trouble and Mr Thorne was always trying to get you to

22 tell him what was happening; what do you think it was

23 that Mr Thorne was seeing in you that made him ask that?

24 A. I -- if I think back on it, I think he knew things were

25 going on and he just sort of couldn't -- I think he felt

1 he was on his own kind of trying to sort it all, because
2 zGFC and GVI that place, like.

3 Q. So you think he may have known --
4 A. I think he did, like.
5 Q. -- or suspected what was happening?
6 A. Aye.

7 Q. But no one came to -- after that occasion with
8 Mr GVI -- no one talked to you about what you had
9 said about Mr LXT ?

10 A. Every time I seen them, I always knew the next day
11 somebody was going to come up and say something to me to
12 tell me to keep my mouth shut and that's it.

13 Q. This was other boys, was it?
14 A. Other boys, older boys, like. I was only 11/12, they
15 were all 15/16.

16 Q. Okay.

17 You tell us -- and this is paragraph 46 of the
18 statement now, 'Mij' -- that the time came when -- on
19 the first occasion you were released from
20 Dr Guthrie's -- and you think that would have been at
21 some point between 1971 and 1972?
22 A. 1972, I would say, aye.

23 Q. You went to Dalkeith High for about three weeks, and
24 certain things happened and you were sent back to
25 Liberton; was that again for about two or three weeks at

1 Liberton?

2 A. Usually, when you went to Liberton, they usually had you
3 assessed in three or four weeks, max. It was pretty
4 quick, like.

5 Q. And you tell us that on one occasion Liberton couldn't
6 accommodate you, so you were put into Wellington Farm --
7 I think we know that's Wellington Farm School -- for
8 a week or ten days instead; were you told that was just
9 a temporary thing?

10 A. No, they never told me that. They said you have to stay
11 here for the now to find out what's going to happen with
12 you. Eventually, they put me back into Guthrie's again.

13 Q. Did you think that Wellington Farm was going to be
14 a more permanent placement?

15 A. Did I think what?

16 Q. That Wellington Farm was going to be more permanent
17 placement?

18 A. I'm not really sure. The place had just been built. It
19 was not long built. It was quite a new building, like,
20 you know.

21 Q. You were then sent back to Dr Guthrie's again; did
22 anyone tell you why you were being sent back to
23 Dr Guthrie's?

24 A. Not really, no.

25 Q. Okay. What were your impressions of Wellington Farm

1 while you were there?

2 A. If I can remember rightly, I never actually sort of
3 mixed in with the main group. I was always away from
4 the main group. Five or six, or ten boys there. I was
5 never in the whole wing.

6 Q. It was quite a brief stay, so perhaps understandable if
7 you don't remember very much about it.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. So you say that you were about 14 the second time you
10 went to Dr Guthrie's. That would have been about 1972.
11 You say that about seven or eight months before your
12 15th birthday you tried to attack LXT with
13 a stool in the classroom; what had happened that caused
14 you to do that, that led you to do that?

15 A. He had took me out for the weekend and he just -- well,
16 he started off -- started off where he left off the last
17 time and it just kicked on again. But I was slowly but
18 surely fighting him back and I was getting wee things to
19 get him and ...

20 What was I saying there?

21 Q. You were saying that you were slowly starting to fight
22 him, you were fighting back.

23 A. Yeah. There was a wee baby stool, like you get in
24 infant school. I tried to -- I hit him with it and
25 I threw it to him and, the next thing, he pressed the

1 panic alarm and I got dragged down the stairs, about two
2 or three thingmies dragged me down the stairs and gave
3 me a right doing. And I was there for another maybe
4 couple of months. But it never stopped him because he
5 ken I wouldn't say nothing. So he kept on coming at me
6 and coming at me and coming at me. And he said,
7 'I'll get you at the weekend, I'll get you this,
8 I'll get you that'.

9 Q. Who was saying this?

10 A. LXT .

11 Q. LXT ?

12 A. Yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: So at this time; did he actually get you away
14 for the weekend?

15 A. Oh, aye. He done it every weekend, like. Every
16 weekend.

17 LADY SMITH: On this second occasion you were back in
18 Dr Guthrie's?

19 A. Yeah. He would always take me to a place -- he would
20 tell me about it, 'If anybody asked you, this is what
21 happened, that's what happened. You were there, there,
22 there'. So, to be honest, nobody really asked where
23 I was.

24 MR SHELDON: Did it happen, 'Mij', after you had attacked
25 him with the stool?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. So that did put a stop to it?

3 A. It did for then, aye, aye.

4 Q. You say that you admitted you tried to hit LXT
5 and you say you told Mr GVI why you had done what
6 you had done?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You told him again --

9 A. I told him, aye. I went into detail. I told him.

10 Q. What was his reaction to it then?

11 A. He battered me.

12 Q. He battered you?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. You say that you requested to see your social worker;
15 did you get to see your social worker?

16 A. I think I seen one, but it wasn't like my social worker
17 from Dalkeith or probation officer. It wasn't that, it
18 was somebody from up the town. It was something to do
19 with the school, somebody like that. It wasn't the
20 people I knew. They weren't interested in me, to be
21 honest.

22 Q. You say that the result of that was that you were taken
23 out of Dr Guthrie's and put into Liberton; did you
24 understand that was because of what had happened?

25 A. I think I knew that, aye, like. But I went to Liberton

1 and, again, they were going back to my dad's house and
2 trying to get in touch with him, couldn't get in touch
3 with him. So they sent me to Aber -- I kept on running
4 away from Dr Guthrie's. Not running away; I kept on
5 walking away. I kept on running away from there. And
6 then they decided to put me in Aberdeen, so I went up
7 there. I was up there for about a year.

8 Q. I'll ask you about that just in a moment, but I want
9 briefly to ask you this: did you know what happened to
10 Mr LXT or if anything was done about Mr LXT after
11 this, after these events?

12 A. I don't know what happened. But I can remember I was
13 down England and I'd just came out of borstal for
14 a second time, 2021, and I went up to the car, got my
15 mate to get a car and went up to the caravan and I was
16 going to do him in, like, big time. I was going to do
17 him in. He wasn't there. So I smashed the caravan to
18 bits, stole money, cigarettes, all the rest of it. And
19 I sat for the next two days in the house waiting for the
20 police to come to my door, but they never came. So he
21 obviously never reported it.

22 He didn't report it, like. If I'd got him there,
23 I would be in a bit of trouble if I'd got him then,
24 like.

25 Q. Okay. You say that you were sent then to Aberdeen, to

1 Oakbank School?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. You had a very different experience there?

4 A. Oh, aye, chalk and cheese. It was tremendous. Chalk
5 and cheese.

6 Q. You tell us that you enjoyed Oakbank, that the teachers
7 treated you like an adult, and really that the
8 atmosphere was different; can you tell us about that?

9 A. It was totally relaxed. I went up there with my hackles
10 up because I knew I would get trouble coming from
11 Edinburgh to Aberdeen, but it never materialised. It
12 was -- I enjoyed it, to be honest. It was good. It was
13 good.

14 Q. Okay. You say that you got a couple of slaps and
15 a couple of kicks?

16 A. Aye, that -- you get that at Dalkeith High School. Yes,
17 it was nothing.

18 Q. Was this from staff?

19 A. Staff. Aye, staff.

20 Q. And did that happen to anyone else that you saw?

21 A. They give you the odd slap. But, from my experience,
22 they weren't hitting you hard, they were just hitting
23 you, 'Come on, behave yourself'. It was like a big
24 skelping like. They were civilised, nice people, like.
25 They were good.

1 Q. So you get to 15-and-a-half and you leave Oakbank, and
2 this is about 1973. You tell us that you went to live
3 with your mother for a while and ended up going back to
4 Dalkeith. I think you then got into some trouble and
5 ended up in a detention centre in Newcastle?

6 A. Yeah, that was when I was about 16 or 17. I was about
7 17 then.

8 Q. From there were you sent to another establishment in
9 England?

10 A. I got six-months detention -- I got six-months detention
11 and I done every day, and usually you get out after,
12 like, four-and-a-half month/five months, but I never
13 ever got out.

14 I've forgotten what I was going to say again.

15 Q. You were saying that you thought you were perhaps going
16 to get out of the detention centre early, but didn't?

17 A. I got detention and I got a gate arrest and I got
18 another six-months detention.

19 Q. Was this at the same place or a different place?

20 A. It was (indistinguishable). The crimes happened in
21 Leicester, Nottingham. But, because of my age -- I was
22 just turned 17. Because of my age they asked me if
23 I wanted to go up to Scotland and I said, 'No, I'm not
24 going up there, I'm going to stay down here'. So
25 I stayed there and got a gate arrest for that one.

1 Q. You say you were offered a transfer to Polmont, but you
2 refused because of its reputation?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. What was his reputation?

5 A. It was pretty tough. Strict, strict, strict regime. It
6 was all army -- all run by ex-army boys. It was a
7 strict routine, like. And they actually gave me closer
8 to the Borders in case I got a visit. My folk didn't
9 have to come down. It never happened like.

10 Q. Had you heard about Polmont while you were still in
11 Scotland or was this --

12 A. In Scotland, you knew if you got borstal you were
13 getting a bad time.

14 Q. You say that you returned to Dalkeith and you haven't
15 been in trouble since you were 21.

16 You go on then to talk about the impact that your
17 experiences had on you. I just want to ask you
18 directly: what impact do you feel the abuse you suffered
19 has had on you?

20 A. That man destroyed my life.

21 Q. I think we can see, even now, the affect that he's had
22 on you, 'Mij'.

23 You say that you still have a bit -- do you still
24 have a bit of an issue with authority?

25 A. Nah.

1 Q. But that was something that you felt back in the day?

2 A. Oh, I couldn't trust nobody.

3 Q. You tell us that you've been married twice. You have
4 a child from each of the marriages. How did your
5 experiences affect your home life?

6 A. I was -- never ever put myself in a situation where
7 I was alone with my kids. They were only what two,
8 three, four, five, whatever. I would never bathe them.
9 I never changed them. I never washed them. I just --
10 it always stuck in my mind. I read somewhere or
11 somebody told me, somebody said, like, when the abused
12 becomes the abuser, and that sort of stuck in my napper
13 and I just didn't want to be in a situation where I
14 could put myself in a situation where somebody could
15 say, 'You've done this, you've done that', I wasn't
16 there.

17 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 57, that -- you used the
18 expression 'sexual relationship with a man'. But
19 earlier on, when you were talking about LXT, you used
20 the word 'rape', that you were raped. And I hope you
21 can understand, 'Mij', that rape is not a relationship,
22 not of any sort.

23 At the time it was happening; did you think of it as
24 a relationship?

25 A. No, no. Not at all, no.

1 Q. All right. It was something that was being done to you?

2 A. Sorry?

3 Q. It was something that was being done to you.

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. You tell us that you've had some treatment for

6 depression; is that something you're still suffering

7 from?

8 A. No, no. I've been a manic depressive, I've been

9 bipolar, and now I'm a chronic depressive. That's what

10 the doctor says, I'm a chronic depressive: here's the

11 tablets, keep taking the tablets.

12 Q. Do they help?

13 A. Nah. To be honest, I'm a legal junkie. They've got me

14 on six tablets a day. I've been like that for 30-year

15 and I'm basically a legal junkie, like. I've tried stop

16 them, but it's just horrible.

17 Q. You say, in paragraph 59, that this is -- the Inquiry

18 process is the first time you've spoken about all this.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. We're very grateful to you that you have.

21 A. I seen it in the paper. There was a half-page spread in

22 the paper and I was reading about Dr Guthrie's and

23 I knew exactly what they were talking about, ken.

24 I knew what they were talking about.

25 Q. Can I just finish by asking you about your hopes then

1 for the Inquiry and what you hope can be achieved. What
2 can be changed, in other words?

3 A. I'm not the best person in the world to ask for advice
4 for anything, but the one thing for me that stands
5 out ...

6 Q. Take your time.

7 A. I actually felt believed and that's good. Aye, that's
8 good, like.

9 Q. I think you say that you hope by sharing your evidence
10 that you can give some children --

11 A. Sorry?

12 Q. You tell us in your statement that you hope by sharing
13 your story that you can give children some hope; is that
14 right?

15 A. I don't know. I don't know.

16 Q. My Lady, I have no further questions for, 'Mij'.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Mij', I have no other questions for you either.
19 I just want to thank you very much indeed for engaging
20 with the Inquiry as you have. It's really helped my
21 understanding of Dr Guthrie's during your period there.
22 So whilst we have been talking about what helps you,
23 what doesn't, at least I hope going away knowing you
24 have helped us with what we're doing here, in some small
25 measure, makes you feel a bit better.

1 Do feel free to go now. I hope the rest of today is
2 more peaceful for you than this morning's been.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Before I stop for the lunch break, I want to
5 issue a reminder about my general restriction order. We
6 have used names of some people whose identities mustn't
7 be revealed outside this room.

8 That's Mr zGFC, LXT, Mr LYI and
9 Mr GVI, also the first witness this morning, at one
10 point made a very brief mention of his own second name
11 and he's not to be identified outside this room either.

12 I'll stop now until 2 o'clock, when we'll sit again
13 for some read-in evidence.

14 (1.06 pm)

15 (The luncheon adjournment)

16 (2.00 pm)

17 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

18 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady.

19 There's now a read-in from an applicant who is
20 anonymous and is known as 'Craig'. The reference for
21 his statement is WIT-1-000001072.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 'Craig' (read)

24 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Craig' was born in 1970 and he tells
25 us at the beginning of his statement that he was in

1 a number of institutions throughout his childhood,
2 sometimes on multiple occasions and that the timings
3 that he's trying to give may be out of order. He has
4 some information from records that has helped him to try
5 and form a timeline.

6 He talks about his life before care between
7 paragraphs 3 and 9. He states that he was born in
8 Edinburgh. He had an older sister and lived with his
9 parents. His father was a trawlerman and was at sea
10 a lot of the time. His parents, though, divorced when
11 he was about six. After the divorce, he went back and
12 forth between lots of different houses. His father was
13 gambling and his mother was struggling financially and
14 with alcohol, and he was passed between his grandmother
15 and aunties and uncles.

16 As a result of that, he needed to change schools all
17 the time and he lists four primary schools that he can
18 recall. He started skipping school from an early age.
19 'Craig' says he never had some of the nicer clothes that
20 other children at school had and he would be going into
21 school with ripped jeans and shoes with holes in them,
22 and that led to bullying and fighting with other kids at
23 school.

24 From records he has, 'Craig' states that the social
25 work first became involved in April 1981, so he would

1 then have been about 11. He thinks they became involved
2 because he was skipping school and because of what was
3 happening at school when he was there.

4 One of the other things 'Craig' mentions is, he was
5 given NHS glasses. That was one of the things that
6 contributed to him being bullied and getting into
7 fights.

8 LADY SMITH: They did make children stand out because they
9 were of a distinctive style of round frames and you
10 didn't get them other than on the NHS.

11 MS FORBES: That also led to him avoiding wearing his
12 glasses, which meant he was often not able to see things
13 at school, see the blackboard and things like that.

14 He states that he went to Calder Grove and talks
15 about that between paragraphs 10 and 14. It's
16 a children's home where he was sent for a period of
17 assessment, he thinks. This was in [REDACTED] 1982. He was
18 12 when he first went there. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published He doesn't remember leaving
21 there. But then he was taken to another children's
22 home, Ferniehill, and talks about that between
23 paragraphs 15 and 21.

24 'Craig' says he went there around the time he was
25 expelled from school, in [REDACTED] 1982. He was 12 years old

1 still and he wasn't there very long. He remembers being
2 placed in Liberton High School whilst he was there and
3 ended up being expelled in [REDACTED] 1982.

4 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later Then 'Craig' says that he
7 thereafter went to Guthrie's, in [REDACTED] 1982.

8 He thinks he was living back at his grandmother's
9 house directly before being taken to Dr Guthrie's. He
10 was meant to go to a Children's Hearing, but didn't go.
11 Then the social worker turned up one night and found him
12 hiding under the bed, and he was taken there -- straight
13 from there to Dr Guthrie's.

14 He tells us about Dr Guthrie's from paragraphs 25 to
15 100. I won't read out from the beginning, because there
16 is a lot of information, but I will read out a little
17 bit further. I'll just summarise certain parts of the
18 first section, my Lady.

19 He says he went to Dr Guthrie's first when he was 12
20 and he left about 14 some time.

21 LADY SMITH: That can't be right if he went there in
22 [REDACTED] 1982, can it, with a 1971 date of birth?

23 MS FORBES: I think his birthday is [REDACTED] 1970.

24 LADY SMITH: 1970, not 1971?

25 MS FORBES: Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Sorry.

2 MS FORBES: Just it must have been as he turned --

3 LADY SMITH: That's been corrected. The earlier information
4 I had been given was 1971. So it's actually 1970.

5 MS FORBES: Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: That does make sense. Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, just going to that part, he says that
8 he left, he thinks, when he was about 14, some time
9 approximately before [REDACTED] 1985. By that time, he had
10 stopped staying there residentially and had started
11 attending as a day pupil. But he says he stayed at
12 Dr Guthrie's a number of times between attempts to try
13 to place him in other children's homes.

14 Between paragraphs 27 and 29, he talks about the
15 layout of Dr Guthrie's. I don't intend to read all that
16 part out. My Lady, it's there for us to see.

17 Then, from paragraph 30, he talks about staffing.

18 At paragraph 31, he talks about Mr GFC [REDACTED] being SNR [REDACTED]
19 SNR [REDACTED], LYI [REDACTED] being SNR [REDACTED]
20 whose nickname was LYI [REDACTED].

21 At paragraph 32, he talks about HWG [REDACTED] being
22 something like SNR [REDACTED] and one of his main key
23 workers.

24 LADY SMITH: Correct me if I'm wrong, but, on our
25 information, the person you have referred to as

1 Mr GFC seems to be the same person as was SNR
2 referred to by the last witness before lunch.

3 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady, using a different name.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 In relation to HWG, 'Craig' says he was
6 a very nice guy and one of the staff he trusted. He
7 then mentions, at paragraph 33, GQC, who was
8 responsible for him when he was upstairs in the dorms
9 and was a bit like his key worker when it came to the
10 residential side of things. He was a really big guy,
11 both in terms of height and weight.

12 He talks about GBD, at paragraph 35, being
13 one of the staff members who worked in the dorms in the
14 main part of the building and comments that he was
15 a strange man.

16 At paragraph 36, 'Craig' names a teacher called
17 Jacqui Horseburgh, who was the main teacher who taught
18 English. He states that she was quite nice and one of
19 the few teachers who was okay and actually tried to
20 teach you.

21 At paragraph 37, he refers to KEP, the PE
22 teacher, GWV, an English teacher, Mr Mallon, who
23 taught woodwork, and someone called HIH who was
24 a music teacher.

25 At paragraph 38, he referred to GBE, who was

1 an older guy and the gardener.

2 He then talks about the types of children at
3 Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 39. He states that it was
4 all boys. There were over 50 boys, but possibly not as
5 many as 100, with an age range between 10 and 16.

6 At paragraph 40, he states that there were various
7 different reasons why boys ended up at Dr Guthrie's,
8 some for offences, others had been playing truant.

9 'Craig' comments that some of the boys were quite
10 laid back, but others were more 'barmy'.

11 If I could go to paragraph 41 of 'Craig's'
12 statement, I'm just going to read from there, my Lady.
13 This is where he talks about the routine at Dr Guthrie's
14 and goes from his first day:

15 'My father and a couple of my uncles went to
16 Dr Guthrie's when they were children. I was aware of
17 that when I went there. I think that might have added
18 to me being scared about going there before I arrived.

19 'The first memory I have of Dr Guthrie's is seeing
20 this grand old building and having this feeling of being
21 dumped. I remember the place giving me the creeps.
22 After arriving, I think I was taken into the room to the
23 left of the entrance by my social worker [and he names
24 him] to meet a member of staff. I think the staff
25 member was HWG . HWG explained what was

1 going to happen whilst the social worker was there.
2 I don't remember what was said. He might have explained
3 why I was there and how long I would be staying. I was
4 very upset at the time, so I couldn't say whether he did
5 say those things or not. I wasn't happy and just wanted
6 out.'

7 Then he says, at 42, after the social worker left:

8 'HWG [REDACTED] said he would take me upstairs and
9 introduce me to my dorm. I think the first person I was
10 introduced to upstairs was a staff member by the name of
11 GQC [REDACTED]. I think I was initially welcomed by the
12 other boys, as most boys were curious when new boys
13 arrived. I think that helped me feel a little bit more
14 relaxed. My mind went into overdrive past that point,
15 so I don't remember what happened next. I remember
16 being quite worried, upset and panicking. It could be
17 I was handed my clothes, but I don't remember anything
18 surrounding that. Looking back, I was in a space where
19 I was basically not looking forward to the experience.

20 'You would be got up in the morning by a member of
21 staff. I can't remember what time that was done. You
22 would then go down and parade in the hall. That was
23 done so that the staff could undertake a headcount.
24 After that, you went up and queued for a shower.
25 I can't remember whether we stood with a towel or

1 whether we stood naked. A staff member put some
2 toothpaste on one of your fingers to brush your teeth
3 before you went in. After you had your shower, you
4 would get dressed, then make your bed ready for
5 inspection. After your bed area was inspected, you
6 would go down for breakfast in the dining hall.

7 'After breakfast, you would have a short break for
8 a smoke, before going straight to school for classes.
9 I think the only weekday where that didn't happen was
10 a Friday, when you would instead go up to your dorm to
11 learn whether you were getting out early for weekend
12 leave before going to church and potentially going home
13 on leave.

14 'After the morning classes, we had lunch, followed
15 by a break. It was more classes in the afternoon,
16 followed by dinner. You got to smoke another cigarette
17 after your evening meal. You had a bit of time to
18 yourself in the evening before bedtime. That was spent
19 in the dorms. You would, later on, have to get into
20 your pyjamas, but I don't remember the routine
21 surrounding that. I think lights were out by 9.00 pm.

22 'If you stayed at Dr Guthrie's over the weekend,
23 there were staff present to look after you. I wasn't
24 the only boy who stayed during the weekends. There was
25 usually five or six of us there. They would put you all

1 in one wing.

2 'The staff tried to keep you occupied at the
3 weekends, but I don't remember anything special being
4 done. We mostly sat around watching television.
5 I remember that over potentially a couple of weekends,
6 HWG took me home to his house to stay with his
7 family rather than leaving me to be abandoned at
8 Dr Guthrie's.'

9 He then names a son that he had, who he would play
10 with:

11 HWG must have cleared that with Social
12 Services and staff. There was nothing strange in that
13 arrangement.

14 'All the dorms had names. I think they were named
15 after islands in the Forth. I can't remember the name
16 of the dorm I was in, but it was a larger one, located
17 in the east wing, above the main entrance. I can't
18 remember exactly how many beds there were in my dorm,
19 but I can say that there were more than ten. We each
20 had a single bed with a bedside cabinet with drawers and
21 somewhere we could hang our clothes. There was
22 an almost military approach to our beds and things. The
23 staff would inspect them.

24 'It was all sorts of different aged boys in each of
25 the dorms. There would be boys all mixed in between the

1 ages of ten and 16. For the most part, that was okay.
2 There was a hierarchy amongst the boys in each dorm.
3 I don't remember being bullied by the older boys after
4 lights out. You just put your head down and went to
5 sleep.

6 'The dorm doors weren't locked at nighttime.
7 However, I think the doors that led downstairs might
8 have been locked at night. There were staff members who
9 were on night duty throughout the night. I can't
10 remember who the night staff were or whether the staff
11 I saw during the day took turns. Whoever the staff
12 members were, I think they put their heads into the
13 dorms to check we were behaving through the night. You
14 could go to the toilet through night, but I think you
15 had to knock on the staffroom door to let them know you
16 were doing that.

17 'We had a shower every morning in the shower room.
18 I don't remember having showers any other time. It was
19 an open shower with curtains. I'm not sure whether
20 there were three or four shower heads in the room. It
21 was one boy in, then one boy out. I remember sharing
22 showers with guys who were much older and twice the size
23 of me. They'd have full beards and things. There were
24 always staff members standing there watching us shower.'

25 Then he says he remembers a female member of staff

1 being one of the staff members who did that if she was
2 on duty. Then he says:

3 'I don't know whether that was for our protection or
4 something else.

5 'Meal times were all had in the dining hall. We all
6 went down to eat at the same time. The dining hall was
7 always busy and we would sit along long tables. I think
8 we could sit anywhere we liked. I don't remember
9 whether the staff ate with us, but I do remember that
10 there were always staff present, keeping an eye on us.
11 One of the staff members who did that was LYI .
12 He would parade up and down the hall, making sure we
13 weren't misbehaving.

14 'There was a serving hatch, but I can't remember
15 whether we got our food from that or whether the food
16 was served from a trolley. The food was edible. There
17 was nothing special, but there wasn't anything bad about
18 it either. I was a really fussy eater, but I don't
19 think I ever starved. It was all my kind of food.
20 Everything was fried. I remember spam fritters for some
21 reason. You always got a pudding. I remember there was
22 always a plate of bread on each table with the evening
23 meal. We would always try to make sandwiches with that,
24 which wasn't allowed. I don't remember there ever being
25 an issue if you left anything on your plate. There was

1 always someone else willing to take something you didn't
2 want to eat.

3 'It was like being in the army. We had to polish
4 our shoes every night. Every morning we had to make our
5 beds and tidy our bed area. I can't remember who first
6 showed me how to do all that. I think it was a staff
7 member. All the other boys would keep you right later
8 on. Mr GFC inspected our bed area throughout the
9 whole time I was there. Your drawers had to be set out
10 in a certain way and a certain distance from your bed.
11 Your cupboard door had to be lying slightly open.
12 I remember that Mr GFC used to drop a coin on our
13 beds. If the coin didn't land how it was meant to land,
14 he would make you strip your bed and start again. It
15 was to everybody's benefit to get it right because stars
16 were awarded to those boys in dorms who did get it
17 right. Those stars would in turn would be used at the
18 end of the week to assess whether you got out early for
19 weekend leave.

20 'You were given all your clothes. I can't remember
21 how many sets of clothes we were each given. I wore
22 a black jumper with a grey or white DG on it, horrible
23 looking jeans, horrible green polo shirts and brogues.
24 I think we all wore the same uniform. There may have
25 been a different coloured jumper for each wing, but I am

1 not sure. I think we put our clothes in a basket that
2 would be taken away to the laundry. I can't remember
3 whether we had names in our clothes, whether we all had
4 our own clothes or how the clothes were returned to us
5 from the laundry.

6 'I think you were given pocket money just before you
7 left for weekend leave on a Friday. I think how much
8 you got depended on how good you had been during the
9 week. I don't know how much there was, but there was
10 enough to have bus fares to get back to Dr Guthrie's the
11 following Sunday.

12 'We moved between classrooms during the day. I know
13 that, because I would sometimes use that as
14 an opportunity to run away. I have a slight memory of
15 there being a timetable, so you knew what classes you
16 were in during the day. I don't think there were staff
17 members taking us from class to class. I think you were
18 with the same group of boys throughout the course of the
19 day. There were at least ten boys in each class.
20 I don't remember doing homework after the school day
21 finished.

22 'I think I initially tried to impress during classes
23 at the school, but I don't remember anything special
24 about the classes. There was teaching, but I couldn't
25 really say to what level it was. There were very few of

1 the teachers who really tried to teach you. I think the
2 presumption was that you wouldn't amount to much and we
3 knew that we were never going to amount to much.
4 I remember that half of Mr GWV's English classes were
5 spent listening to the radio. I remember in particular
6 us regularly listening to Our Tune on the Simon Bates'
7 show on Radio 1. That was a regular occurrence and took
8 up half the lesson. There wasn't a lot of work getting
9 done. But, looking back, I do think he tried to teach
10 us at times.

11 'They must have at some stage felt that things were
12 going okay, because they allowed me to attend schools
13 outside of Dr Guthrie's. I attended Gracemount High
14 School. That didn't last very long, because of the way
15 I reacted to that. I was told to go back to
16 Dr Guthrie's after a few weeks.

17 'I think my time came to an end there because of
18 issues that I caused. I was generally playing the class
19 clown. The truth was that I was distracting people away
20 from realising that I couldn't see the blackboard
21 because I was avoiding wearing my glasses. There
22 weren't issues with other pupils; it was more with me
23 not wanting to be there. Looking back, I can't
24 criticise Dr Guthrie's in their approach to my education
25 because they did try to get me into mainstream

1 education.

2 'PE consisted of swimming, playing five-a-side
3 football in the gym, football outside or other things.
4 I think PE happened a couple of times a week. There was
5 a pool table that was inside the dorm I was in. I liked
6 playing pool. There was a television we could watch.
7 That was located in the dorm opposite mine. There might
8 have been books to read, but I chose not to read because
9 it avoided me having to put my glasses on.

10 'I was a smoker right from the start of going to
11 Dr Guthrie's, so I would have been smoking from the age
12 of about 11 years old. During breaks, we would smoke in
13 the Pans. The staff knew that boys smoked, because we
14 were allowed to smoke. When I was there, you were
15 allowed between four and five cigarettes a day. The
16 staff kept them in a box and issued them. I can't
17 remember who bought the cigarettes. I don't know
18 whether permission had to be provided for us to smoke at
19 Dr Guthrie's. I know that was the case at later places
20 I went to.

21 'Occasionally, older boys would steal cigarettes and
22 tobacco off of you in the Pans. There wasn't a lot you
23 could do about that because the boys who did that were
24 quite a lot bigger.

25 'I don't really remember Dr Guthrie's being

1 religious, but they did make you go to church. We went
2 to church every Friday morning, before we got away for
3 home leave. We were taken round to Liberton Kirk. It
4 wasn't optional and we were marched round to the church
5 from Dr Guthrie's. If you were good, you were let out
6 early after attending that. Looking back, the boys
7 attending church was probably done to keep the local
8 minster happy. It meant that he had numbers at his
9 services.

10 'I don't remember any trips or holidays during my
11 time there.

12 'I think they left you a few weeks before you were
13 granted weekend leave. They did that to settle you in.
14 I'm not sure of the timescales surrounding when leave
15 all began and changed for me.'

16 He then says he always wanted to go to his
17 grandmother's house in Wester Hailes, and he says:

18 'I would want to go there, even though she wasn't my
19 legal guardian.

20 'A lot of the time I stayed in Dr Guthrie's over the
21 weekends. Whilst I was good and a lot of the other boys
22 got to go home, I didn't get to go home. I can't
23 remember how far into my time at Dr Guthrie's that set
24 of circumstances started. The reason behind me staying
25 at weekends was mostly because I didn't have anywhere to

1 go to due to problems at home. Dr Guthrie's didn't have
2 anywhere that they were happy to send me. That all
3 began after my mother got remarried to a guy called ...
4 [and he names him]. My mother's house was broken into
5 and I was accused of stealing a video recorder when
6 I hadn't. Because I knew the person who had stolen the
7 video recorder, it was made known to me that I wasn't
8 welcome at their house.

9 'I was informed of that in a meeting at Dr Guthrie's
10 with my mother and ... [he names his stepfather] and
11 **HWG** present. I was pretty much told by my
12 mother that I wasn't welcome. I found all that quite
13 upsetting. Looking back, I think she had probably been
14 placed under pressure by ... [then he names his
15 stepfather] to make that decision.

16 'I've no real memories surrounding birthdays.
17 I can't remember staff wishing me happy birthday or
18 anything like that. The only memory I have is that on
19 one occasion I met my mother in town and she took me to
20 buy some clothes. I think I was 15 or something like
21 that, so that could have been after Dr Guthrie's.
22 I have no memories surrounding Christmas either, in
23 Dr Guthrie's or at home. I have no good memories
24 surrounding Christmas at all.

25 'I only recall being visited twice by my mother

1 during the whole time I was at Dr Guthrie's. The second
2 time was a meeting where she visited with her new
3 husband to say I couldn't go back to the family home.'

4 Then he names his grandmother, and says:

5 'She visited me once or twice. I can't remember
6 anything surrounding how the visits from my relatives
7 were undertaken.

8 'Social Services did keep in touch with me
9 throughout my time in care.'

10 He says his social worker visited him at
11 Dr Guthrie's. He says:

12 'I don't remember his visits clearly, but he would
13 go over things with me. I remember him taking me out on
14 a couple of occasions. A time when he took me to the
15 fish and chip restaurant, Brattisani's, particularly
16 sticks out in my mind.'

17 He says, looking back, he thinks it was his social
18 worker who was fighting his corner throughout the time
19 he was involved with him:

20 'I think he realised that had I shouldn't be at
21 Dr Guthrie's because it wasn't the place for such
22 a small, young boy. I think he realised I wasn't all
23 that bad a kid compared to some of the other boys there.
24 He tried to get me into places like Calder Grove and
25 Northfield because of that. I think he thought that it

1 would be more beneficial to me to get help in those sort
2 of environments, rather than Dr Guthrie's.

3 'I attended some children's hearings during my time
4 at Dr Guthrie's. I can't remember how many in total
5 I went to.'

6 He then states he remembers his social worker and
7 his grandmother being there and that makes him think
8 that perhaps his grandmother might have been recognised
9 as some sort of guardian at some point. He goes on to
10 say:

11 'I remember three panel members deciding what was
12 good for me and what was best for me. I remember my
13 behaviour and where it was best to place me being
14 discussed. It was also discussed how things were
15 going.'

16 'Craig' says there were regular meetings with this
17 **HWG**, but he couldn't say how often. So a staff
18 member:

19 'Although he wasn't my key worker, I dealt a lot
20 with him. I don't know whether he was some sort of
21 senior key worker. Although I never reported anything
22 to him, he seemed to be the one that I would go to for
23 advice. I certainly felt that he was more approachable
24 than anyone else. I'm not sure what the result of those
25 meetings were.

1 'I don't remember there being any inspections during
2 my time at Dr Guthrie's. I didn't really see any people
3 from the outside coming in.

4 'You would go to the medical room if you needed
5 treatment, but I can't recall who it was you saw. There
6 was a time when I was prescribed medication for my bed
7 wetting, but I can't remember who prescribed me that.
8 I don't know whether it was a nurse or a member of staff
9 who was involved. I don't remember seeing a doctor or
10 having any other medicals, other than when I first
11 arrived. There must have been a nurse because I'm sure
12 that there was a medical undertaken when I first went
13 in. I don't recall what happened during that medical.
14 I'm pretty sure there was a nurse, but I don't have
15 clear memories surrounding who that was.

16 'I don't remember going to an optician, but I must
17 have because there were attempts made to help me with my
18 eyesight. I did get given glasses, but I would
19 purposefully either hide them or break them. I just
20 felt really uncomfortable wearing my glasses because
21 they led to me being bullied. Wearing them just
22 prompted things.

23 'I was taken to see a dentist on Dalkeith Road
24 during my time at Dr Guthrie's. The surgery was just
25 down from the Commonwealth pool. It was a very

1 different place back then. I remember the dentist
2 smoking and listening to the radio whilst I was being
3 seen. He knew we were all from Dr Guthrie's and he used
4 to give me a cigarette at the end. The treatment was
5 all fine. I remember getting teeth extracted, but that
6 was after I had things like toothache. I am terrified
7 of dentists now. But, looking back, that particular
8 dentist kind of made me feel relaxed.

9 'I discovered from my records that the first time
10 I ran away from Dr Guthrie's was three days after
11 I first arrived there. I hadn't, before seeing those
12 records, realised that had come so soon. The records
13 also state that I never proceeded to run away again.

14 'That is a lie, because I definitely did run away
15 again. I know that for a fact, because I remember all
16 the different ways I ran away. The absence of notes
17 surrounding those attempts to run away makes me question
18 the reasons behind why they weren't logged. It could be
19 that they'll appear in other records I am yet to
20 recover.

21 'There were a few things that came together to make
22 me want to run away. It became a regular thing for me.
23 If I felt I didn't want to be there, I was gone. I just
24 didn't want to be there and would run away to be away
25 from there rather than to get home. I never had a home

1 as such, so that was the reason more why I would run
2 away.

3 'I was quite devious in how I ran away and would
4 always find a way.

5 'The first time I ran away I escaped when we were
6 walking between classes. I lagged behind, then took the
7 opportunity to jump over a wall into another property.

8 'There was one occasion, during a weekend, when me
9 and another boy ... [and he names him] went out of
10 a fire exit attached to the dorm I was staying in. We
11 waited until the night staff were in another part of the
12 building then took the opportunity.

13 'When I ran away I would usually run to ... [and he
14 names his grandmother's house] in Wester Hailes. She
15 would hide me during periods when I was on the run.
16 Although it wasn't my home, I perhaps felt safer there.
17 Unfortunately, I had a large extended family and they
18 would inform people where I was. That would end up with
19 me being taken back to Dr Guthrie's. It was usually the
20 case that someone would report me. They would phone the
21 police or something like that. My uncles and my aunties
22 were probably just looking out for ... [and he names his
23 grandmother] and trying to stop her becoming involved.
24 There were other times when the police saw me in the
25 street and picked me up. I absconded that often that

1 the police in Wester Hailes came to know me. They would
2 either take me back to Dr Guthrie's or to Howdenhall.
3 Most of the time I was taken back to the police station
4 and collected there by someone or other.

5 'I don't remember anything bad happening after I was
6 returned to Dr Guthrie's. They might stop your weekend
7 leave the following weekend, if you were getting that.
8 I don't remember any punishments beyond that.
9 Sometimes, when I tried to run away, they would call
10 HWG to speak to me. I would speak to him and he
11 would ask me about my concerns.'

12 He then talks about bed wetting at paragraph 78:

13 'I was scared of where I was and that led to me
14 having a problem with bed wetting. I would try and hide
15 that as best I could. I would hope that the sheets
16 would dry out by the morning. They eventually put me on
17 a tablet called Tofranil to try to stop my bed wetting.
18 I'm aware that Tofranil can also be used as
19 an anti-depressant. Looking back, I do wonder whether
20 that was part of why they gave it to me. Maybe if they
21 thought I was relaxed, I'd not wet my bed. The
22 medication either worked or the fear and embarrassment
23 of how they responded to bed wetting, stopped me doing
24 it again. I certainly don't remember doing much bed
25 wetting after taking the medication.'

1 'Craig' then goes on to talk about discipline at
2 Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 69:

3 'I don't remember anyone formally explained to me
4 the rules of the place. I think HWG may have
5 generally told me what the rules were and how I should
6 follow them. He would have basically told me that I had
7 to do what I was told to do and to follow the routine.
8 Staff would generally shout and bawl at you if they
9 wanted to discipline you. You might have your weekend
10 leave taken off of you. I don't remember anything else
11 that they regularly did.

12 'I don't remember being locked up, there being
13 corporal punishment or anything like that. I think that
14 once things started happening you generally just tried
15 to toe the line. I probably did give staff members some
16 cheek, but I can't remember anything specific. I think
17 I ultimately tried not to speak back to them.

18 'Dr Guthrie's was run on a rewards basis. That was
19 obviously done to try and get boys to behave. You were
20 given stars for certain things. I think there was
21 a gold, silver and bronze star you could receive. The
22 better you were, the better it was for you. Teachers
23 could nominate you for things. The staff must have
24 passed the information on in some way about how you were
25 in your dorm or the school.

1 'On a Friday, they would count how many stars you
2 had. If you had a certain amount, you could get out
3 earlier for weekend leave.'

4 LADY SMITH: So that sounds very similar to what was
5 happening more than a decade earlier.

6 MS FORBES: Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: The same system carrying on.

8 MS FORBES: Same system:

9 'It was half an hour or an hour earlier than the
10 time you would normally leave. I think for the dorm
11 I was in, it was GQC who would read it out.
12 I think he did that in our dorm on Friday mornings after
13 breakfast. I think you may also have received slightly
14 more pocket money, depending on how you had behaved
15 during the week. I don't remember stars being taken
16 away from you if you misbehaved.'

17 'Craig' then goes on to talk about abuse at
18 Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 81:

19 'There were both problems with the staff and the
20 other boys at Dr Guthrie's. That all led to me
21 questioning why I was there. There were a number of
22 issues with the staff and that led me to wanting to get
23 away. In many ways, Dr Guthrie's was just a frightening
24 place to me.

25 'Dr Guthrie's had a small swimming pool. We

1 sometimes had swimming at night as an after-school
2 activity. I remember a number of staff members,
3 including KEP [REDACTED], forcing us to swim naked in the
4 swimming pool. I do remember other staff members being
5 there, but I couldn't say which particular staff members
6 other than KEP [REDACTED] were there. We would walk to
7 the swimming pool clothed, strip our clothes off in the
8 cubicles, then go into the pool. I remember some
9 occasions where I wore shorts or trunks, so they must
10 have been available. It could only be that they only
11 had a certain amount or the ones they had wouldn't fit
12 you.

13 'More often than not, we were swimming naked. Being
14 naked was just accepted as being okay. At the age
15 I was, I was barely in puberty and I was being made to
16 swim in front of other older boys. I think that gave me
17 a wee bit of a complex. Looking back, I appreciate that
18 boys would be naked getting changed or during shower
19 times, but the swimming naked thing was one of the
20 things in particular that added up to me having the
21 feeling that I couldn't handle the place.'

22 He then talks about LYI [REDACTED], at paragraph 84:
23 'LYI [REDACTED]'s nickname was LYI [REDACTED] because he had
24 [REDACTED]. He had grey hair. He was quite tall and
25 always wore an old-looking suit. I would guess that he

1 was an older man compared to the other staff members.
2 He was possibly in his 60s. He was always battering you
3 if you did something wrong in the dining hall. He would
4 parade up and down the dining hall and meal times and
5 slap you with an open hand round the back of your head
6 for things like trying to make a sandwich out of your
7 dinner, rather than using your knife and fork. He would
8 say something like, "Don't do that, boy". The slap
9 hurt, but the pain came more from the shock of not
10 expecting it coming than anything else. It wasn't
11 enough to knock you off your seat or anything like
12 that.'

13 'Craig' talks about **KEP**, at paragraph 85
14 onwards:

15 '**KEP** was the PE teacher with the school.
16 He was maybe in his 40s. I didn't like him because he
17 was definitely a bully. I found him quite intimidating.
18 My memories of him surround always being frightened of
19 him and never wanting to go to PE because of that.
20 I was absolutely terrified of him. He would make me
21 feel scared and closed in. His classes were partly why
22 I tried skipping school at Dr Guthrie's and why
23 I started trying to run away.

24 'I remember being pushed about by him. There was
25 a cupboard off the gym. It's where we would have kept

1 all the balls and things like that. If he was angry
2 with you, he would push you into that cupboard, then use
3 it as an opportunity to hit you. I don't know how many
4 times that happened with me, but it happened on at least
5 a couple of occasions. I can't remember what I had
6 done, but I feel that it would have probably been
7 something that would have upset him. I remember him
8 poking me in the chest to get me into the cupboard.
9 I remember him pushing me into that cupboard, bending
10 down and screaming in my face, then slapping me across
11 the face. He would only slap me once. I don't know
12 whether he slapped you in the cupboard on purpose, so
13 that nobody else would see. After slapping me, he would
14 let me out of the cupboard and the class would carry on.

15 'After the first time he slapped me in the cupboard,
16 I remember him pushing me and poking me about a lot
17 more. Whatever I did that first time must have upset
18 him. I have a memory of someone grabbing and nipping my
19 chest, but I am not sure whether that was **KEP**.
20 I might be tying that in with him because I do
21 distinctly remember him poking me in my chest. I found
22 all of that very intimidating.

23 **KEP** was possibly the same with all the
24 boys, but I am just seeing things from my perspective.
25 I don't recall seeing him being physical with other

1 boys, but I did hear him screaming at them when he was
2 angry. I think I didn't see him being physical with the
3 other boys because after the incidents I tried to avoid
4 going to PE.'

5 'Craig' then talks about GQC [REDACTED] from
6 paragraph 89:

7 'GQC [REDACTED] was a bully. He would try and
8 embarrass me in front of the other boys. I had
9 a problem with bed wetting that I would try and hide.
10 I remember on one occasion, GQC [REDACTED] discovering
11 I had wet the bed after I had made my bed. I don't know
12 how he discovered that because I usually tried to hide
13 it. He stripped the bed in front of all the other boys
14 and said something like, "You pissed the bed, boy". All
15 the other boys in the dorm would have heard that. There
16 was no other punishment.

17 'Looking back, I think he purposefully made a point
18 of doing that, so that other boys would hear. It was as
19 if he was trying to embarrass me to stop wetting the
20 bed. He could have taken me aside and had a quiet word,
21 but he didn't. All that did result in me being picked
22 on and bullied by some of the other boys.

23 'There was another occasion when I did something and
24 he humiliated me. It was earlier on during my time at
25 Dr Guthrie's, but I couldn't say the exact age I was.

1 It was an incident involving ... [and he names another
2 boy] that had pulled away a chair as I was sitting down.
3 As I fell I kind of went into a kind of bicycle kick and
4 kicked ... [and he names the other boy]. When
5 GQC [REDACTED] saw that, he pulled down my trousers and
6 pants in front of the other boys in the dorm, put me
7 over his knee and smacked me on my backside. I was only
8 a small boy. The incidents with GQC [REDACTED] are one
9 of the things that made me start to feel intimidated.
10 That, combined with the other things that were happening
11 in Dr Guthrie's, led to me just wanting to get out of
12 there and starting to run away.'

13 'Craig' then talks about GBD [REDACTED] from
14 paragraph 91:

15 'GBD [REDACTED] was maybe in his 40s. I can't
16 remember what his role was, but he was more senior and
17 on the dorm side of things. He had a big, black beard.
18 I remember that he carried a big bunch of keys and wore
19 clogs. They made a noise when he walked. The clogs
20 sounded like they were wooden, but they weren't.

21 'GBD [REDACTED] wasn't really bad to me, but I did see
22 things that he did to other boys I didn't feel was
23 right. He could be a bit of a bully. He was actually
24 quite creepy. Most of what he did was in the smoking
25 room. He would whack boys with a big bunch of keys that

1 he used to carry. He would launch the keys at them. He
2 never did that to me, but I saw him doing that to other
3 boys. I can't remember whether the keys would make
4 contact. If boys were in the smoking room and didn't
5 have any cigarettes, he would make them rub his back
6 with a fob that was attached to his keys and massage his
7 shoulders for cigarettes. He would ask them to do that.
8 If they did, he would give them a cigarette. I didn't
9 experience that, but I did see other boys doing it.
10 I found that all very strange and really creepy.'

11 He then talks about other boys at Dr Guthrie's from
12 paragraph 93:

13 'There were issues with bullying amongst the boys in
14 Dr Guthrie's itself. I recall getting into a few scraps
15 following boys discovering that I wet the bed. That
16 wasn't so much with the bigger boys. The first issue
17 I had was the wetting the bed issue.'

18 Then he names two boys who he says:

19 'Would gang up and call me names like "pish the bed"
20 and "speccy four eyes", that in turn led to fights. I
21 eventually would retaliate. It was difficult when you
22 were placed in that situation. I had to either fight
23 back or opt to take it.

24 'I think the staff once caught me and ... [he names
25 another boy] fighting. They separated us, but nothing

1 further happened. Looking back, the bullying didn't
2 happen too long. Once I started fighting back I think
3 the bullies realised I wasn't going to be a pushover. I
4 continued to get called names by some of the older boys,
5 but that was it.

6 'I was sexually abused by two older boys during you
7 my time at Dr Guthrie's. Fortunately, it only happened
8 to me once. It would have happened some time before
9 I was 13 years old. I would estimate that it happened
10 at some time between January and the summer of 1983. It
11 was on a night when I had been detained over the
12 weekend. I think I had been detained because I wasn't,
13 for whatever reason, able to go to my mum's that
14 weekend. I'm sure it happened on a Friday night.

15 'I would have been quite small when it happened.'

16 He then names the two boys who he says abused him:

17 'I don't want to reveal their surnames or go into
18 the nature of what happened. One of them was quite
19 a bit taller than me, but they were both bigger than me.
20 Looking back, I think they were boys towards the end of
21 their time at Dr Guthrie's who were disturbed. I can't
22 comment on what the staff knew or suspected about those
23 boys. The incident happened in my dormitory.
24 I'm certain that I was the only boy who was sleeping in
25 my dormitory that night. The two boys were in another

1 much smaller dormitory. I remember that the following
2 night, because there were so few boys, we were all moved
3 into another dormitory in the west wing.

4 'It was after that incident that I ran away with ...
5 [and he names another boy]. We escaped down the fire
6 escape the subsequent Saturday night. I never told
7 anyone about what happened because I was ashamed,
8 embarrassed and scared.'

9 He says he never told the boy he ran away with what
10 happened. He states:

11 'I think he ran away with me because he was just
12 looking to run away at that time also.'

13 He then talks about reporting of abuse and says:

14 'I could have discussed what happened with family
15 members, but I don't have any clear memories of that.'

16 He thinks he might have told his grandmother what
17 was happening at Dr Guthrie's when he ran away. Then he
18 says:

19 'GQC [REDACTED] was meant to be my key worker, but,
20 after the incident with him when he slapped my backside,
21 all my trust for him went out the window. I felt that
22 HWG [REDACTED] was really the only person there I could
23 trust. I never talked to him about the abuse I was
24 suffering from the other staff members. I don't know
25 how he would have reacted to that had I spoken to him

1 about it. I don't know whether he was aware that these
2 things were going on. I don't think I spoke to him
3 about the bullying I was suffering. I think that was
4 more because of the areas that I had grown up in.

5 'Growing up in those areas taught you not to grass
6 on people. That was just the way it was. If you
7 grassed someone up, you would just make things worse for
8 yourself. I think because of that, the only way I could
9 deal with things was through running away and avoiding
10 being there.'

11 He then says about leaving Dr Guthrie's at
12 paragraph 100:

13 'I don't remember the occasions when I left
14 Dr Guthrie's during my time as a resident there. That
15 could be partly because there were instances when I ran
16 away and simply was placed elsewhere after I was caught.
17 The last time I attended as a day pupil at the school
18 would have been in the lead-up to [REDACTED] 1985, when
19 Dr Guthrie's [REDACTED]. After that came to an end,
20 I started attending Wellington School as a day pupil
21 instead.'

22 He says he thinks by that time he was in a placement
23 with a lady and he names her:

24 'But it could well have been earlier.'

25 And he names a children's home.

1 LADY SMITH: That's thought to have been a foster placement.

2 MS FORBES: Yes.

3 He then talks about being in Howdenhall, between
4 paragraphs 101 and 138. He says he was there two or
5 three times between [REDACTED] 1982 and [REDACTED] 1985, all
6 for short periods. The first when he was about
7 12-and-a-half or 13, and he would be there after he'd
8 run away or needed to be assessed. And he talks about
9 physical assaults from staff and other boys whilst there
10 and staff encouraging boys to fight and giving them
11 boxing gloves.

12 He was in Dr Guthrie's and children's homes in
13 Edinburgh between being in Howdenhall. He talks about
14 those children's homes in Edinburgh between
15 paragraph 139 and 151. He thinks he was there some time
16 between [REDACTED] 1982 and [REDACTED] 1983. He doesn't
17 know how long he was in the first one, but he was in
18 there longer than a month, but less than six months and
19 there were no issues.

20 In the second one, he thinks he first went there in
21 [REDACTED] 1983, when he was 13 years old, and he thinks
22 he was there for longer, but can't remember. There were
23 no problems there.

24 'Craig' states that he thinks at this time he was
25 going off the rails and this led to him being placed

1 with a woman in Edinburgh, who he names. He talks about
2 that situation between paragraph 152 and 156.

3 'Craig' states that was in ██████████ 1984 and he was
4 there for a few months. Whilst he was there he was
5 still attending Dr Guthrie's as a day pupil, but
6 Dr Guthrie's was shutting down and he started going to
7 Wellington Farm as a day pupil. But 'Craig' states that
8 by the time he was placed with this lady in Edinburgh he
9 was out of control. He was drinking, stealing, the
10 police were involved and he ended up being placed
11 residentially at Wellington Farm. He talks about that
12 between paragraph 157 and 182.

13 He went there at some point before ██████████ 1985 and
14 was there until at least ██████████ 1986. 'Craig' states
15 that HWG ██████████ was there by that point and had moved
16 there from Dr Guthrie's. He says he enjoyed his time
17 there and there were no issues. He learned trades and
18 did a lot of running to keep fit. There was a couple of
19 issues with staff, where keys were thrown and a couple
20 of issues with boys and fighting. He ran away and
21 HWG ██████████ came to pick him up and spoke to him and
22 told him if he kept his head down he could be out in six
23 months.

24 So 'Craig' says he made the decision to turn away
25 from being in care and all the bad stuff he was doing at

1 the time and he managed then to keep out of trouble in
2 the main. He left Wellington after six months.

3 He talks about his life after care between
4 paragraphs 185 and 188. He moved in with his
5 grandmother for about a year. He ended up moving down
6 to Lincolnshire. He stayed with a friend's sister's
7 friend and looked after her son while she was at work.
8 They ended up becoming a couple later and had a child
9 together. By 1988 he was working and 'Craig' says he's
10 pretty much worked every since.

11 They moved together between Edinburgh and
12 Lincolnshire and finally came back to Edinburgh in 2000.
13 And latterly he says he's worked as a facilities manager
14 and in security.

15 In relation to impact, he talks about that from
16 paragraph 189. He says that the impact for him is all
17 mixed together. It's partly to do with his parents,
18 partly to do with his time in care, and that drink and
19 drugs have featured in his life and he has self-harmed.

20 If I could go to paragraph 190 of his statement,
21 there's a part near the end, the last part of that
22 paragraph, where he states:

23 'I think a lot about the incident in Dr Guthrie's
24 where I was sexually abused. I think about that more
25 when I go off the rails, run away and I turn to drink.

1 'Over the time I was in care, I started committing
2 crime with people I met in the institutions I was at.
3 That all started when I was in Dr Guthrie's. My
4 offending could have begun as early as when I was
5 12 years old. I started glue sniffing, taking drugs and
6 getting up to mischief so as I could get money. Looking
7 back, that can't have helped my relationship with my
8 mother and my family. I didn't get into any trouble
9 after leaving care because that was all pretty much
10 behind me. I realised that the next place I would end
11 up, if I did turn to crime again, would have been
12 Saughton. That's where a lot of my friends from care in
13 my neighbourhood had ended up. I didn't want to be
14 there too. I wanted to get out of all that sort of
15 thing and move on.'

16 'Craig' says that his time as a child has affected
17 his relationships and he was with his partner for
18 24 years until they separated in 2015. She has now
19 sadly passed away. He states his son is the most
20 important person in his life and he has a good
21 relationship with him now, but he hasn't been the dad he
22 wanted to be in terms of showing affection.

23 He has a partner now and has a great relationship
24 with her, but still has times when he disappears.

25 'Craig' thinks his time in care has affected his

1 education. He'' didn't leave with any qualifications
2 and his education geared towards trade rather than
3 anything more academic.

4 He states, at paragraph 198 to 199, he hasn't
5 received treatment, but he's hopeful that Future
6 Pathways can help.

7 In relation to reporting abuse, at paragraph 200 to
8 202, he says apart from speaking to the Inquiry he
9 hasn't reported abuse to police or spoken to a solicitor
10 about what happened to him and he just doesn't want to
11 relive what happened to him. He has recovered some of
12 his records of his time in care.

13 Then he talks about lessons to be learned from
14 paragraph 208 to 216 of his statement.

15 I think my intention would have been to read those
16 paragraphs out, which might take a little bit of time.
17 I do know that we have a fixed read-in at quarter past
18 three, so I don't know if we want to break and come
19 back?

20 LADY SMITH: We could break and come back. Let's do that.
21 We'll come back some time around ten past. It won't
22 take you more than five minutes to read those
23 paragraphs.

24 MS FORBES: Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Then we'll go into the fixed read-in at about

1 quarter past. Good.

2 Before I forget, names of people who can't be
3 identified outside this room because of their identities
4 are protected by my General Restriction Order, and we
5 have referred to Mr GFC, HWG, GQC,
6 GBD, KEP and GWV so far this
7 afternoon. Please remember that. Thank you.

8 (3.02 pm)

9 (A short break)

10 (3.10 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: When you're ready, Ms Forbes.

12 MS FORBES: My Lady, we were still at 'Craig's' statement
13 and I was going to the 'Lessons to be learned' section
14 and to paragraph 209. I'm just going to start from
15 about halfway down paragraph 209, where it says:

16 'I don't understand their decision to send me to
17 Dr Guthrie's. I believe I was one of the youngest boys
18 at Dr Guthrie's. I found myself in a place where the
19 other boys were already into drink, drugs, fighting and
20 crime. They were in there for all these reasons.
21 I wasn't in there because I was getting into trouble
22 with the police. I was there purely because I had been
23 skipping school and because my parents didn't want me at
24 home.

25 'As soon as you are in places like Dr Guthrie's you

1 need to pick your group of friends. You can't -- you
2 just can't be left on your own. You go with the gang.
3 I look back to a lot of the things that I did as a kid
4 and I think I shouldn't have been in that environment in
5 the first place. Dr Guthrie's just wasn't the right
6 place to put someone like me at that time. Social
7 Services should have known not to place me in a place
8 like that. All I needed was some help with attending
9 school. However, it was decided that I should be
10 effectively punished repeatedly for five years instead.
11 That decision affected what I was like there and
12 probably changed me for the rest of my life.

13 'There needs to be more of a focus by Social
14 Services on trying to get kids back into a family home.
15 I missed out on that during my time in care. I should
16 have been helped out more in the family home.
17 I appreciate that may not have been possible because of
18 my own family circumstances, but I'm sure that isn't the
19 same for all children in care and their families.

20 'Generally, across all the places I was at, the
21 staff were fine. However, there were also staff members
22 who certainly shouldn't have been in the jobs that they
23 had. Every place I was at, I would wonder to myself
24 whether I was doing something wrong. Almost every place
25 I went to, I was bullied or abused. Staff must have

1 seen the things that were going on. I can't believe
2 that they didn't see the sort of things I experienced.
3 I can't help feeling resentment towards Dr Guthrie's
4 because of the sexual abuse I experienced. Although
5 none of the staff were involved, I was still in their
6 care. I probably wasn't the first to experience those
7 things. There probably are more instances of what I
8 experienced, but that doesn't change things.

9 'There needs to be less children sent away.
10 I appreciate that there will always be some boys who are
11 totally out of control and they need to be removed from
12 the family home and placed into care. However, for the
13 rest, there should be more help in and around the family
14 unit to prevent children from entering the care system.
15 I believe there needs to be better training for staff to
16 understand how to care for children. However, no matter
17 if that training has been provided, if you put a load of
18 children in an environment like Wellington Farm or
19 Dr Guthrie's, there is always going to be bullying and
20 the same mentality that you can't grass. That will
21 never be eradicated in these sorts of places. I don't
22 think there is one magic answer to overcoming the
23 problems I faced when I was in care.'

24 Moving forward to hopes for the Inquiry, in
25 paragraph 217, he states:

1 'Everybody who saw positives or negatives in me
2 after I was placed in care all worked for
3 an institution. I now realise that they didn't really
4 care about me. They cared for me, but not about me.'

5 LADY SMITH: That is a very powerful way of putting matters,
6 isn't it?

7 MS FORBES: Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Succinct. It really captures an important
9 message.

10 MS FORBES: Yes. He goes on to say:

11 'I was just part of the system. The things I
12 experienced and the way I wasn't cared for just should
13 never have happened. I'm sure these things happen all
14 over the world, but at least people are now coming to
15 the realisation that they shouldn't have happened.

16 'In some ways, you blame yourself for the way you
17 were treated. After you are abused, you start to doubt
18 yourself. You question whether you deserved it. You
19 ask whether it was because of things you did. You
20 question why the same things happened in more than one
21 place. When I read my reports, it doesn't sound like
22 I was an angel, but that still doesn't mean that it was
23 appropriate for staff to be physically abusive or to use
24 other boys to be physically abusive towards me.

25 'I initially wasn't going to bother with speaking to

1 the Inquiry. I feel that there were people who might
2 need much more help than myself. I then realised that
3 the Inquiry was so much bigger than just helping
4 individual people or looking at one particular place.
5 That realisation led me to thinking that the people
6 running these places, working in these places or the
7 institutions themselves, needed to be held accountable.
8 Speaking to the Inquiry will hopefully achieve that.'

9 'Craig' has made the usual declaration and signed
10 his statement and it's dated 13 September 2022.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

12 MS FORBES: My Lady, my learned senior, Mr Sheldon, now has
13 a read-in.

14 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this is the statement of
15 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous. The
16 statement reference is WIT-1-000000416. And this
17 applicant wishes to be known as 'Billy'.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 'Billy' (read)

20 MR SHELDON: My Lady, 'Billy' was born in 1956. The records
21 suggest that he was at Dr Guthrie's between
22 [REDACTED] 1968 and [REDACTED] 1969.

23 My Lady, 'Billy' was born in Motherwell and brought
24 up largely in that area. He had a difficult early life.
25 He describes, in paragraph 4, the problems he had at

1 school, because he was left handed. One of, I guess,
2 many left-handed people who at that time were forced to
3 write with their right hand and he just found he
4 couldn't do that and clearly had problems at school
5 because of that, and indeed was insulted and persecuted
6 because of his left-handedness.

7 He also, my Lady, had a difficult family and in
8 particular a difficult mother, who suffered from bipolar
9 disorder, and she would go away for months at a time
10 and, of course, the family thought she had deserted them
11 and his father was also very strict. The father was
12 a lorry driver and clearly away for periods of time as
13 well.

14 While he got school dinners, he was lucky to get
15 a slice of toast for dinner when he got home. So life
16 at home clearly was hard and he himself says in
17 paragraph 7 that he was left to run wild.

18 In paragraph 8, he describes running away from home
19 and not for a couple of days, but for months and living
20 under the primary school floor boards. He says:

21 'I found my own way to survive.'

22 Paragraph 9, when he was caught he was taken to
23 Hamilton Sheriff Court. He thinks there was social work
24 involvement, but can't remember and he can recall police
25 and suited people who were asking questions and taking

1 notes, so they may have been social workers:

2 'The police put handcuffs on me as they were
3 terrified I would run away. In court they took them off
4 me, but when they came in to take me away the handcuffs
5 were on again.'

6 He was sent to a remand home in Blantyre before
7 going back to court to be sentenced. He seems to have
8 been in this remand home for about six months.

9 On the particular day he went to court, he says he
10 thinks there were four or five other boys in the minibus
11 going to court. He says:

12 'I don't know what happened to them. When I was
13 sentenced I was put into Dr Guthrie's School for Boys
14 for three years when I was nine-years old.'

15 Pause there. My Lady, the records suggest it would
16 have been slightly later than that. He would have been
17 about 11 when he first went to Dr Guthrie's.

18 LADY SMITH: Nine would have been very young for
19 Dr Guthrie's, I think.

20 MR SHELDON: Yes. He would have been, I think, nearly 12,
21 but not quite.

22 LADY SMITH: So probably 1967 rather than 1965.

23 MR SHELDON: Thereabouts, yes.

24 He then says that he was at a local secondary school
25 for six months and then in Aberdeen at Oakbank and was

1 there for two years until he was 15. The timing
2 suggests that is about right.

3 In the next few paragraphs, he talks about his
4 experiences at the remand home and, on the whole, it
5 doesn't seem to have been a bad experience, particularly
6 after the deprivations at home and when running away.

7 I think it is perhaps worth looking briefly at
8 paragraph 18, about his visit to court and the aftermath
9 of that. This appears to have been when he was, in his
10 words, sentenced. He says he remembers the judge and
11 lawyers:

12 '... and me standing in the box. I just answered
13 yes to everything. I don't think I was in there five
14 minutes. I did break into the school and I did steal
15 pints of milk, so I was found guilty and I was sentenced
16 to one to three years in an Approved School. They took
17 me back to the remand home, then put handcuffs on me
18 again and put me into a jailer's wagon with these men.
19 They were all chained together. They took me to
20 Barlinnie Prison, because all the men were going there.
21 So we got there and the men went in and I was left in
22 this van myself, handcuffs on, chained to the wall of
23 the van. I can't remember seeing my parents at the
24 court. I don't think I had legal representation. All
25 the questions were directed at me.'

1 My Lady, he seems to have been -- had all these
2 experiences having stolen a pint of milk. At
3 paragraph 20, he starts to talk about his experiences of
4 Dr Guthrie's, and he says:

5 'My first impression of Dr Guthrie's was that I was
6 quite surprised at the size of it. It looked huge.
7 I think it schooled about 120 boys. There were four
8 dormitories with about 25 to 30 in each. There were
9 baby dorms downstairs. It was for younger kids who
10 slept in bunk beds. The place was only for kids up to
11 12 years old. At 12, you got kicked out to your local
12 high school.'

13 Again, my Lady, I'm not sure that's necessarily
14 right. In that period there seems to have been slightly
15 older boys there. But, at all events -- and I'm sorry
16 I should have read on:

17 'They took on 12 to 15 year olds and as soon as you
18 were 15 you were out to get a job. They tried to train
19 you for work. They taught you how to cook, real chef
20 work, joinery, gardening work and forestry. It was
21 a place called Oakbank up in Aberdeen. I was a chef and
22 I wanted to do this, but I ended up being a blacksmith.
23 When I was there, I was up at six in the morning making
24 the breakfast, a huge pot of porridge. This was after
25 Guthrie's.'

1 LADY SMITH: That should probably say there was a place
2 called Oakbank out there, probably that has come to his
3 mind as he's talking about Dr Guthrie's.

4 MR SHELDON: It looks as though he went to Oakbank when he
5 was probably about 13.

6 LADY SMITH: Mm-hmm.

7 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 21:
8 'There was a very large dining room where the 120
9 boys went to eat. There were four lines of tables
10 representing the four houses.'
11 He names the houses as Belhaven, Stone House, DL
12 House and Argyll. I think we have heard a few different
13 names for the dormitories, my Lady, but that's his
14 recollection:
15 'There was a giant, big hall where we all went in
16 the morning for assembly. We sang a hymn, someone
17 played the organ, I can't remember who, praised the
18 Lord, then went to school. Some of the boys did lessons
19 like English, maths and geography. There was another
20 subject, but I can't remember what it was. The other
21 boys did joinery, worked in the kitchen, the laundry
22 room, some learnt to be artists. They were teaching
23 art. That was your day.
24 'There was a gym and a swimming pool. Hearts and
25 Hibs players used their gym and their pool. They would

1 be in the pool and we would jump in and try to land on
2 top of them because we all supported Motherwell
3 and Rangers.

4 'The staff had their own private offices. The only
5 person who stayed overnight was SNR
6 Mr GZP. He stayed there with his wife. I know he
7 had two daughters and I think one son. You walked down
8 a big hall and there was

9
10
11

12 'There was a football field within big grounds,
13 which were surrounded by an eight-foot stone wall. The
14 gate was left open and you could have ran away any time.
15 I began to settle down a bit, but that was at the start.
16 By the time I left I thought: thank God I'm out of
17 there.

18 'I made friends.'

19 He names various of his friends and why they got the
20 nicknames that they did.

21 At paragraph 26, he recounts that they used to smoke
22 tea leaves:

23 'They put it into big cotton bags and tied it.
24 That's what the tea was made in. I would steal the tea
25 and roll it in the see-through toilet roll that you had

1 in those days. It was disgusting. We would buy
2 tobacco, but they were always searching you and if you
3 were caught with it you got punished, so it was easier
4 stealing tea leaves and toilet rolls.'

5 Talking about routine, he says:

6 'When I went to Dr Guthrie's the first person I met
7 was the matron. I can't remember her name. I didn't
8 know what to expect. They just told me I'd been
9 sentenced to one to three years and I was there my full
10 sentence.

11 'When I arrived they took all my clothes off me.
12 I was stripped naked and given a uniform. All the
13 clothes had a number on them.'

14 He gives his number:

15 'Shoes, socks, pants, vest, even the hanky and your
16 bedding had your number on it. The uniform was brown
17 corduroy shorts and jerkin with a shirt and tie. You
18 didn't have to keep the tie on, but you were given one.
19 They checked me for nits with a bone comb. I showered
20 before I put the clothes on. I think there were ten
21 showers in a line.

22 'There was a night watchman in each wing and he
23 slept at the side of the dorm. He would get you up in
24 the morning by clapping his hands and telling you to get
25 up. He would go from dormitory to dormitory. On one

1 side you would have Belhaven and DL and on the other you
2 would have Stone House and Argyll. There were two
3 different night staff on, one on each side. If you got
4 up during the night for the toilet, you knew he was
5 sleeping if his door was shut, so you would go down to
6 the toilet without saying anything.

7 'We got up about 7 o'clock. We came out of the
8 dorm, turned right and there were seven stairs down. It
9 was then a flat corridor all the way to the next wing.
10 If you went seven stairs up, you were there. As you
11 went downstairs, on the right-hand side was the shower
12 room and the toilets. On the other side was where the
13 young ones were. Both wings had their own showers. It
14 was an exact replica. We got up, pyjamas off, towel
15 over the shoulder and lined up, then ran down to the
16 showers. All the showers were going, but they were
17 freezing cold. You had to run through the showers and
18 out the other end. You then had to brush your teeth.
19 Your toothbrush had your number on it, too.

20 'After you cleaned your teeth, you went back up to
21 your dorm and put your uniform on. We didn't have other
22 clothes. You were in your uniform every day. I think
23 your pants, vests and socks got laundered two or three
24 times a week.

25 'We went on parade every morning before breakfast.

1 We were all in line and marched like soldiers. We were
2 trained to march. Sometimes the headmaster took the
3 parade, sometimes one of the night staff. I can't
4 remember how they did it, but they had a headcount.

5 'We had an assembly every morning where we just sang
6 one hymn. That must have been before breakfast because
7 after breakfast you would zoom to your class.

8 'The doors were locked at night. There were no bars
9 on the windows, but they were quite high up. I had to
10 stand on my bed to see outside. The dormitories were on
11 the second floor. Bedtime was about 8.30. We had a hot
12 shower with shampoo and hot soapy water before bed.
13 Lights out at the back of nine.

14 'The food was all right. You couldn't complain.
15 The best presented table got to eat first. You all had
16 to sit straight with your arms folded until they shouted
17 "eat". There were no issues with not eating the food,
18 but everybody always ate. If you finished there was
19 always extra food. It was left on trays and in pots.
20 So if it was mince and potatoes or macaroni and chips we
21 would eat quickly and they would shout: anyone want
22 extras?'

23 They could run to the food and slap it on to their
24 plate:

25 'We had porridge and cornflakes in the morning,

1 although no Rice Krispies or Coco Pops in those days.
2 Tea and toast as well.'

3 He says the food was fine:

4 'At 10 o'clock you had a break and had tea or water
5 and they gave out chits which were for half a slice of
6 bread. You would ask for one chit or two and get half
7 a slice or a slice of bread. You would go to the dining
8 hall for lunch, then the parade yard for about half
9 an hour. The bell would go and you ran to school
10 classes.'

11 He's already talked a little bit about washing and
12 bathing, my Lady, and I'll move on to the question of
13 schooling. He says at paragraph 37:

14 'The school was in a different block from the
15 dormitories and it was only ten paces away. It was
16 trained teaching staff. They reminded me of my primary
17 school staff, but a lot better. I was in a class of
18 boys my age. I stayed with the same boys for my three
19 years there. We went into our class and the teachers
20 came to us. We didn't move around classes. Mr GFG
21 was my English teacher. He was a nice guy. My spelling
22 wasn't too good and he took the time to teach me. He
23 never gave me a bollocking or hit me. He just took time
24 and he had an understanding.

25 'I don't know if Mr GFG was allocated to look after

1 me. You always remembered the bad things and the really
2 good things, but you can't remember the in between
3 things. He was always checking on me. I couldn't swim
4 and I was picked up by the gym teacher and thrown in the
5 pool. I nearly drowned and panicked trying to get out.
6 That's how I learned to swim. I was thrown in. When
7 that happened I went away crying. But, after that,
8 I could swim like a fish. The next day, when I went
9 into class, Mr GFG asked me what happened the day
10 before and I told him I was crying. He said he would
11 speak to the gym teacher and I saw him speaking to him
12 and pointing his finger at him. I don't know if he was
13 giving the gym teacher a hard time.

14 'He used to take me to his mother's house in
15 Edinburgh. She looked after me like I was one of her
16 own. She was an old woman who stayed in a big mansion.
17 I don't know where in Edinburgh it was but she had
18 servants downstairs, that's how much money she had.

19 'The art teacher was called LYI. You
20 walked into his class and he didn't even look at you.
21 He would just say, "Morning", without looking up. He
22 didn't teach you anything. We had to call the teachers
23 "sir". They could call you by your first name. You
24 knew when you were in trouble if you were called by your
25 number.'

1 He names another teacher:

2 '... who taught us everything we needed to know and
3 how to survive. He had apparently been an [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]. Don't ask me what he was meant to teach. We
5 communicated with him in Morse code. We did that better
6 than we could read. The guy was out of this world. He
7 had a big, giant sword, which he showed to us in class.
8 He was a brilliant teacher. We went to school five days
9 a week.

10 'The gym teacher was called GIC [REDACTED]. I can't remember
11 his surname. He says he got the nickname GIC [REDACTED]
12 GIC [REDACTED] because one night he was looking in at the
13 gym and he was coming back to the dormitories. He was
14 doing a nightshift to look after us and he had half
15 a bottle of whiskey in his back pocket and he slipped,
16 fell and smashed the bottle and had to be rushed to
17 hospital with glass in his backside. If you did
18 anything wrong, he would punch you in the face, head
19 anywhere. It wasn't a clip around the ear; it was
20 a really hard punch. He wore trainers and he would kick
21 you up the backside. Not a little kick; he booted you.
22 I saw that happening all the time. He was bad tempered
23 and I think it was due to the alcohol. You could smell
24 it from him. He was an older guy, the one who threw me
25 in the pool. He was also one of the guys who did the

1 nightshift.

2 'I remember him in his room with his flask, piece
3 box, a half bottle and a glass. He didn't try to hide
4 it really. He would turn the bottle round, so you
5 didn't see the label, but you saw it was a whiskey
6 colour.

7 'I never saw the teachers using the belt once.
8 I thought they were brilliant and I took everything in.
9 There was a lesson on how to write a letter. Mr GFG
10 would tell us how to do this, how to present it well and
11 make sure it was right. I think he enjoyed looking
12 after boys. If you wrote home, you had to give it to
13 Mr GFG and he would read it and shout you up and ask
14 you if you were sure you wanted to put everything in it,
15 like if you had mentioned you had been fighting or
16 misbehaving, things like that. He would make you
17 rewrite it until it was perfect. That's what I liked
18 about him, he had the patience to teach you. I thought
19 the main teachers were excellent.

20 'I ended up leaving the classroom and they put me in
21 the kitchen, as they saw I was getting unsettled again.
22 I worked in the kitchen full-time. I was up at
23 6 o'clock in the morning, making the breakfast until
24 after supper time at night. I loved it. Done
25 everything. Even washed all the dishes. I went into

1 school occasionally. The little woman in the kitchen --
2 I can't remember her name -- told me I would have to go
3 to school some days because the Inspectorate were
4 coming. This happened every six months or so. I would
5 go into Mr GFG's class and he would give me a wink to
6 thank me. A group of people would come in and watch us,
7 see what we were doing and ask questions, then go.
8 I would then go back into the kitchen. Not everyone had
9 jobs.'

10 He talks a bit about leisure time. He says he used
11 to go to gym or art class:

12 '... in your own time. There was no Scouts or Boys
13 Brigade. They used to play 60 aside murderball. If you
14 got the ball you would get rid of it right away or you
15 would have a pile of boys on top of you. There were one
16 or two boys who got broken legs, just because of
17 everyone on top of them.'

18 He says there were plenty of books to read, too.

19 Paragraph 45:

20 'They would take us on cross-country runs. We ran
21 to Gilmerton and somewhere near some cliffs or hills.'

22 Possibly Braid Hills, my Lady.

23 LADY SMITH: It must have been.

24 MR SHELDON: 'I had been doing it for over two years and
25 there were a lot of new people. I led for quite a bit

1 and got to a certain corner and pointed to the rest to
2 go a wrong way. The teachers went mad. I was back for
3 ages before the rest of them.'

4 He says that the headmaster's office area and other
5 offices were out of bounds. He doesn't remember if he
6 got pocket money, but thinks they did and there were
7 a little set of shops across the road that he could jump
8 across to get sweets and get a newspaper for the
9 headmaster in the morning.

10 There were camping trips and hillwalking, potato
11 picking at the weekend:

12 'There was always the gymnasium and swimming pool
13 and you would learn trampolining, basketball and
14 badminton.'

15 They played basketball against other schools and
16 says they did quite well. He loved the basketball.

17 At paragraph 48, he talks about the summer camp in
18 Dunbar, which we have heard some evidence about already.
19 He says that the school actually owned the place. There
20 was a big kitchen, canteen place and they slept in old
21 army tents.

22 He describes some of the activities that they were
23 taken on, like sheep shearing, picking whelks from the
24 rocks and they could cook the whelks in big cans, which
25 meant that they wouldn't need their dinner afterwards.

1 He says the camp would get a call every morning from
2 the coastguard and they would tell you if it was safe to
3 pick the whelks. They could even tell you if they were
4 unwell. I presume he means the whelks.

5 LADY SMITH: I think so.

6 MR SHELDON: He says he spent Christmas at the school. They
7 had a party and a big Christmas tree. All the staff
8 were there with their wives:

9 'We got a present of a big selection box and a book.
10 On your birthday, they just sang happy birthday to you.
11 Every morning the teacher would ask if it was anyone's
12 birthday and if it was everybody would stand up and sing
13 to him. GFG , Mr GFG , done that sort of thing.
14 There was no card, present or cake. I didn't ever get
15 anything from my parents while I was there.'

16 Over the page, he says he never saw his parents when
17 he was there and had no contact with any of his
18 siblings:

19 'When the Inspectorate came to visit they would ask
20 you how you were getting on. They asked if you liked it
21 there and if they were good to you at the school. It
22 wasn't like they do now and just drop in. It was always
23 announced.

24 'I had a review after I'd been there for 18 months.
25 I was sent to the headmaster's office and he told me

1 there was a meeting. I went with him to a big office
2 and there were six people there, like a Parole Board.
3 They sat round this table and asked me lots of
4 questions. They were there to assess me as to whether
5 I could get back to do my parents and the local school.
6 They asked if I would like to go back and live with them
7 and I said no. That was the end of it. They knew if
8 I went home I would run away again. That was the only
9 panel in the three years I was there.'

10 My Lady, it does seem as though he was really there
11 for about 18 months or 20 months, something like that.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR SHELDON: He says he got home the odd Saturday. He would
14 take the bus home and then the train back to
15 Dr Guthrie's the next day. He did that about half
16 a dozen times, but otherwise his friend and he were kept
17 at the home most weekends, because he didn't like going
18 home.

19 Paragraph 54, talking about healthcare. He can't
20 remember ever seeing a doctor or dentist while he was
21 there. He was always fit:

22 'The matron looked after you for any minor ailments
23 or injuries.'

24 He thinks they had a wee room with four or five beds
25 in it for kids who got measles or things like that.

1 One of the things he says he hated about the matron
2 was that every six months you had to queue up naked
3 outside her room:

4 'She would shout you in three at a time and use this
5 six-inch paint brush and a bucket with what we just
6 called white paint. But it was disinfectant or
7 something like that. She put the white stuff all over
8 you. We would shower, run down the stairs, get this
9 done, wait until it dried, then run up and put our
10 pyjamas on.'

11 LADY SMITH: Have we been able to discover what this was,
12 Mr Sheldon?

13 MR SHELDON: No, my Lady. The best I can think of would be
14 either some kind of nit cream or for a skin disease.

15 LADY SMITH: Scabies.

16 MR SHELDON: Something like that.

17 LADY SMITH: Possibly. We are now in the late 1960s. I did
18 hear about the nuns using Jeyes Fluid, but that was
19 earlier.

20 MR SHELDON: Yes. 'Billy' is not describing this in terms
21 that it was a painful experience, just that it was
22 perhaps --

23 LADY SMITH: Weird. Yes.

24 MR SHELDON: Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 57, he says:

2 'If you ran away you would stick out like a sore
3 thumb with your brown school corduroy suit on. I did
4 run away once with a friend who also came from
5 Motherwell. We were going back to school on the train
6 on a Sunday, having been home for the night and he said
7 he didn't want to go back. So we ran away into
8 Edinburgh but we were sick of running about back gardens
9 and houses so we went back to the school. That was
10 about midnight. Everyone was in bed so we had to knock
11 on the door. We said our train was late and the buses
12 weren't running so we had to walk. We saw the
13 headmaster the next day and got a roasting. It was very
14 rare for someone to run away. You were well looked
15 after.'

16 He says he didn't wet the bed but some boys did:

17 'The staff never gave them a bollocking but we were
18 embarrassed. We would be on parade outside every
19 morning and whoever done the parade would shout, "Any
20 bed wetters?" The bed wetters would be at the back of
21 everyone so that nobody would see them and put their
22 hands up. They would then have to go and get rubber
23 sheets and come out on to the parade ground with the
24 rubber sheet over their shoulder. Their bed sheets
25 would be laundered. There were full-time laundry staff

1 on.'

2 He then goes on to speak about abuse and he says
3 that it was always GZP that belted you:

4 'If any teacher had an issue they would report you
5 to GZP. They didn't belt you. The way he
6 belted me he should have got the jail. It was a thick
7 leather belt. When I first got it I would get a double
8 hander and I got it three times over the hands.

9 'When GZP assaulted me it was six of the
10 best, that's what he called it, over the bare backside.
11 I knew I was in trouble. He had said he wanted to see
12 me after my shower when I had my pyjamas on. I had to
13 go down to his office. It was a sports day and I had
14 called a guy a cheating bastard and GZP had
15 heard me swearing. I got six of the best over the bare
16 backside. Then he began interfering with me, almost
17 immediately after whacking me. He touched my privates.
18 I was in floods of tears and was crying all over his
19 desk. SNR was Mr GZP. It was so sore.
20 When I went up to bed I could hardly walk. I remember
21 the janitor was the night watchman that night. He was
22 another lovely little man. He asked me what happened
23 and I told him about the belt, but I couldn't tell him
24 what else happened. He asked to see and I showed him.
25 He looked like he was upset and he tucked me in and

1 I had to lie on my belly. I couldn't lie on my back.
2 I know he was upset, but I don't know if he had reported
3 it. It had happened about three or four times before
4 the sports day incident. Mr GZP just leathered you
5 like a piece of meat.

6 'It was always GZP and I was always on my
7 own. On the last occasion, I heard these funny noises
8 come from him like when you were turned on, like
9 a pleasure groan. This was as he belted me and as he
10 interfered with me. I don't know how nobody heard him.
11 He grabbed my private parts and rubbed himself up
12 against my backside. He had an erection and he put his
13 fingers up my backside. This happened on four
14 occasions. He tried to get me to give him oral sex, his
15 trousers were down, but I pretended I was going to be
16 sick. After that, he said, right, pyjamas on and bed.
17 The next day, when we were on parade he looked at me and
18 gave me a bollocking for no reason. He shouted my
19 number and said, "Pay attention", I was standing to
20 attention and being as still as I could.

21 GZP thrashed me over the bare backside
22 on two occasions when I had been caught smoking tea
23 leaves. He just said, so it's you again, and it was
24 down with my pyjamas again. My mate told me he had been
25 belted but not like me. That night when I told them and

1 they asked to see it, I showed them. The next morning
2 all the boys saw the marks on my backside in the showers
3 and were asking what happened. I told them I got the
4 belt for swearing. I wasn't aware of Mr GZP's
5 reputation before I went into his office. Even the
6 teachers didn't like him because he was so strict. He
7 died the night after he assaulted me. He died in his
8 sleep. I don't know the cause.

9 'The only other person that hit me was
10 GC who punched me in the face. I thought
11 my jaw was broken. He would do this any time you
12 misbehaved or booted you up the backside which really
13 hurt.

14 'The music teacher's name was GVI. We
15 called him GVI. We hated him. I learned to play the
16 flute in his class. He would lean over your shoulder
17 when you were playing and breathe in your ear. He had
18 two or three boys that were his favourites and they were
19 called his bum boys. They were always with him.
20 I can't prove anything but we were all sure there was
21 something going on.

22 'I was placed in a padded cell for two weeks. There
23 was nothing in the room, not even a bed. There was
24 a window but I was too short to see out of it. The
25 walls, floor and ceiling were padded and when I walked

1 on the floor it was so thick I bounced a little. I
2 slept on the floor in my pants. The only person I saw
3 in the two weeks was the lady that brought me my meals.
4 I was given a jar to use when I needed the toilet.
5 I can't remember why I was put in there. I'm not sure
6 if it's because they thought I would run away.'

7 On reporting of abuse, he says:

8 'I had a good friend who was the only one I could
9 talk to. He was at school with me in Motherwell and he
10 followed me to Oakbank. I told him about the abuse but
11 I can't remember telling anyone else. I was terrified
12 to tell people. I thought Mr GZP would kill me if he
13 found out. Another reason I didn't tell anyone was
14 because if I ever told my dad someone had done something
15 to me he would call me a liar. It was a combination of
16 everything. You were embarrassed to tell people, you
17 don't think you would be believed and it terrifies you.

18 'After I had run away from the home for about six
19 months I was at home in bed and the doctor came to see
20 me. I don't know his name. My parents had taken all my
21 clothes off in case I ran away again so I was in bed
22 naked. The doctor checked me over. He took my
23 heartbeat and things and my mum and dad were standing at
24 the bedroom door. I heard the doctor saying "your son
25 is" and he put his fingers to his head, meaning I had

1 mental health problems. Nobody believed you.

2 'At the Panel in Dr Guthrie's I couldn't tell
3 anyone. GZP [REDACTED] was with these people in the
4 room. I had already been belted and molested by him.

5 'On my 12th birthday or a week or two later, [it
6 might have been a year after that, my Lady, or perhaps
7 not quite] I signed a form in an office, got my bus
8 fare, new trousers and shoes and I left. They took me
9 into the office and told me I was of an age to leave and
10 go home and go to secondary school. I think it was the
11 headmaster that told me. I went home, went to secondary
12 school for six months then that was me. They locked me
13 up again in Aberdeen. I couldn't mix. It just wasn't
14 the same atmosphere.

15 'One of the problems when I went home it was the
16 same situation. There was never anybody there. My mum
17 would disappear for a couple of weeks at a time, I
18 didn't know she was bipolar and would get locked up.
19 I thought she didn't love me. I would come home and she
20 wasn't there and my father was working. I had to run to
21 the other side of Motherwell to my grandfather's to get
22 school dinner money for myself and my siblings. There
23 was no money in the house. You couldn't even make
24 a sandwich. My grandpa gave me half a crown and that
25 paid for three school dinners.'

1 He says he came to the attention of the police again
2 because he had just been released from a previous place
3 and he was locked up again and sent to Oakbank School in
4 Aberdeen. He says he thinks it was in a prison van but
5 there were no adults in it this time and taking that
6 short, my Lady, he seems to have had a fairly good
7 experience at Oakbank. He doesn't describe any
8 significant abuse and he is reasonably complimentary
9 about the staff.

10 Page 26, paragraph 103, he leaves Oakbank and says
11 that the school gave him a fiver to help him out and he
12 got the train back home. And he was then able to start
13 work as an apprentice blacksmith on the Monday:

14 'I did a five-year apprenticeship and thought that
15 was me, a journeyman, but I was then told I had to do
16 a further two years of improvement so it took me seven
17 years to get my papers as a tradesman.'

18 He says he got married young, was married for ten
19 years before they both realised they were too young.
20 And his wife and he moved down to England and he got
21 a job there, but they moved back up when she became
22 homesick and he got another job with the same firm he'd
23 worked for before.

24 He had two children, one of whom sadly died aged 43,
25 and he says that he had always worked as a blacksmith

1 mostly with companies, but he was self-employed for
2 a while and is now in another relationship.

3 He says that he looked after his mother for her last
4 four years. She had dementia. His father died years
5 before his mother and she was on her own.

6 In relation to impact, paragraph 112, he says:

7 'I used to think when I got out everything would get
8 back to normal. I don't know if that's the right term
9 and I don't know what normal is. I consider myself as
10 unorthodox, I'm a bit of an anarchist. But I try to
11 think: what is normal? I have to think what to say to
12 people. I take my time. I have to answer them in the
13 right way. When I'm in company I talk my head off. I
14 speak all the time but I'm a nervous wreck. I have low
15 mood swings and I shut down and shut everyone out.

16 'I'm still waking at the crack of dawn to get
17 a paper, like at Dr Guthrie's but I get mine delivered.
18 When I was fit I would be up every morning at six to get
19 my paper then back up the road again.

20 'Everything is regimental in my kitchen. All my
21 tins are lined up ... even in the freezer in my house
22 everything is all organised.'

23 He says he was awfully strict with his children
24 before he split up with their mother. He says:

25 'I was a disciplinarian, but I never hurt them once

1 and never lifted a belt to them. I would give them a
2 bollocking, but then try to talk to them.'

3 He says at paragraph 116:

4 'I have flashbacks and dreams. It's just flashes
5 and as I get older they have slowed down. It was the
6 belt coming down. I don't know if it was the belt at
7 primary school for being left handed or the double
8 handers or over the backside. Even my dad used to use
9 his army webbing belt on me. That's all I've been
10 tortured with since I was young.

11 'I'm too scared to speak to the doctor about things
12 like that. I've been diagnosed with cognitive
13 impairment.'

14 He says he ended up in hospital with a brain
15 haemorrhage. He says he's been in contact with
16 Future Pathways for about six months since he applied to
17 give evidence to the Inquiry. He says he's never
18 reported what happened to him to anybody:

19 'I haven't spoken to anyone about it. I've told the
20 Inquiry all these things and I don't know if I will be
21 believed or not. That's why I haven't told anyone.
22 I have a referral with Birthlink to access my records
23 which is being activated'.

24 He says he would like to know if there was social
25 service involvement.

1 Under lessons to be learned, he says:

2 'I just wish the people in authority would listen to
3 young people before they condemn them, before they make
4 decisions. If you're in doubt you'll always be in
5 doubt. You've got to be positive. Now I'm always
6 doubting everything people tell me. It's hard for me to
7 trust people. I've a lot of worries how people will
8 take what I'm saying, whether I've upset people or will
9 I be believed. Nobody ever sat down and spoke to me
10 right throughout my childhood.'

11 And he has given the usual declaration, my Lady, and
12 signed the statement.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Sheldon.

14 It's nearly 4 o'clock, so I think we'll finish there
15 for today.

16 Plans tomorrow, as I understand, are two witnesses
17 in person and some read-ins again.

18 MR SHELDON: Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking the two witnesses in
20 person are still lined up for the morning or is one in
21 the afternoon?

22 MR SHELDON: Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Two in the morning.

24 Otherwise, some names I haven't yet mentioned of
25 people whose identities are covered by my General

1 Restriction Order and mustn't be identified outside this
2 room: Mr GZP, Mr GFG, and GIC nicknamed as
3 GIC.

4 So that's everything for today. Thank you both very
5 much and I'll sit again at 10 tomorrow.

6 (3.58 pm)

7 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
8 on Thursday, 30 May 2024)

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11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

INDEX

PAGE

'John' (sworn)1
 Questions by Ms Forbes2
'Mij' (affirmed)76
 Questions by Mr Sheldon77
'Craig' (read)131
'Billy' (read)175

