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Friday, 31 May 2024

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning.

MR SHELDON: Good morning, my Lady. We have a live witness
this morning. He's anonymous and wishes to be known as
'Billy'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Let's get going.

'Billy' (sworn)

LADY SMITH: 'Billy', on the desk there's a red folder that
has your signed statement in it, so it will be available
for you to refer to, if you would find that helpful.
We'll also bring parts of the statement up on the screen
as we go to them and in the course of your evidence, so
you can have that there as well. Although if you prefer
to have that switched off, just tell me.

A. No, it looks pretty good. Aye, it's big. I can see it.

LADY SMITH: I'm with you on that. I do understand.

'Billy', otherwise, I really appreciate you coming
here today to help us with your oral evidence. Your
statement of course is already evidence before the
Inquiry. I've been able to read it and that's really
good. It's helped me to understand what you have to
say, but hearing from you in-person is going to make it
even better.

I know it's difficult to have agreed to do what

1 you're doing here, to come into a public place and
2 answer questions that are very personal to you, about
3 your life, particularly your life when you were very
4 young and things were not great. I do understand that.

5 A. Still not.

6 LADY SMITH: Still not great. Yes, I see that. We'll be
7 asking you about that as well, 'Billy'.

8 Sometimes people think they can cope, they can do
9 it, it's all going to be fine, it will be a breeze and
10 they'll breeze in and breeze out. But it can take you
11 by surprise. It can be quite upsetting to talk about
12 these things; I fully appreciate that. I do understand.
13 I understand, for example, people sometimes just need
14 a breather or they sometimes just want to grab some
15 tissues and cope sitting where they are.

16 I can accommodate whatever will work for you. If it
17 helps you give your evidence as well as you can, you
18 just speak up. If you don't understand what we're
19 asking you or why we're asking you what we're asking,
20 that's our fault not yours, so don't hesitate to ask us;
21 all right?

22 A. Okay. I might get a wee bit upset and a wee bit
23 agitated. It's just natural. It doesn't mean badness,
24 you know.

25 LADY SMITH: I do appreciate that. Sometimes people want to

1 shout, that's fine by me. If it helps you to help us
2 with your evidence, you do it, whatever way works for
3 you; all right?

4 A. Thank you.

5 LADY SMITH: All right. Mr Sheldon.

6 Questions by Mr Sheldon

7 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

8 Good morning, 'Billy'. Lady Smith has said your
9 statement is up on the screen. You are welcome to look
10 at that or you can look at the version of the statement
11 in the red folder in front of you. It's entirely up to
12 you.

13 I'm going to be going through your statement just to
14 take some bits from it and ask you about it, and just
15 generally to get your story and the story that you tell
16 very compellingly in your statement.

17 There are a couple of formalities. The first one is
18 if we can look at the last page of your statement,
19 please, that's page 27. You have said in paragraph 108:

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

24 Is that right 'Billy'?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And is that your signature?

2 A. That's my signature, yes.

3 Q. Thanks very much. Just another formality, you don't

4 have to worry about it, but just to read in the

5 reference of your statement for our records. It's

6 WIT-1-000000673.

7 'Billy' I don't need your date of birth, but I think

8 you were born in 1961; is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. And you tell us that you grew up in the Gilmerton area

11 of Edinburgh?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Quite a large family?

14 A. Yes. A broken family.

15 Q. I was just going to ask you about that. I think your

16 dad left you when you were very young; is that right?

17 A. I was two.

18 Q. Your mum formed another relationship --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- with another gentleman. You tell us, page 2 of your

21 statement, but you say it was quite a poor family. From

22 what I think you're telling us -- but I don't want to

23 put words in your mouth -- that you felt your stepfather

24 perhaps didn't always give the household a fair share of

25 the money that he was earning --

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. -- is that right? And I think you felt you had to step
3 up in some way; is that how you felt?

4 A. Yeah, I felt you have to -- I mean, I know I was young,
5 I was only eight, but when you see you've got three wee
6 brothers, family's split, father's not -- well, he's not
7 my father, but the father -- I don't want to say their
8 names, but my three wee brothers, he didn't stand up to
9 the plate. And I thought: well, I can get a job and
10 I can help.

11 Q. And did you?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. What did you do?

14 A. I worked with the milk and I worked with delivering logs
15 on a Sunday. So I worked seven days. I used to get
16 50 pence a week from the milk and two half a crowns on
17 a Sunday, from nine to eight, for delivering logs.

18 Q. You tell us in your statement that you were delivering
19 25-kilo bags of logs?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. That's a big bag of logs for quite a small boy?

22 A. You need the money, eh?

23 LADY SMITH: And the time that you were involved in milk
24 delivering would have been the era when just about every
25 household had milk delivered to the doorstep, but it had

1 to be very early in the morning.

2 A. Aye. I used to get up at 4.00 in the morning.

3 LADY SMITH: I can believe that.

4 MR SHELDON: And I think you tell us also -- and it's

5 paragraph 6 of your statement -- that you gave the money

6 that you earned to your mum.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And was that something that was helping out the family

9 finances?

10 A. Not a lot, but it helped.

11 Q. Sure. You tell us then that at school you had some

12 difficulty. You felt that you were stupid, but I think

13 you're saying to us that you were diagnosed later with

14 dyslexia; is that right?

15 A. No, they never diagnosed me with dyslexia. But what

16 I was called was -- what was that word again? Sorry,

17 illiterate. But illiterate when I went in and

18 illiterate when I come out.

19 LADY SMITH: But that just means nobody has ever taught you

20 to read.

21 A. Yeah. But I can read now.

22 MR SHELDON: Okay. We'll come back to the schooling that

23 you received, or rather didn't receive, later on,

24 'Billy'. But how did this affect the way that teachers

25 saw you and the school treated you?

1 A. Well, I used to go -- in the morning, I used to start at
2 9.00. I was always late because I was always tired, but
3 I used to go on and fall asleep, and they used to hit me
4 and put me outside.

5 Q. You tell us, just right at the end of page 2, they're
6 putting you outside and you felt: well, what is the
7 point in going to school?

8 A. Nae point. They didn't listen to you, so what was the
9 point?

10 Q. Did you end up not going to school?

11 A. No, I went to primary school. I had a lot of absences
12 because -- for -- the simple reason is I didn't think
13 that they actually understood what was actually
14 happening.

15 It wasn't just my family. There were lots of
16 families in that situation at that time as well.

17 Q. Did anyone at the school notice that you were really
18 tired all the time?

19 A. Yeah, every day. They used to say to me, 'What you were
20 doing?' and I used to say, 'I was working', 'Oh, look at
21 you. Get to the back of the class', or I was put
22 outside with my desk because I was illiterate.

23 Q. So you weren't really getting much sympathy there?

24 A. Nothing. But, at that time, it didn't really interest
25 me because I didn't understand it.

1 Q. You then went, I think, to a particular secondary school
2 in the area and you tell us that you had been there for
3 about four weeks and you were blamed for something that
4 you didn't do; can you tell us about that, please?

5 A. Well, I went to Gracemount Secondary. I was only there
6 a few weeks. It could be four weeks or it could have
7 been a wee bit more.

8 Q. You would be about 11 at --

9 A. I was 11-and-a-half. Still worked. Still went to work
10 every day and was still tired and still going to go to
11 school in the morning. But it was one day I walked in
12 and it was in the afternoon, I was called up to the PE
13 department and the guy's name was Mr [REDACTED]; right?
14 Who, just to let you understand, he went and got a girl
15 at the school pregnant. It was only found out a few
16 weeks ago. Under the age of 16; right?

17 That just says the kind of people you're dealing
18 with; right? When I went to school, I was called up to
19 him in his office and I went up --

20 Q. Just to stop you for a minute. Who was Mr [REDACTED]?

21 A. Mr [REDACTED]. He was the PE teacher.

22 Q. Right, so you were call up to see Mr [REDACTED] --

23 A. I was called to see him. I've never been to PE for
24 a while, because it didn't interest me. I was too tired
25 to do it anyway.

1 So I went up and said to him, 'Hello', and he goes,
2 'I believe you were up here and stole a stopwatch' and
3 I goes, 'Excuse me, I've never been in this office for
4 a long time', and he goes, 'I think that you're
5 a stealer'.

6 I never stole anything in my life. He started
7 beating me with a table tennis bat. You know, the rim
8 of it? Battering me on the head.

9 Q. Right, so it wasn't the flat of it which --

10 A. No, it was the side --

11 Q. The flat of it usually has this rubber padding --

12 A. The side. It was the side.

13 Q. It was the side --

14 A. He was hitting me on the head. I managed to push him
15 and I was running, and I was running along the corridor
16 and Mr ██████████, who was -- I think he was ██████████ of
17 the year.

18 Q. You say in your statement he was ██████████

19 A. I thought he was ██████████ but I found he was,
20 like, ██████████ of the year. But ██████████ of the year
21 and ██████████ was kind of one to me.

22 Mr ██████████ was running after me and it was a long
23 corridor, and he's shouting to Mr ██████████, 'Stop that
24 boy', and Mr ██████████ just laid me right out and the two
25 of them were really laying into me, and I managed to run

1 away and I went to the woods.

2 I'm sorry --

3 Q. It's all right. Take your time.

4 A. I stayed there for about four hours, frightened. Went

5 home, my mum's there and my face is all kicked in, my

6 ribs, and six policemen -- six! -- I was like that, that

7 size. And when they come into my house my mum and me

8 told them what happened, and we wanted to make

9 a statement and they dragged me away to the

10 assessment centre.

11 Q. They took you straight to the assessment centre?

12 A. Aye, and just flung in the assessment centre, nothing

13 else said. I was put in the assessment centre and come

14 from a really happy, happy house. Poor, but happy.

15 Q. Just pausing just for a second. So you say that you

16 were taken to the assessment centre; was this Howdenhall

17 Assessment Centre?

18 A. Yes, terrible place.

19 Q. Okay, we're going to come to that, trust me.

20 At some point, you are taken to a Children's Panel;

21 is that right?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Do you remember how soon that was after you were taken

24 to the --

25 A. It was two days after I arrived in the

1 assessment centre.

2 Q. Right. Did anyone tell you during those two days what
3 was going on or what was happening to you?

4 A. My social worker -- her name was Sandra Lee and she
5 changed her name to Sandra Curly, because she got
6 married -- she said to me, 'Listen, HCJ', she told me,
7 'Listen', she went, 'You're going in here', she went,
8 'We'll go to the panel', she went, 'Just keep your nose
9 clean, don't do anything and we'll have you out of
10 here'; right? I done that for seven months.

11 Q. What was appearing at the Children's Panel like? How
12 did you find it?

13 A. Can I be honest?

14 Q. Of course you can.

15 A. It was middle class people looking down on people who
16 were poor. And all I was, was a menace to society for
17 them. That's what I got there. That, I could
18 understand now, not when I was -- then, because it was
19 all like: what's happening?

20 Q. Did they speak to you?

21 A. No, they didn't speak to me. They spoke kind of above
22 me and to the sides of me, but not directly to me.

23 Q. Who else was there, apart from the Panel?

24 A. My social worker. There was obviously the Panel, people
25 in the Panel and I think there was somebody there typing

1 stuff, you know.

2 Q. You tell us in your statement that at one point they
3 were shouting at your mum?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Why were they shouting at your mum?

6 A. Well, what happened, they were shouting at my mum and
7 I go, 'Why are you shouting at my mother? It's got
8 nothing to do with her. It was me. I'm the one who
9 didn't go to school. I was the one who was doing it',
10 and they told me to just shut up and sit down.

11 LADY SMITH: Can I just check, 'Billy': this time you're at
12 the Panel after the incident at the school; that wasn't
13 the first time you had been at the panel, was it?

14 A. No, I was at the Panel probably about another four times
15 prior to then.

16 LADY SMITH: That was for skipping school?

17 A. No, it was for skipping school and why was I sleeping in
18 the school and not learning.

19 LADY SMITH: Right. So, during classes, you were falling
20 asleep?

21 A. Yeah. I had to go to a social worker once a week, every
22 week.

23 LADY SMITH: That was when you were getting up at 4 o'clock
24 in the morning to do the milk floats?

25 A. Uh-huh. And I -- if I never went, then I would be in

1 serious trouble, but I always went to the meetings.

2 LADY SMITH: Okay.

3 MR SHELTON: These were meetings with Sandra Lee and then

4 Sandra Curly?

5 A. And the head of the social work department up in

6 Drum Street in Gilmerton.

7 Q. Right. You tell us that later you bumped into someone

8 from the area that actually confessed that it was them

9 who had stolen the stopwatch

10 A. This was after I left the school. This was a while

11 after I left the school. I went to sea and I come back

12 and I met the guy. I didn't know it was him. He

13 actually got me and he goes, 'I owe you an apology,

14 HCJ ', I goes, 'What for?', he goes, 'I was the one who

15 stole the stopwatch'.

16 What can you do? It's the past. I goes, 'Well, it

17 happens, it happens'.

18 Q. Not much consolation to you.

19 A. Well, just an abusement, eh?

20 Q. So you're at the assessment centre and I think you say

21 very graphically, at paragraph 14 of your statement,

22 that you went to the centre for seven months and a dog

23 is treated better. Perhaps you can just tell us what

24 you mean by that?

25 A. Oh, unbelievable. When I first went in the

1 assessment centre I was locked in a room with four other
2 guys; right? No windows; right? And the doors all
3 locked at the back of the you. Wherever you went it was
4 locked.

5 When you wanted to go to the toilet -- if --
6 I didn't know this at first, but when I first -- you had
7 to ring the bell for somebody to come to take you to the
8 toilet for the night and every time you went to the
9 toilet it was just a pervert beside you, you know what
10 I mean?

11 And that's the only way I can describe it, because
12 they just didn't want to just stand at the door, they
13 were right over you, hands on you, and I thought: a bit
14 weird.

15 For an 11-year-old -- I didn't understand, to be
16 honest. At first, you think it's a bit of friendliness,
17 you know what I mean?

18 Q. And you tell us -- this is page 5 of your statement --
19 that you tried not to go to the toilet --

20 A. Never went after that. In fact, they -- if you peed the
21 bed, they gave you white sheets to humiliate you. I
22 would rather be humiliated than stand in the toilet with
23 them.

24 Q. And they called people that wet the bed by a particular
25 name?

1 A. Listen, the names you wouldn't even say to a child
2 because of them, you know what I mean? And all the
3 people that were doing it, they were doing it for
4 a reason, because they didn't want to be abused.

5 Q. I'll come back to some of that material in a minute,
6 'Billy', but just really to get from you a sense of the
7 routine, the daily routine at the assessment centre, you
8 tell us that you would get up about 7.00 in the morning,
9 you'd go for a wash, then downstairs for breakfast.

10 I think you tell us on the whole the food was quite
11 good; is that right?

12 A. I thought I had died and went to heaven, the food was
13 that good.

14 Q. All right. At least the food was good.

15 A. That was all what was good about it.

16 Q. We get a strong impression from that from your
17 statement. The food was good, but there were some other
18 problems.

19 A. Big problems.

20 Q. It's really just to get a sense of what a typical day
21 was like; what was the routine, structure of the day?

22 A. We'd get up in the morning -- it's going back quite
23 a while. But we'd wake up in the morning and normally
24 went for a wash, and then we'd go down the stairs to get
25 breakfast, and then we went into a common room, just

1 a tiny -- not even -- about from there to that wall,
2 there. We sat in there with a TV and then the next
3 minute you were taken away to make models. We used to
4 make models with plaster and put them in moulds and used
5 to make loads, hundreds of them, and we had to sit and
6 paint them all day.

7 Q. Were these model soldiers or something like that?

8 A. Like pets, whatever it was. And what they did, they
9 would sell them, so they were racketeering on me, you
10 know what I mean?

11 Q. Okay. What about schooling? Were there any classes of
12 any sort?

13 A. Every Wednesday everybody would sit in a classroom,
14 about from there to there, and we'd sit there and you
15 had to write a letter home. Couldn't even get to 'Dear
16 mum' or couldn't even ken how to spell 'Dear mum'.

17 Q. Did anybody help you to do that?

18 A. Not a soul. You were in there for about half an hour.

19 Q. And that was all the schooling that you had?

20 A. That was all the schooling we ever got.

21 Q. Was it the same for everyone?

22 A. Everybody there. They were fighting. There was always
23 that much going on that they never kept anybody
24 occupied. Even if they did have school, at least it
25 would keep people occupied. They weren't. They were

1 running riot. There were fights. Staff abusing people
2 constantly.

3 Q. Was it all boys in --

4 A. There were girls there as well. In one line, this wing,
5 it kind of went in an L-shape. I think it was like
6 that, like this -- you know, the front was there, the
7 back bit was here. The back bit had the girls there.
8 And what used to happen was absolutely disgusting.

9 Q. Okay. I might come back to that as well. I want to ask
10 you: did anyone get out of the assessment centre to go
11 to school or was --

12 A. No. You were locked up 24/7 a day.

13 Q. I think you have said very clearly this is a secure
14 place?

15 A. It was a secure unit.

16 Q. Was there another unit that was more open than that?
17 Did you know about that?

18 A. No other unit. The only place we had what was open was
19 like -- how could I describe it? The only way to
20 describe it is about where you are, where I am, to where
21 your wall is, you had to walk around a square, that was
22 your exercise. You were like a trapped, wild dog
23 because you had to walk in a circle all the time, eh?
24 And there was, like, maybe 30 of us all walking around
25 and that was your exercise for 20 minutes.

1 Q. About 30 children?

2 A. Or more.

3 Q. Or more. What sort of age range were the children?

4 A. I was -- well, from 11-and-a-half. There were younger

5 guys there as well, but up to, probably, 16.

6 Q. 'Billy', you don't need to lean forward. We can hear

7 you fine. It's just to make you more relaxed. You

8 don't have to lean forward and ...

9 You talk a wee bit about staff at the

10 assessment centre and in particular a Mr EWA; can you

11 tell us about Mr EWA?

12 A. Mr EWA and Mrs . That was his wife. She worked in

13 the kitchen. He was, like, probably -- how could you

14 say it? He was probably like a supervisor. Looking

15 back, he would probably be the head of that area and the

16 man was an animal. He was a pure animal. Every time he

17 saw us he used to punch us and kick us and slap you.

18 But he punched you where it was never noticed, you

19 know what I mean? It was always in your stomach or your

20 ribs, right? And he would grab you by the hair and

21 that, especially when you were with yourself.

22 Q. Was there any particular reason for that?

23 A. The man -- I don't -- you know if -- I don't think it's

24 right to hit anybody. I think it's against the law.

25 But, back then, it wasn't against the law because it was

1 happening every day. But, to me, you don't have to lift
2 your hands to anybody, right? But we were beaten every
3 day. There were people who were taken up the stair --
4 I never had any money, never had any money to buy
5 sweeties at the tuck shop or anything like that. But
6 they were taking boys up the stair and bringing them
7 down and they were coming down with cigarettes, lots of
8 bags of sweeties. Why?

9 Q. Who was doing that, 'Billy'?

10 A. The teachers in the assessment centre. The teachers in
11 the assessment centre. And there were quite a lot of
12 teachers there, right? And, to be honest with you,
13 I would be telling you a lie, I couldn't remember all
14 their names because I wanted to forget them.

15 Q. Sure. Can you remember any of their names?

16 A. I can only mind second names, because you could never
17 call anybody by their first name. So there was Mr
18 MTQ, there was Mr EWA, Mrs . There was the
19 Polish gardener. There was the laundry man. I can't
20 even remember their names.

21 Q. Don't worry. It's all right.

22 A. There's loads -- if I seen them, I could probably say --
23 I could recognise them, but they were names you just
24 didn't want to know, right?

25 Q. So some children were being taken up stairs and coming

1 back down with cigarettes and sweets and so on?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think that made you suspicious; can you just be --

4 A. Very suspicious. Frightened, in fact.

5 Q. It's perhaps an obvious question, but: what were you

6 suspicious of?

7 A. Well, we know what was going -- then, I didn't really

8 know. It wasn't until later on, when you get a wee bit

9 more wiser, right? And when I was take from the

10 assessment centre to Dr Guthrie's, then it all started

11 to come clear.

12 Q. You thought it was a bit strange?

13 A. It was very strange.

14 Q. Okay. Mr EWA, you have talked about him punching you,

15 grabbing your hair; was there anything else that he did

16 either to you or other boys?

17 A. Yes. Listen, Mr EWA was one of the most feared person

18 in the place, right? You didn't even want to look at

19 him in the eyes. When you wanted to walk past him, you

20 had to have your head down and walk past him, just in

21 case he signalled you. And this was happening every

22 day.

23 Q. Did he have a big bunch of keys?

24 A. No, that was Mr GBD in Dr Guthrie's.

25 Q. Right. We'll come to him.

1 A. He was just handy with his fists and his feet.

2 Q. Do you recall if Mr EWA had a nickname?

3 A. EWA. You know, I forgot that until just -- not
4 that long ago that somebody just told me.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Because I think it was a bit disrespectful calling him
7 EWA at the time, even though I couldn't stand the
8 guy, you know?

9 Q. You have mentioned a Polish gardener. Tell us about
10 him.

11 A. Aye. I think he was in a prisoner of war camp, the way
12 he treated us.

13 You know, you had to put your hand up every morning
14 if you wanted to go out in the garden, and I was always
15 keen to get out in the garden because I wanted to get
16 out of the place that was abusing you inside, thinking
17 it would be better outside.

18 Q. Get some fresh air.

19 A. And how wrong I was.

20 Q. So what happened?

21 A. I was going out and doing garden. I liked doing the
22 gardening. It was always a nice -- I used to try to
23 grow stuff in my mum's garden.

24 When I went out with him, I thought I'd learn a wee
25 bit. I put a spade in the ground and I cut through

1 a potato and he got his knuckles here and battering me
2 on the head non-stop.

3 LADY SMITH: That's very easily done. You don't know the
4 potato's there until your spade hits it.

5 A. That's the kind of animal you're going about with, your
6 Honour, you know?

7 And you couldn't speak to the guy. He could hardly
8 speak English. He just looked like he was out of
9 a German war -- out of a concentration camp. And
10 I think he treated us the exact same way as they were
11 treated there, eh? That was my surmising later on in
12 life, you know?

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR SHELDON: You described him punching you with his
15 knuckles.

16 A. Aye, got his knuckles, one knuckle like that and he
17 would just keep banging you right on the top of the
18 head, and he had you and he just kept banging you and
19 again and again.

20 Q. Obvious question: was that painful?

21 A. Listen, what was the point? Nobody was there to listen
22 to you. You just had to suffer it and people looking at
23 you, looking absolutely -- just to humiliate you as
24 well, you know? Nobody to turn to.

25 Q. Did that happen more than once with the gardener?

1 A. I didn't go back in the garden after that.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I just refused to go. I didn't refuse to go, I wouldn't
4 put my hand up. But there again, it didn't matter if
5 you were out there or inside, you were getting abused
6 either way.

7 Q. You talk a bit about emotional abuse a bit later in your
8 statement. And the emotional abuse that you suffered.

9 A. Every day.

10 Q. What do you mean by that?

11 A. Emotional abuse: look at you, pish the bed, illiterate.
12 Look at you, you're a tramp, you come from tramps.
13 That's what they used to say to you. This was meant
14 to be professional people.

15 And that just didn't happen in the
16 assessment centre; that also happened in Dr Guthrie's as
17 well. And I used to work in the assessment centre every
18 single day for them, buffing floors, buffing all the
19 rooms, all the corridors, every single day. And
20 I didn't even get a sweetie at the end of it, but you
21 would have got abused if you asked for it.

22 Q. You tell us as well that there was a detention cell --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- for when you did something wrong; what sort of things
25 would get you put in the detention cell?

1 A. Well, to be honest, in the assessment centre, I never --
2 I only went into the detention cell once in the
3 assessment centre. It was after I was going to the
4 last -- I thought it was my last Panel, right? Where
5 I was going to the Children's Panel and my social
6 worker, Sandra Lee, said to me at the time, she says,
7 **HCJ**, I never got into trouble, I kept myself clean.
8 I took whatever they give me, I done it. And when
9 I went to -- we went to the Panel, I was getting out.
10 I was actually getting out.

11 And I went to the Panel, I sat there. There was
12 four Panel people. The guy's name was Mr Butterfly,
13 I'll never forget him. He was the head one in front of
14 me, right?

15 And me and my mum and the social worker were sitting
16 there and Sandra Lee said to me, 'Aye, you'll be getting
17 out today, **HCJ**', I goes, 'Good', I goes, 'Right,
18 I'll still work, but only at the weekends. But I'll go
19 to school', and when I went to the Panel, all the Panel
20 members looked through it, says, 'Oh, you're
21 impeccable', they called me. 'To be honest, you had
22 your head down, you've done everything that you're meant
23 to do'. Still couldn't read and write because we
24 weren't taught that, but I had behaved, never done
25 anything bad.

1 Five minutes before the end, Mr MTQ SNR
2 the assessment centre, come into my Panel and says,
3 'I don't think HCJ 's ready to go home yet'.
4 Q. It's all right. Take your time.
5 A. Another four years, four months they give me. And
6 I went back. He took me into his house, into his
7 office, and put me in the detention cell for three days
8 with a mattress on the floor with bread and water.
9 Three days.
10 Q. And for what?
11 A. Because I said to him in the Panel, 'Why?' because I
12 talked to him back at the Panel, 'Why? I've done
13 everything you asked'.
14 I even told the social worker about the abuse and
15 I was told, 'Don't say anything and you'll get out'.
16 Q. So --
17 A. Disgusting.
18 Q. -- not only do you not get out, but you get put in the
19 detention cell --
20 A. For three days and three nights.
21 Q. -- for three days, and you told us just with bread and
22 water?
23 A. Bread and water. And they give me the bread and water
24 with a plastic fork and a paper plate.
25 Q. Was there any way to go to the toilet?

1 A. No, there was a toilet there. The window was
2 bulletproof. You couldn't smash it or anything. But
3 you couldn't, they only put a mattress there. You
4 didn't even have a cover, and they put you in a pair of
5 shorts and a T-shirt for three days. It was freezing.

6 Q. Did you have anything to do?

7 A. No, you just sat there for three days. If they felt
8 like coming up with your bread and water they would
9 bring it to you, but not when it might be tea time or
10 whatever. They would come in and fling it down and say,
11 'There you go. You want to act like a prisoner, we'll
12 treat you like one', and that's what they said.

13 Q. They didn't stay to talk to you for a while?

14 A. No, just closed the door.

15 Q. So what happened then, 'Billy'? We know that you went
16 to Dr Guthrie's, but how soon after that Panel?

17 A. It was very -- after I got to the detention cell,
18 I reckon it must have been about a couple of days after
19 that I was taken from there.

20 I didn't even know about Dr Guthrie's, to be honest,
21 and then I was taken to this place and I was just
22 bundled there in the morning. And then the next minute
23 they're giving me all these kind of clothes with
24 a number on it, but I'll not say the number.

25 Q. What were your first impressions of Dr Guthrie's when

1 you arrived there?

2 A. I was absolutely crapping myself.

3 Q. Did Dr Guthrie's have a reputation that you knew of?

4 A. Well, I never even give Dr Guthrie's a second thought,
5 because I never done anything bad about these places.

6 Q. So you just didn't know what it was?

7 A. Didn't even know, ro. They said it was an LSD School,
8 but, to me, what was an LSD school? I was
9 11-and-a-half. It was the last thing on my mind.

10 Q. When you arrive at Dr Guthrie's; did anyone come to
11 welcome you, to speak to you?

12 A. The social worker took me in. I remember I went to
13 an office. I went in the office and after that -- the
14 minute I was in the office they took my name and, you
15 know my name, right? And I -- after that I was just
16 taken -- because there would be this -- he must have
17 been like janitor kind of thing. In fact, the guy, the
18 janitor -- I have to be honest with you -- he was
19 a really nice guy, right? He was a really nice guy. He
20 took us and he went and took me all my clothes and that,
21 that I needed. And he used to have this punch with my
22 number and he'd punch it in my shoes, my pants, my
23 shorts, everything you wore was my number and that's
24 what you were called.

25 Q. They called you by your number, not your name?

1 A. No, we didn't exist.

2 Q. When they spoke to you did they use your number rather
3 than your name?

4 A. Yeah. Some teachers would use your name, but I would be
5 lying if they never said -- I thought then it wasn't
6 until I got in contact with the child abuse, that even
7 when I said there were good ones, they weren't really
8 good and it was them who opened up my mind to it because
9 they watched this going on. They watched what was
10 happening and never said anything, you understand?

11 Q. So there were some staff that were better than others?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. But --

14 A. With hindsight, from what they seen, and they never said
15 anything, they wasn't very nice.

16 Q. You talk about some of the staff in your statement.
17 I'm on page 13 of your statement now. At the foot, you
18 mention the names of some staff. You mention
19 a Mr **KEP** and you thought he was a nice guy?

20 A. Yes, he was German. He was a really nice guy, but he
21 wasn't right in the head. But a nice guy. It looked
22 like he was, like, in another world.

23 Q. You talk -- you mention a woodwork teacher, an art
24 class, and you thought the guy that ran that was a good
25 guy?

1 A. Mr MacDermott.

2 Q. Right. Okay. And why did you feel he was a good guy in
3 contrast to some of the others?

4 A. He always treated you well. I was -- I couldn't draw to
5 save myself. I couldn't read, write or draw, but he
6 kind of give me an inspiration in painting something,
7 eh? And he always took a wee bit of time out to talk to
8 you, as a person.

9 Q. Did he use your name?

10 A. He used my name, aye.

11 Q. You talk about a judo instructor who was a really big
12 man?

13 A. Mr zLYI -- zLYI, an absolute pervert.

14 Q. Mr zLYI?

15 A. Mr zLYI. That's all I know. And that was his second
16 name, Mr zLYI.

17 Q. I'll ask you about him in a minute or two.

18 LADY SMITH: Was it zLYI or LYI?

19 A. zLYI. What I know, your Honour, is it was Mr zLYI.

20 LADY SMITH: Did he have a nickname?

21 A. No, in fact -- I couldn't tell you by anything else than
22 Mr zLYI. The only -- one thing, you didn't want to be
23 around him.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR SHELDON: Before I move on to some of that evidence

1 'Billy', can I just take from you what the sleeping
2 arrangements were like?

3 You tell us -- it sounds like a big dormitory.

4 A. There were four big dormitories, right? There was --
5 I was in the juniors to begin with, right? Then I went
6 to the seniors, right? So it was in two different
7 wings, juniors and seniors.

8 Q. You talk a little bit about the mix of boys that were in
9 the dormitories?

10 A. Oh, there was about maybe 30 or 40 people in each
11 dormitory.

12 Q. Was that a range of ages?

13 A. Range of ages, aye. And you were about -- probably
14 about a metre apart from the next bed, you know what
15 I mean?

16 Q. So you were really packed in?

17 A. Packed in, yeah.

18 Q. And you talk about boys from seven years old there and
19 orphans, whose mum and dads had died, and they treated
20 them like crap; can you tell us about that?

21 A. For my age -- sorry, for my age at the time -- and
22 I used to walk past every day. And there were a lot of
23 wee orphans there and I could understand that these
24 people, their mums and dads have died, right? They
25 shouldn't have been put in a place like that, but the

1 staff were treating them like how he treated us and
2 I thought that was absolutely disgusting.

3 In fact, it was that disgusting one time I actually
4 run at one of the teachers and pushed him off a wee boy
5 of seven. He had him up against the wall and punching
6 him, and I was put back in the detention cell in there
7 as well.

8 Q. Can you remember which teacher that was?

9 A. It was Mr GBD .

10 Q. Right. You talk about the showers and the fact that the
11 showers were cold and there were staff there watching
12 you when you showered?

13 A. Mr zLYI . You'd go in the morning and they'd make sure
14 you were naked and he would stand right in front --
15 right on the last -- there was like eight showers in
16 a row and you had to stand at the beginning and you had
17 to walk facing him slowly, so he could watch you, see
18 everything. And you had to walk for a cold shower,
19 slowly, until you got to his one and then he would touch
20 you on your backside.

21 Q. Just you or did he do that to other boys?

22 A. Oh, everybody, everybody. And he would stand there
23 and -- the guy was a creep. He was a creep.

24 Q. Whilst we're on that subject, 'Billy'; did you go
25 swimming when you were at Dr Guthrie's?

1 A. GIC, the guy's name -- GIC they used to
2 call him. He was in charge of the gym and the swimming
3 pool, right? And when you first went, you see a pool
4 you think 'Oh, my God, a swimming pool', you know what
5 I mean? You get in there.

6 When we got in there, he would say, 'No trunks
7 today', and he'd come in the cubicle and try and touch
8 us and that. I wouldn't go swimming after that. He
9 done the same with the girls.

10 Q. He made you take --

11 A. Trunks off. He actually got done for abusing people.
12 You know, in there as well -- I have to tell you this --
13 there were three fatalities in there when I was there.
14 And I wonder why. Because I was just about one of them.

15 Q. Did GIC have a nickname?

16 A. A pervert.

17 Q. Did he have a nickname among the boys?

18 A. Aye, everybody. Pervert.

19 Q. That's just what they called him?

20 A. His nickname -- in fact, his nickname was actually --
21 they used to call him -- it sounds a bit funny, but they
22 used to call him GIC. That's what they used to
23 call him. And I don't know why they called him that,
24 but that's all I can remember -- was GIC
25 GIC.

1 LADY SMITH: I've been told that it relates to an occasion
2 that he fell when he had a bottle in his pocket.

3 A. Exactly, that's what was said.

4 LADY SMITH: He ended up with broken glass in his rear end.

5 A. That's correct. You are 100 per cent right. See,
6 you've just jogged my memory there.

7 MR SHELDON: Were you conscious of him being a drinker?

8 A. No, I wasn't conscious of him being drinker. He was
9 a pervert when you went swimming. And not just with the
10 boys, but the girls as well.

11 Q. We'll come back to some of that, 'Billy'. But I want to
12 ask you some more about the daily routine, as we did
13 with the assessment centre.

14 A. That's good, because I thought it went a bit fast there.

15 Q. It's my fault. I'm taking you down side roads.
16 What was the food like at Dr Guthrie's?

17 A. Dr Guthrie's, the food was amazing. Compared to what
18 I come from, it was like -- to me, it was like: my God,
19 I've went to a five star hotel when it come to the food.
20 And everything was like Alcatraz after that.

21 Q. You talk -- still on page 15 -- about the sort of daily
22 routine -- paragraph 56 -- and that you get to lights
23 out -- have a shower at eight, get your pyjamas on;
24 would lights out be about 9 o'clock?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. In the next paragraph, you talk about another member of
2 staff, you think his name might have been HGD ; is that
3 right?

4 A. HGD . Which one are you on?

5 Q. Paragraph 57 now. You say he was a tall, skinny guy --

6 A. His name was HGD, to be honest. I found out his name
7 was HGD. All I know him as was HGD. Tall guy, had
8 an afro kind of dark hair. Another pervert.

9 Q. You say in that paragraph he would get you up in the
10 middle of the night to -- just tell us what he did to
11 you.

12 A. He would come up -- you know something, it was very hard
13 to sleep, because you were always frightened when they
14 were going to come up to you, you know what I mean?
15 What he did, he would go to your bed and get you out
16 your bed, and maybe another two boys, and he would make
17 us stand against the wall with all our fingertips and
18 all had to be on our tiptoes at a stretched angle like
19 this, and he would be touching you and slapping you.
20 And he would have you standing on the wall like that for
21 two to two-and-a-half hours.

22 Q. In the army, they call that a stress position.

23 A. Is that what's it's called? I thought it was just
24 a pervert position.

25 Q. Did this happen to other boys as well?

1 A. It happened to probably everybody, because he was left
2 on the night himself.

3 Q. Did he do anything apart from touch you?

4 A. Touch you, slap you, punch you. If you moved your feet
5 a wee bit. But he would go away for a while and come
6 back again. But you didn't ken if he was doing the same
7 with the guys in the other dormitories, you know what I
8 mean?

9 Q. You were expected to keep standing there --

10 A. Most times, aye.

11 Q. Moving on --

12 A. That was in Dr Guthrie's but. That was in Dr Guthrie's.

13 Q. We understand.

14 Again, just moving on, what was the schooling like
15 in Dr Guthrie's? Did you get more education in
16 Guthrie's than the assessment centre?

17 A. None. We used to -- Mr -- I'm not too sure -- I'm sure
18 his name started with an **KEP** I'm sure it was ...
19 I didn't even want to say it because I would be probably
20 tell you a lie if I did say a name.

21 But the schoolteacher who we went to, right, he used
22 to have us for half an hour in the morning to talk about
23 rugby and then that was it. Then you went to your
24 chores, on to do your slavery work.

25 Q. You mentioned Mr **KEP**, who always wore a Wales rugby

1 top; is that the person you're thinking of?

2 A. Mr KEP, he was SNR.

3 The teacher, he was actually Welsh. He wore the

4 Welsh rugby top and that's all he talked about for half

5 an hour. That was your schooling in the morning.

6 LADY SMITH: Sorry, who was Welsh? This other teacher?

7 A. He was meant to be a teacher in the classroom in the

8 morning, your Honour, right? Mr KEP, he was a German

9 guy who was a nice guy, but a bit hairy fairy, you know

10 what I mean?

11 LADY SMITH: You thought he was SNR?

12 A. Aye. He was SNR, aye.

13 Mr GFC.

14 MR SHELDON: I'm on paragraph 62 now. You say you would be

15 in class for about an hour and you learned nothing.

16 A. Nothing. Not a thing. Couldn't even read and write, so

17 you couldn't learn anything and they weren't teaching

18 you.

19 Q. You say you don't think the teachers were qualified to

20 give you --

21 A. They were never qualified. They didn't know how to

22 teach. All day sit and talk to you about what they done

23 in their life and then that was you, you were out, just

24 working.

25 You know, when I worked for my mother for 25 quid --

1 25 pence a week or 50 pence a week, at least they were
2 paying me, you know? It was hard work, but at least
3 I was getting paid and it was going to something that
4 was actually needed.

5 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 63, about all the chores that
6 you did at Dr Guthrie's as well?

7 A. Everything. Laundry, buffing floors. I mean, you see
8 the size of one dormitory. And there were big huge
9 heavy buffers that you had to do manually with your
10 hands. We were at it for hours.

11 Q. Were these wooden floors then?

12 A. It wasn't a wooden floor. It was like a linoleum floor,
13 right? A very old linoleum floor. And we had to buff
14 it. And if you missed a wee bit or you got it wrong,
15 you had to start all over again.

16 LADY SMITH: I've heard these machines called 'bumpers'.

17 A. But these weren't machines, these were just a hand --
18 a 'buffer' it was called, a 'buffer'.

19 LADY SMITH: Oh, a hand buffer.

20 A. It used to be a big long pole and it could move from
21 side to side.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MR SHELDON: You go on to talk about some leisure
24 activities. There was football sometimes you say and
25 you could roller skate in the square, and a good gym;

1 did you enjoy going to the gym?

2 A. No, I didn't go to the gym because that's where GIC
3 GIC was.

4 Q. You go on to say the guy who taught judo was evil and
5 a pervert?

6 A. That was Mr zLYI . That was Mr zLYI . The two of
7 them. There was Mr zLYI who done the judo and then
8 there was GIC who was in charge of the buildings
9 and the swimming area.

10 Q. Right. So it was GIC who made you take
11 your trunks off when you were going swimming?

12 A. Yes, and wanted to touch you all the time.

13 Q. But Mr zLYI --

14 A. He's the one who would stand in the morning and watch
15 you -- watch you stand there and watch all the boys with
16 no clothes on and touch your behind when you are coming
17 out the shower.

18 Q. You say that he's teaching judo; what kind of things was
19 he doing in judo classes?

20 A. He was teaching you judo, but his way of judo, you know?
21 Where he was probably what you call -- how would you
22 describe it today? A grope?

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Groping everybody who he was teaching.

25 Q. Would he use the judo moves as an excuse to take hold of

1 you?

2 A. Aye, aye. And then he would ask some of us to stay
3 back. I never went to his class after a couple of
4 times. To stay back and they were still there an hour
5 after the rest of the boys had left. And then when they
6 come back and you would ask them what happened, and the
7 guys were just -- you could see they didn't want to say
8 nothing, so I leave it to your own imagination.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Billy', at paragraph 65, where you're talking
10 about the swimming pool and what happened there, you
11 say:

12 'Even when the girls came down from the girls'
13 school he would [I take it that's GIC] would do the
14 same thing.'

15 A. Yeah. You know something, I knew two or three girls
16 from Dr Guthrie's Girls' School, they were up about two
17 miles up the road from where we were. And they would
18 have them down for them to go swimming and for discos,
19 right?

20 And I knew a couple girls, because a couple of the
21 girls come from Gilmerton. And when I spoke to them --
22 and they were a wee bit -- what they said, it was
23 disgusting. It was disgusting. And they didn't want --
24 but they were made by Dr Guthrie's Girls' School to go
25 to the swimming.

1 LADY SMITH: So you heard from the girls about the way --

2 A. We never heard. We saw it, your Honour. You could go

3 on the roof and there were windows, and the guys used to

4 stand on the roof to watch the lassies and that's what

5 they did.

6 LADY SMITH: What did you see?

7 A. I never went up on the roof, but the guys come and say,

8 'GIC [REDACTED] is touching up the girls'. That's what

9 we would be told. So you could imagine what else was

10 going on.

11 And I don't think this is just imagined. This was

12 really happening, you know what I mean?

13 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 69, you talk about going to

14 a campsite down near Dunbar; was it called Thorntonloch,

15 something like that?

16 A. Down in Dunbar, it was right off the sea. If you go

17 down to Dunbar you'll see a big, huge, white lighthouse.

18 We were about a mile from the lighthouse and we were in

19 tents.

20 Q. Were they like army-style big tents?

21 A. Aye, big, white tents. No bottom to them. They were

22 just clipped, so the water would come through the

23 bottom. It wasn't a tent that was sealed.

24 Q. Not like a modern --

25 A. Not like a modern tent. This was like -- if you had a

1 look at it, it was a wee bit like -- if you had a look
2 at it, the shape, it was like a Wigwam. And it had the
3 bits at the bottom, but it never had the bits that
4 stopped the water from coming in or the rain.

5 Q. How long would you be at this place?

6 A. Two weeks.

7 Q. What sort of things did you do?

8 A. Well, we watched the staff all getting drunk and
9 frolicking with one another.

10 Q. What sort of stuff were you meant to be doing?

11 A. You tell me. We were meant to be there for a holiday
12 and we were just stuck in a park and not allowed to
13 move. You went up the town once for about
14 an hour-and-a-half and then you were taken back, and
15 that was it.

16 Q. You mention that the staff took the opportunity to have
17 a drink?

18 A. Drink. You will probably come to it, but you are a wee
19 bit more forward than what we were at the moment.
20 Because, back then, there were two girls that come from
21 the school, right? They were relief teachers or they
22 were meant to be.

23 Q. These were teachers you are talking about?

24 A. I don't know if they were actual, real teachers. But
25 I remember the two girls that come, they meant to be

1 helping us with the schooling and that, right? They
2 were all sleeping with one another. All the women
3 teachers and men teachers down in the camp were all
4 sleeping with each other. Can I say it in layman's
5 terms, your Honour?

6 LADY SMITH: Please do.

7 A. They were pissed every night and they were running about
8 half-naked. And what was going on -- because they were
9 in a building, we were in tents, you know -- and we
10 could hear it at nighttime, because you were meant to be
11 in your bed by 9.00 and what we would do, we would sneak
12 out and we'd go up. They were having parties, music and
13 all partying and everything. I can leave the rest to
14 your imagination, but it was all there, eh?

15 I could have been doing with two weeks with my mum
16 at that time.

17 Q. You talk about Christmas and birthdays, at paragraph 72.
18 You never spent Christmases and birthdays at your mum's
19 because you were always inside. You got home in the
20 run-up to Christmas, but not on the day.

21 A. Not on the day.

22 Q. Why was that?

23 A. Well, can I tell you one thing that would happen?

24 Right, you would all week -- to get out at the weekend,
25 you had to really, really bow down to every teacher that

1 was there. I mean, you had to beg them to get a good
2 report, so they would let you out on the Friday, right?

3 So, if you got three good reports, you would get out
4 on a Friday. One bad report would nullify it, so you
5 didn't get out at all. So you had to crawl with them
6 all week and if they took one bad -- and it happened
7 quite a lot. They'd take one and see a bad report --
8 and you couldn't answer or anything to them, you had to
9 just stand there. You had to stand at attention.
10 They'd call your name and you had to stand attention and
11 once he said -- no matter what, you had to sit down and
12 no matter what he said -- not to say anything. But
13 there was one time I did say it.

14 Q. So you were completely dependent on the teachers,
15 whether they were in a good or bad mood?

16 A. Didn't matter. All depends. As I said to you -- and
17 I'm not an angel. Let's get this straight, right? But,
18 when you're wanting to get home to your parent at the
19 weekend and your wee brothers, I would have walked on
20 broken glass for them, right? And I done everything
21 good. And when you're sitting there on a Thursday
22 waiting to find out if you're getting out this weekend,
23 and your -- that weekend is in their hands, not in your
24 hands, even though that you could go and do everything
25 good that you wanted to do for them, and you were

1 sitting there in peril: what's going to happen?

2 So Christmas was never an option.

3 Q. Okay. You say that birthdays weren't celebrated?

4 A. Never had a birthday. Never had a birthday. And you

5 know the boys who were getting really abused --

6 I'm talking about really, totally abused -- they were

7 getting out every weekend, tuck money. Tuck money; what

8 was that?

9 You're meant to have a bank. Every time I looked in

10 my bank account it was always in the red and I never had

11 any money at all.

12 Q. At paragraph 78, page 20, you go on to talk about abuse

13 at Dr Guthrie's.

14 A. Oh, yeah.

15 Q. First of all, you talk about quite an odd incident where

16 some people had visited the school and they said

17 something to you.

18 A. It was the African people. Now, I couldn't tell you --

19 the only reason I know that they were probably Nigerians

20 is because they had the scars, tribal scars.

21 I've witnessed this in real life, your Honour, right?

22 But, back then, it was very frightening to see.

23 You remember, you're going back in my time, when

24 I was probably coming around about 12, 12 and a bit --

25 LADY SMITH: The early 1970s?

1 A. Aye. So, even to see a coloured person was like: wow.
2 You know what I mean? It wasn't anything big in them
3 days.

4 But these four people come -- there were two guys
5 and two lassies -- and they were meant to be here to
6 be -- probably, it was like to learn how the schools or
7 that acted here and what it was going to be like over in
8 Africa and they tried to abuse me.

9 Q. What did they say to you?

10 A. They used to always come to me through the day and
11 I thought they were very nice because they were always
12 polite to me, you know what I mean? And I thought: ken,
13 really nice people.

14 Then I got the letter. It was a Friday, I got the
15 letter and what they said, 'If you come ...' they spoke
16 to me and go, 'We'd like to see you on the Saturday'.
17 And I thought: I'm at home on Saturday.

18 But they give me their address and they told me that
19 they were going to show me things that I would never see
20 before in your life. We're going to do things to you.

21 Two African women and two African men. And
22 I'll tell you all that weekend I was absolutely crapping
23 myself. I was scared.

24 Q. What were you scared of?

25 A. They wanted me to go to their house, right? Why did

1 people want me to go to their house, four coloured
2 people, and telling me beforehand what they were going
3 to do to me?

4 And I reported them on the Monday morning.

5 Q. I was going to ask you about. You reported it to Mr --
6 you say it's Mr GFC ?

7 A. Mr GFC . He was SNR at Dr Guthrie's Boys'
8 School. I got six of the belt for it and put into
9 a detention cell.

10 Q. He belted you because of this?

11 A. Uh-huh. He belted me because he goes: why you lying?

12 Q. Did you tell your social worker as well?

13 A. I told my social worker and the same again. I told her
14 about the abuse and everything, and she said, 'HCJ ,
15 keep your head down. We'll get you out, I promise', and
16 she lied.

17 And I could -- there again, if you ever look at it
18 back then, what chance -- who are you going to tell?

19 I thought you tell somebody like your social worker,
20 right? That should have been enough. That should have
21 been enough. That should have been a red light, right
22 there and then. But to be told to just be quiet and
23 just accept what they give you.

24 Q. I'll ask you later on, 'Billy', how you think things
25 could be changed or should be changed in what we do now.

1 A. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 LADY SMITH: Okay.

4 MR SHELDON: You've described Mr GBD [REDACTED] as an animal; why do
5 you use that expression?

6 A. Well, you know something, since this Inquiry, I went and
7 told [REDACTED] and the rest of the guys who helped me. And
8 they were the only people who helped by the way, right?

9 When you sit to try to describe this man, this
10 man -- if you got a visitor and he was up you, he was
11 the most nicest person -- people would go, 'What
12 a lovely man he is', you know? And it was just lies and
13 you couldn't say nothing to any of them while he was
14 there, because he was so nasty.

15 He was the one that was picking up wee
16 seven-year-olds and punching them in the face and
17 kicking them. He was the one that would grab you and
18 get your hand. You had to do this and he would get
19 a big set of keys like that and he would be battering
20 you on your fingers, on your knuckles, every day.

21 I can't even open my finger for it. My hands are
22 knackered.

23 Q. Why would he do that?

24 A. Because he was wicked. And I think it was a kink
25 because he done it to everybody.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. If I can get back just a wee bit, because we have to get
3 something here that you brought up. When you were
4 talking about getting a report to get out at the
5 weekend, right? There was one time I was -- it was
6 a special occasion we were having and all week, all week
7 long I begged -- I went around everybody and said,
8 'Listen, I've not done anything. Anything you want done
9 I'll do it for you, so I get out'. This is a Thursday.
10 And this is how we were treated.

11 When you sat in your seat, there was maybe about
12 100-odd chairs each side, and you would sit and he would
13 call each and every name individually. The minute he
14 called your name, you had to stand up and go, 'Yes,
15 sir', and stand to attention. And he would go, 'Three
16 good reports', and inside you you're going 'Yes! Get in
17 there!' You know what I mean? And then, 'One bad
18 report, sit down'. I couldn't do it. I couldn't sit
19 down. I had to say to him: why? Why? I've done
20 everything that you have asked me to do.

21 And the next minute he's coming running up the hall,
22 right up to the top, and he, oh, in front of everybody,
23 just laid into you because you asked a question.
24 Dragged you, kicked you, pulling you.

25 Q. Just take a moment.

1 A. The guy should be in the jail. He should be in the
2 jail, not me.

3 Q. Do you want to take a moment?

4 A. No. But my oldest brother, [REDACTED], came home from sea,
5 two years I never seen him. The Sunday, he got back the
6 Sunday night. You had to be back by 7 o'clock at night
7 and he come back about 6.00 and he had a car, a big
8 thing, a car. 'Come on [REDACTED] HCJ, I'll take you for
9 a Wimpy'. A Wimpy, it was like Christmas. And we
10 stayed out until 10.00 and he took me up and I go, 'What
11 to do, [REDACTED], you go away, I'll go up and ring the bell
12 and I'll explain to them I've not seen my brother'. My
13 God, he kicked me up and down for an hour.

14 LADY SMITH: That was [REDACTED] GBD again?

15 A. That was [REDACTED] GBD. And he said, 'If you say anything,
16 you'll be going to Welly until you're 21'. From not
17 being able to read and write.

18 LADY SMITH: He said something about 'until you are 21'?

19 A. You'll go away until you're 21. 'In the morning you're
20 going to Welly Farm until you're 21'.

21 LADY SMITH: Wellington Farm School at Penicuik?

22 A. Aye, that's the one. Every time -- you were threatened
23 by it all the time. You couldn't say nothing. I don't
24 know -- I'm not trying to be funny, but the Council here
25 should be -- they should be closed down. Jimmy Savile

1 is all you have to say. Jimmy Savile, Cyril Smith, you
2 won't even -- it's still happening.

3 And them, them over there, the Council, the social
4 work department, the Child's Panel, Gracemount Secondary
5 School and the police should all be in the jail for what
6 they done to me and to other people. Not just me, to
7 innocent people, you know? It's disgusting.

8 Q. I was going to go back --

9 A. Sorry --

10 Q. It's fine.

11 I was going to go back to ask you about something
12 else involving Mr GBD that you describe. It's
13 paragraph 75 of your statement, page 19.

14 You talk about an occasion when you took a Merchant
15 Navy form to him; was that an application form for the
16 Merchant Navy?

17 A. Yeah. About leaving the school. It wasn't -- what
18 happened was -- but I'll let you know about the Merchant
19 Navy form, right?

20 It was me, it was another guy -- I'll not mention
21 any names. I mentioned the name to [REDACTED] at the time,
22 right?

23 We were standing there and -- that was -- as I said,
24 illiterate, didn't know anything. Fair enough, but at
25 least I'm trying. I was right. I wanted to go to the

1 Merchant Navy because: when I get out of here this is
2 the last place I want to see in my life again.

3 So I went down, went and got the application form
4 that day to go to the Leith Nautical College. It was
5 called the Dolphin, it was a big garrison ship and
6 that's where they trained you, eh?

7 I went down there and I was all excited and I went
8 up and I'm like that. And he goes, 'What are you going
9 to be when you leave school?' I had my form. One of the
10 guys who he thought was amazing has actually got done
11 for interfering with bairns, but I blame them for that,
12 not probably the guy, you know what I mean?

13 He took my form and says, 'You're trash and you'll
14 always be trash' and flung it in the bucket and 'You'll
15 never be anything'.

16 Q. You talk about another incident at the Kings Theatre
17 when he said something quite similar?

18 A. He said that all the time. Every time. Humiliating.
19 He had the orphans with him at this time in the Kings
20 Theatre.

21 Q. From the orphanage [REDACTED]?

22 A. Aye, this was from the orphanage. We were sitting in
23 the front and the wee laddies and lassies were at the
24 back there, ken?

25 'Don't you talk to them. You're scum. Look at you,

1 put your head down'. It was just the way you were
2 treated by every single one of them. They were people
3 who could get away with whatever they wanted because
4 there was nobody there to stop them.

5 Q. I'm jumping about a wee bit --

6 A. It's all right, I do that, too.

7 LADY SMITH: Don't apologise. You are doing very well in
8 explaining to me how it was. I'm following you.

9 A. I'm sorry if I didn't get it all, your Honour, but
10 there's so much in my brain.

11 LADY SMITH: You're doing well. I'm understanding what
12 you're telling me. That's good.

13 Mr Sheldon.

14 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

15 Page 22 of your statement, paragraph 83, you talk
16 about yet another incident with Mr GBD . I just want
17 you to tell us in your own words, please, about that
18 particular incident. This is -- you're on the stairs
19 near the fire doors.

20 A. I was at the stairwell in the fire doors. There were
21 two flights of stairs to get up to -- because you had
22 the bottom and you had the bit where the dormitories
23 were. And I was standing on the stairs and he come up
24 and put his hands on my private parts and gone, 'It'll
25 not be long before you're big', and I thought, 'Here we

1 go again', you know?

2 Q. Did he do anything else or --

3 A. He touched you all the time. Every time he wanted to
4 see you, he touched you. I don't know -- you know what?
5 I thought only Italians done that. Touchy-feely, you
6 know what I mean? But they were touching you in the
7 places where they shouldn't be touching you.

8 If you had a decent dad, right? A man who would be
9 strong enough, would have went down and killed them for
10 it, you know what I mean? You wouldn't let anybody do
11 that to your family.

12 Q. You told us about GBD battering you over the hands
13 with his keys; how often did that happen?

14 A. Every day. Every day. I go to the doctors because of
15 my hands because I can't open them and that's from me
16 getting battered.

17 Q. At paragraph 86, you say that SNR knew it was
18 going on, every teacher knew it was going on?

19 A. Mr GFC, he's a disgusting man. Mr GFC, all of
20 them.

21 You know something -- and I have to say this to you
22 and I said it to you earlier, just to go back a wee bit,
23 when I think of these teachers -- and some of them that
24 I really liked because they were nice, but it's true
25 what the child -- the abuse --

1 LADY SMITH: Us.

2 A. Aye. The Scottish Abuse Inquiry, it was actually [REDACTED]
3 and his fellow workers who turned and said to me,
4 'They're not that nice, HCJ [REDACTED] because they stood back
5 and watched it'. And as any man -- any decent man or
6 woman would never stand back and watch that happen.

7 I got three days in a detention cell for pushing
8 him, for punching a seven-year-old orphan in the face.
9 I was more of a man than what they'll ever be.

10 Seriously, now, when you think about it, you know?

11 Q. You tell us that you had nightmares for two years?

12 A. Years, yeah. Nightmares.

13 Q. This was including when you were at Dr Guthrie's?

14 A. I still have nightmares to this day. Still to this day.
15 Can't sleep. I'm up every night. Sweats, shower. In
16 the dark.

17 Q. You tell us that while you were at Dr Guthrie's when you
18 had nightmares there was a night watchman who actually
19 was quite kind to you?

20 A. Great guy. Great guy. I can't remember his name, but
21 I'll tell you this, he had a beard and smoked a pipe,
22 and it was the only -- safest place you ever felt when
23 that guy was on. He used to say, 'It's alright,
24 nobody's on tonight, it's just me'. You could see that
25 all the guys were all relieved.

1 Q. You tell us that he would get you up and give you a cup
2 of tea if he could see that you were struggling.

3 A. Well, I had nightmares every night, so he would bring me
4 down and make me a cup of tea and he would make me --
5 I could sit in his office and you always felt safe and
6 good. He was a really nice guy. He died. He was
7 a really nice guy.

8 Q. On page 23 of your statement, at paragraph 87, you talk
9 about another incident where you're hit over the
10 fingers, but this time with a belt?

11 A. That was with Mr GFC and the matron. The matron
12 only lived up the road from where I lived.

13 Q. Right. What happened on that occasion?

14 A. I got tattoos, young.

15 Q. Homemade tattoos?

16 A. Homemade tattoos. We're sitting at the weekend thinking
17 we'll get some tattoos. I went back and she saw them
18 and she took me right to Mr GFC. And what he
19 done -- when you got the belt, you had to do this. When
20 I was getting it I had to do that and then that, so he
21 could belt it on where I'd done the tattoos --

22 Q. Were the tattoos fresh at this stage?

23 A. They were just done.

24 Q. Still bleeding a bit?

25 A. They were bleeding and sore. And then I was put in the

1 detention cell again for doing that.

2 Q. He belted you over the place --

3 A. Over there on my fingers, there.

4 Q. How many times did he do that?

5 A. He done six on each. Maybe less or maybe more. It's

6 that long ago, but I know it was a long time and it was

7 really sore.

8 Q. You are clear the normal thing was to be belted on the

9 palm?

10 A. That's all you got, palmied, at school if you'd done

11 anything.

12 Q. Would those be called palmies sometimes?

13 A. I just says you got the belt in the palm of your hand.

14 He done it on the fingers, where it was still raw

15 and she was standing, laughing.

16 Q. You talk about leaving Dr Guthrie's. This is still

17 page 23 of your statement. And you say that one day you

18 were pulled into SNR [REDACTED] office and he said

19 you're going -- they're going to let you go.

20 A. Oh, aye. This is because of the nightmares, right?

21 Q. There was no warning. It was just into the office and

22 you're out?

23 A. You know something, I'll never forget, it was a Tuesday

24 morning. I'll never forget. It was a lovely sunny day,

25 Tuesday morning. I got up, we'd done all our normal

1 thing and I was walking along the corridor and I was
2 called in. The guy's name was called Drake. He was the
3 office staff. He said to me, 'Come in here' and I went.
4 He goes, 'You're going home today', and I went, 'What?'
5 'You're going home today'. He says, 'You're just going
6 to come here for daily schooling'.

7 I couldn't wait to get out the place, you know? And
8 I never had any money or anything. The only thing I had
9 was the clothes they give me, with my number on it, you
10 know?

11 I went out -- they got me to sign the form and that
12 and they says, 'You can go', and as I was walking out
13 I always remember them calling me back and I thought: oh
14 my god, they've made a mistake, they're bringing me back
15 again.

16 But, when I went back, they gave me £20, right? My
17 God, 20 quid.

18 Q. A lot of money in those days.

19 A. I didn't even get the bus home, I just walked because it
20 was extra money for my mum. I got home and my mum --
21 I walked in the door and I went, 'Hiya', and my mum was
22 so distraught. I goes, 'What's the matter?' She says,
23 'You've run away'. I went 'No, they've let me out,
24 mum'. 'No, no, you've run away', they couldn't even
25 have the decency to tell her.

1 Q. Just to be clear, 'Billy', you think they let you out
2 because you had been having nightmares and they were
3 worried?

4 A. No, I didn't think they were worried. I think what was
5 happening was -- to be honest with you, this is five
6 years down the line, right? To me, personally,
7 I thought I would have probably been put away until
8 I was 18. That was in my mind, because every time
9 I said to them -- 'Keep your nose clean, you'll get out'
10 and it never happened.

11 LADY SMITH: And you'd been told you were going to be sent
12 to Wellington Farm.

13 A. Not on one occasion, but on umpteen occasions. So you
14 thought you were in it for the long run.

15 MR SHELDON: What age were you when you got out?

16 A. When I went for the daily schooling? I was 15. I was
17 just coming up for 15, right?

18 Q. You changed into a day boy, as it were?

19 A. Aye, I went there daily.

20 Q. How long did that last?

21 A. It lasted for a year, until I went to the Panel and they
22 let me home.

23 Q. This was still at Dr Guthrie's?

24 A. This is in Dr Guthrie's.

25 Q. How was the treatment of you when you were a day pupil?

1 A. Just the same. But, when I left Dr Guthrie's, on the
2 day they let me out, I was taken into GFC office,
3 with him, SNR and the nurse, and they turned
4 round and says, 'If you say anything, anything to
5 anybody what's happened in here, you'll be brought back
6 in here and you'll be put back to Welly Farm until
7 you're 21'. That's what they said.

8 Remember, back then -- and you have to remember one
9 thing -- and I think about this quite a lot -- my mum
10 was frightened, because you couldn't talk back to the
11 people who they thought they were higher than what you
12 were. Everybody is equal in this world. God made us
13 all, right? Nobody higher than anybody else. You might
14 maybe have bigger positions and that, but we're all
15 human beings, and my mum was frightened of that. You
16 should never be frightened of a human being. You should
17 never be frightened.

18 Q. You tell us, at page 24, that there was another Panel
19 and that they said that they were going to put you away
20 until you were 21; was that the Panel saying that?

21 A. The Panel was saying this to me.

22 Right, the only reason they're letting me go when
23 I was 16 because I said to them, 'I'm going to the
24 Navy', and that's what kind of changed their mind,
25 right? I'm going to the Navy. I'm going right to the

1 Navy, and that's when they let me out. That was the
2 last Panel I ever went to.

3 But I never got in the Navy because for -- the
4 simple reason is I didn't have the intelligence, so
5 I had to -- to be honest with you, I had to do it in the
6 back doorway to go to the Navy.

7 Q. You hadn't had any education?

8 A. No education. So everything I learned was hands on, eh?

9 Q. But you did end up going to sea?

10 A. Aye. I ended up going to sea and I stayed at sea for
11 a long time. Only one thing, it was all foreign
12 companies, low companies, dangerous jobs.

13 Your Honour, I worked in the Merchant Navy, I worked
14 for the British Army, right? During the Falkland
15 Islands. I went for the International Marine Board and
16 saved people's lives and put my life in danger and
17 I never had the education that I should have been given,
18 and I could have been a captain by this time. I could
19 be still at sea, the place I love. And, no, I can't
20 because I can't do the paperwork, because they never
21 give me the God given right that I was entitled to.

22 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 93, you were forced to be
23 educated -- to go to be educated, but they couldn't
24 educate you?

25 A. No, I had to do it myself. I done it -- even to this

1 day, every day I try to learn something new. I taught
2 myself how to read. I'm not a great reader, but I can
3 do it.

4 Q. In the Merchant Navy, you say you were there for
5 38 years, you made up to bosun and that's a pretty
6 senior position on a --

7 A. No, a senior position is a captain. That's what
8 I wanted to be.

9 Q. But bosun is itself quite a senior position on a ship?

10 A. But African companies who never paid us. I went down to
11 Nigeria, Tincan Island, when my kids -- I worked there
12 for near enough 12 weeks and I had to pay my own fare
13 home.

14 Nae money. Never paid you. It happened quite
15 a lot, but you had to take the chance because I had
16 kids. I had to make sure they were good and they were
17 looked after.

18 Q. You tell us that you got married when you were 21, you
19 had six children and that although your relationship
20 with your wife broke down at some point, you have a new
21 partner now?

22 A. Yeah. Listen, me and my ex-wife are still friends.
23 I still go up there for a cup of tea. We've got
24 children together.

25 LADY SMITH: You make that clear in your statement. I can

1 see that.

2 A. Whatever happens in life, you never take it out on your
3 children. Adults can work things out.

4 LADY SMITH: You may not still be married, but you're still
5 okay with each other.

6 A. Best friends. That's the best way to be for a mum and
7 dad.

8 LADY SMITH: You're absolutely right.

9 MR SHELDON: You go on to talk, at paragraph 98, about the
10 impact that all this has had on you.

11 I think we can see very clearly, 'Billy', what kind
12 of impact it's had on you, but is there anything you
13 would like to add about the way all this has made you
14 feel and the impact it's had on your life?

15 A. Well, listen, in life I was always -- my mum always
16 taught me, she says, 'Listen, in life ...' Because she
17 was married to an arsehole of a dad, [REDACTED], who
18 didn't give a toss about his kids. She always said to
19 me, 'No matter what in life, [REDACTED] ...' she said it to us
20 all in fact. 'Remember whatever happens you never take
21 it out on the children and you try and do things
22 amicably'. She says it's the best way. And that's what
23 I was taught all my life. I always thought: if I have
24 kids, it's my responsibility to take care of them. You
25 never harm them.

1 I wouldn't harm any kid, right?

2 It's a hard enough life to go through for just
3 normal things, rather than this for anybody to be upset
4 with anybody. So I thought: if you be kind and good and
5 do what my mum said -- and I've always believed in that.
6 I always believed the most important thing is that your
7 family's fed, you're well looked after, right, and
8 life's good.

9 55 years, my life has been hell and I've hid it from
10 my children. I can't even go up to my children and
11 cuddle them the way you should be able to. I feel if
12 I do that I'm going to abuse them.

13 Remember one thing, when I say 'abuse them', I would
14 never abuse anybody, but even to touch somebody, they
15 can put you away for five years for not being able to
16 read and write; what else could they do to you?

17 Let's be honest. You know something, they took away
18 a lot of trust from me. See people in power, they --
19 these people, they call themselves -- who were meant to
20 be there to help people, they put us in a very dark
21 place, a very dark place.

22 Q. It certainly sounds like it, 'Billy'. You have given
23 a very vivid description of it.

24 On the last page of your statement, page 27, there
25 is a heading:

1 'Lessons to be learned.'

2 Just in your own words, what do you think are the
3 lessons to be learned?

4 A. Which one is that on?

5 Q. Page 27, paragraph 106.

6 A. Oh, aye.

7 Q. You begin:

8 'The government should have more input into care.
9 Someone properly vetted, not in the government, but
10 appointed by them, should go into these places
11 unannounced.'

12 A. Yeah. But you know something, we had audits. We had
13 audits. I didn't know what an audit was then, but not
14 until I got older, your Honour. I remember when they
15 used to say to us, 'Oh, we're getting visitors today and
16 they're going to talk to yous individually, and if you
17 say one thing out of order, right ... you have to tell
18 them that this is a great school, that you love it here,
19 it's great. The staff ...'

20 That's what we were told to tell them. Otherwise,
21 if you never, you would take what was coming to you. So
22 you had to lie to them.

23 Q. Did they actually speak to the children?

24 A. Aye. I spoke -- I didn't know he was an auditor at the
25 time. You are just sitting there with somebody new, you

1 know what I mean?

2 Q. Can you remember what sort of things they would ask you?

3 A. They were asking what was the food like. It was always
4 great, you know what I mean? I couldn't lie there. And
5 what is it like? Do you get school every day? We're in
6 class, do what we're told. And the staff are all good
7 and treat us well. They even bring us in sweeties.
8 Lying to protect yourself from getting whatever was
9 coming.

10 That's not the way of life.

11 Q. In the next paragraph, you say:

12 'I would like to see some of the people from
13 Howdenhall and Dr Guthrie's eye to eye and ask them how
14 they sleep at night after what they've done to kids and
15 tell them how many lives they destroyed. I was 11, but
16 I think I should have spoken up a bit more. I felt
17 weak. I should have fought more and that destroys me
18 a bit.'

19 A. It does. I should have went for it. I should have went
20 for it when I was 11-and-a-half.

21 Q. I think the point is you were 11. You were a wee boy,
22 'Billy'.

23 A. It didn't feel like that. You think: why are they
24 people doing that to people? We all know you get bad
25 people and not everybody's the best in this world. I'm

1 not even the best, nobody is, but you don't treat people
2 like that. I mean, wild animals didn't even treat their
3 bairns like that, you know what I mean?

4 These people were meant to be people who were there
5 who were meant to be professional, who looked after you.

6 I worked in the North Sea. Imagine me going into
7 an oil rig with a big huge offshore supply boat and just
8 hitting -- it doesn't matter, we'll just hit it.
9 There's rules in this life and the District Council, the
10 police, the social work department and Gracemount, they
11 had no morals whatsoever, none. They taught us nothing
12 but hatred towards them.

13 And to this day, your Honour, right, when I look at
14 people in higher places and wearing uniforms, it's kind
15 of -- it's misted my judgment about them, you know what
16 I mean?

17 LADY SMITH: It's harder to trust authority when authority's
18 been bad to you.

19 A. Yeah, exactly. How can you trust somebody -- and I'm --
20 and you do get good people, because there's probably
21 good people here, but that's the kind of thing that it's
22 been heavy on me for a long, long time. You know,
23 I look at people and I say: why should I bow to these
24 people?

25 I tried to be good when I was younger. I tried to

1 help my mum and my three wee brothers. I tried to be --
2 I wasn't always the best at things, but I tried, and all
3 that was done was I was enslaved, I was abused, I was
4 beaten up and I was incarcerated for five years for
5 being good.

6 Because I never thought I was bad. I maybe should
7 have done a wee bit better at school, I should have.
8 Instead of going to sleep I should have got myself up
9 and said: stay awake and try your hardest, you know.

10 Maybe that was my fault.

11 Q. We can all tell how difficult it was for you, 'Billy'.
12 I just want to thank you for what you have been able to
13 tell us today.

14 My Lady, I don't have any more questions for
15 'Billy'.

16 A. I have one bit, because you forgot one as well.

17 If you go back to the assessment centre.

18 LADY SMITH: To Howdenhall?

19 A. To Howdenhall Assessment Centre, when they were having
20 the girls in with the boys with porny movies on. Come
21 on, 11-and-a-half.

22 MR SHELDON: What sort of porny movies?

23 A. I'm talking about full naked bodies. And I was laughing
24 because I thought it was funny, I was 11. It's the last
25 thing you thought about was that and this is what was

1 happening.

2 Q. Hardcore pornography?

3 A. Aye. And the lassies in and letting the laddies do what
4 they can do. It was wrong. It was so wrong.

5 Q. The staff were all watching this as well?

6 A. They're all there. And this is people who were meant to
7 be entrusted, you know? It's just crazy, crazy.

8 I'll tell you something now, in this life, and every
9 institution when it comes to children or young people,
10 they should have people going in there who are
11 unannounced. Or put somebody in there and let them see
12 for what really is happening. That would cut out a wee
13 bit if you got somebody who was honest because I never
14 saw anybody honest in there.

15 I never saw anybody honest in the panels. I never
16 saw anybody honest in the assessment centre, in the
17 social work department, in the whole system. I never
18 saw anything -- who you could turn to.

19 I thought I could turn to my social work department
20 every time, the head one and Sandra Lee, and they never
21 done anything. They just let me get abused and just
22 didn't say nothing: you'll get out.

23 Q. It was the same with the teachers at Dr Guthrie's?

24 A. Same with the teachers.

25 Dr Guthrie's was worse than the assessment centre,

1 but what is worse when it comes to abuse? It's like
2 saying a sin's a sin. If you steal a sweetie or kill
3 somebody, a sin's a sin, you know what I mean?

4 That's all I can say.

5 MR SHELDON: 'Billy', thank you.

6 A. Thank you for listening to me.

7 LADY SMITH: 'Billy', can I add my thanks. You have given
8 your evidence clearly and powerfully and really helped
9 me understand what life was like for you in these
10 places.

11 A. I have one more thing to say to you, your Honour.
12 I need to tell you this because it's really important to
13 me.

14 LADY SMITH: What?

15 A. When the Scottish Child Abuse got in contact, after it,
16 [REDACTED] here, after we had the meetings and that, we had
17 the face-to-face on the screen, he said to me I had to
18 go to the police, right, to report this, right? And
19 I was a wee bit embarrassed to go to the police, but he
20 said it was good to go and you had to go and report
21 this.

22 So I went to Fettes Police Station.

23 LADY SMITH: I know where it is.

24 A. I was put in contact with DC Philips, who was to do with
25 the Child Abuse Inquiry.

1 LADY SMITH: We don't have police who are part of us, but he
2 would be somebody who knew about our work. The police
3 have a group who know what we're doing.

4 A. They said to me at the time when I went there, we're to
5 do with the Child Abuse Inquiry. You'll not deal with
6 anybody else apart from us.

7 When I went there and I spoke to the guy and I had
8 to give my statement, because I had to -- it was like
9 you were putting in a formal complaint against them,
10 I done it.

11 I got in contact with that guy for near enough
12 a year. I never got any reply when I went up and done
13 it. Then he says, 'I'm going to send police officers to
14 your --' to my door. I took time off work, your Honour,
15 right? I'm thinking: well, this is okay.

16 I was a bit nervous because this is people I don't
17 know, just like yourselves. I don't know yous.

18 These guys are coming to my door and when they come
19 in I'm sitting there, I goes, 'Come in, would you like a
20 coffee?' And I was telling [REDACTED] from the minute they
21 come in I felt that wee bit uncomfortable, you know what
22 I mean? I didn't feel right. There was something not
23 right there. Your Honour, the people that come to take
24 my statement were guys that lived down the road from me
25 from the local police station. This was meant to be

1 people from the inquiry.

2 LADY SMITH: Again, it wouldn't be people from us.

3 A. No, from the police department inquiry for the child
4 abuse, not from here.

5 LADY SMITH: I'm with you.

6 A. I was put in contact with them because they were there
7 especially for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.

8 LADY SMITH: Did you feel able to speak to them?

9 A. Well, when I spoke -- I'll get to it in a second, your
10 Honour.

11 When I spoke to this DC Philips and they sent this
12 guy who I thought was -- not from you directly, but
13 they were a part of it. I'm sitting there telling this
14 guy everything and he's just written it off, 'Aye, okay
15 then. Oh, thank you'.

16 He was from the local police station, your Honour.

17 I got back to DC Philips, one-and-a-half years, no
18 answer. I phoned up again -- and it will all be
19 recorded -- and they put me through to a DC Shearer,
20 right. This is a new guy who is in charge of the abuse,
21 this Inquiry with the abuse for the police.

22 So I went in to see him and they kept on -- I give
23 them names, your Honour. I told them everything that
24 I'm telling you, maybe a wee bit more or less because at
25 the time and they went: we're really sorry Mr --

1 LADY SMITH: I can deal with that.

2 A. 'We're sorry, but that guy should never have come to
3 your door in the first place', right?

4 Then DC Shearer and there was another guy there,
5 I can't -- he was one of the higher ones. Every time
6 I went to them and gave them the names of the abusers
7 from school all the way through, Mr EWA Mr GBD I
8 named them all. As long as I was told what is their
9 first name, first name. Listen, you sent guys up to my
10 house who had nothing to do with this.

11 I walked past them in the street. For weeks on end,
12 your Honour, I was sick, worried sick. What happens if
13 they tell somebody else, right?

14 Now, DC Shearer come back to me. I went back to
15 them, I give them names, first names and addresses of
16 these perpetrators because all I was ever asked is:
17 what's their first name? What's their first name?
18 What's their first name? What's their first name?

19 I says: I was 11. Back then, you never mentioned
20 anybody by their first name.

21 But I got them, your Honour, and I give them to
22 them, right? Every single one. Told them exactly. I
23 got on my phone and gave it to them. They turned and
24 said to me, about eight weeks, ten weeks after that,
25 I got a phone call -- I'm working and driving, and it's

1 DC Shearer, 'Oh, I've got some good news and some bad
2 news for you'. I said, 'What's the good news?' 'We
3 caught Mr [REDACTED]'. I said, 'Really? You caught them?
4 You are the police. I'm illiterate pal. I got you
5 where he lived. He's shopping at Morrisons down in
6 Leith, Prestonfield', right?

7 Now, you tell me, your Honour, right, how somebody
8 illiterate can go and find these people. And this is
9 the police, this is the police. They couldn't even get
10 one person.

11 And he comes back to me and goes: we found him, but
12 the bad news is he died last year.

13 I reported that in 2020. No once, not twice, not
14 seven times. 100 times, your Honour. Why was he not
15 brought in for questioning?

16 And ICO have been in contact with me, the Court of
17 Sessions have been in contact with me, and they said
18 there had been a miscarriage of justice because once
19 you've done all this, I'm to go back to the ICO and they
20 want it all written down exactly from start to beginning
21 about the police, about every time I go to get things
22 from the social work department or Edinburgh District
23 Council -- and remember, your Honour, the Edinburgh
24 District Council is Dr Guthrie's and the
25 assessment centre, right? It's the two places. And

1 every time I had to go and get every bit of thing that
2 they've got for me is I've got them it.

3 LADY SMITH: Because the Council would have been responsible
4 for sending you to Howdenhall.

5 A. I got it.

6 LADY SMITH: And sending you to Dr Guthrie's.

7 A. I was the ones who got them all their evidence. Me, an
8 illiterate. This is the police of Scotland, your
9 Honour.

10 LADY SMITH: 'Billy', being illiterate -- which you're not
11 now -- doesn't mean you are stupid, far from it.

12 A. But there has to be an ending, your Honour. There has
13 to be an ending and that's all I ask for.

14 LADY SMITH: I do understand that.

15 'Billy', thank you. Thank you for everything you
16 have brought this morning. You have worked hard at
17 helping us with the work we're doing here and I really
18 appreciate that.

19 I'm now able to let you go. Go and have a quieter
20 time for the rest of the day.

21 A. Can I ask you something, your Honour? What happens next
22 with this? Because, to me, it all --

23 LADY SMITH: The Inquiry?

24 A. Aye, what happens to me after this? What happens to the
25 Council who is meant to be taking -- meant to be -- they

1 should be paying us out no matter what. There's not
2 enough money in this world would ever compensate for
3 what they done to me and what they done to my children
4 and what they done to my mum.

5 You know, on my mum's death bed, your Honour, she
6 was apologising to me. Apologising, saying she's sorry
7 for what they did.

8 LADY SMITH: 'Billy', go and look after yourself for the
9 rest of today. Be good to yourself, will you? Go on.
10 A. I always try. Thank you. Thank you all.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the morning break, a few
13 names of people whose identities are protected by my
14 General Restriction Order, names we have used this
15 morning. The first, of course, is the witness himself,
16 who slipped out his own second name, but other than
17 that, Mr EWA, Mr MTQ from Howdenhall, and then
18 Mr KEP, Mr GBD, GIC, otherwise known as
19 GIC and Mr GFC. They mustn't be identified
20 outside this room as being people who are mentioned in
21 our evidence.

22 Thank you very much. We'll take the morning break
23 now.

24 (11.42 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (12.00 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: I should explain that there's been a change of
3 plan, although we were expecting to have a second
4 witness in person at this stage in the hearings. That
5 won't now be happening, so we'll move on to read-ins of
6 some more statements.

7 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady.

8 I should, before I start, just apologise for
9 a mistake I made yesterday. The last statement I read
10 in yesterday, which was WIT-1-000000813, known as
11 'John', I said he was born in 1967. That was
12 an error -- sorry, I said he was born in 1964. He was
13 actually born in 1967.

14 LADY SMITH: I should apologise, too, because I should have
15 noticed. I have the right dates written down here.
16 Joint apologies to those who were attending to this
17 evidence assiduously.

18 Now, we move on to who?

19 MS FORBES: My Lady, this is a statement from an applicant
20 who is anonymous and known as 'Tavish'.

21 The reference for statement is WIT.001.001.5305.

22 'Tavish' (read)

23 MS FORBES: 'Tavish' was born in 1958. He talks about his
24 background between paragraphs 2 and 5. 'Tavish' says he
25 had a normal childhood until he was about six. They

1 weren't poor, but his father started drinking and the
2 family became dysfunctional.

3 His father had been to war before and was becoming
4 mentally ill. And his father was in and out of prisons
5 and mental hospitals. 'Tavish' says his father was
6 violent towards his mother, but not to him.

7 But, one night, his father chased him with a knife
8 and was calling him a 'German bastard', obviously
9 confused. He says he had an older brother, as well as
10 two sisters, one younger sister, one older sister and
11 they moved from Millhouse in Hamilton to Stonehouse and
12 he had to move schools.

13 At that time, 'Tavish' says he then fell out of
14 sorts, the accent was different and he felt isolated and
15 he didn't have any friends.

16 He talks about his life before care between
17 paragraph 6 and 9. He says that he first ended up in
18 court in [REDACTED] 1969. He doesn't remember what
19 happened, but he was back in court in [REDACTED] 1970. At
20 that time he was 11. He had taken three empty lemonade
21 bottles from a shed on a building site and he was with
22 his 14-year-old brother at the time, but he was taken to
23 the police station and charged with house breaking and
24 theft.

25 But he was also charged with threatening someone

1 with a knife. He said he had showed another boy
2 a penknife he had and so that was a charge he faced as
3 well.

4 He was in court the next day and he was given three
5 years. 'Tavish' says he was that small at the time he
6 could hardly see over the dock and his brother was also
7 with him, but he only got a year.

8 He was then sent to Calder House and he talks about
9 that between paragraphs 10 and 23. He says he was there
10 between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 1970. He was sent there
11 along with his brother and comments that his education
12 ended the day he appeared in court and that while he was
13 at Calder House the staff just shouted and bawled at
14 them all day.

15 In relation to abuse at Calder House, he talks about
16 being assaulted in the showers on his first day, he
17 started to have an asthma attack and he was locked in
18 a cupboard. There was also sexual assault by a female
19 member of staff and inappropriate conduct.

20 Ultimately, he was moved from there without a chance
21 to say goodbye to his brother.

22 He was then taken to Dr Guthrie's and he talks about
23 that between paragraphs 24 and 59, and there are records
24 that show he was admitted to Dr Guthrie's on
25 [REDACTED] 1970.

1 If --

2 LADY SMITH: He would still be 11, [REDACTED] nearly 12 at
3 that point.

4 MS FORBES: Yes.

5 If I can go to paragraph 24, my Lady, I'll just read
6 from there:

7 'I was taken there on [REDACTED] 1970. We went there
8 in a car and went up the M8 and I remember the road
9 being empty. Dr Guthrie's is in Liberton, Edinburgh.
10 When we arrived I was taken into [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] room.
11 The person who took me there just disappeared. [REDACTED] SNR
12 [REDACTED] SNR was called Mr [REDACTED] GFC and he said, "I am your
13 father now". He was as cold as ice, as were all the
14 staff.

15 'I reckon there were about 70 or 80 boys in
16 Dr Guthrie's. Other staff I recall are Mr [REDACTED] GVI [REDACTED], who
17 was only there for a few months, Mr [REDACTED] GFG [REDACTED], Mr [REDACTED] KMI [REDACTED], who
18 was a nice man, Mr [REDACTED] LYI [REDACTED], who was a horror story,
19 a horrible man, and a man with blonde hair, who spoke
20 with an extremely posh accent. He may have been called
21 Mr [REDACTED] GFB [REDACTED] though, I'm not sure. He was a paedophile
22 as far as I was concerned.

23 'He used one of those walking sticks that you could
24 turn into a seat. He was involved in athletics and used
25 to take the younger boys, and only them, to the swimming

1 pool that the school had. I remember once it had so
2 much chlorine in it we could hardly breathe.

3 'At night there would be a night watchman, a lovely
4 old guy. He could tell me about his time in the First
5 World War, the gas attacks, et cetera. He repaired
6 watches and showed me his tools and how to fix the
7 springs. I used to love talking to him.

8 'Mr KMI, who was a teacher of religion, was a nice
9 man. He got me a flying Scott bicycle that I was able
10 to race with and I was beating guys that were years
11 older than me. I used to race at Meadowbank. When
12 I left the school, I contacted Mr KMI to see if
13 I could continue riding the bike and he gave me a number
14 for a social work department, but when I went there they
15 looked at me as if I was stupid and said that if I
16 wanted to ride bikes I should join a bike club.

17 'The place was horrible. In the dorms, there would
18 be eight beds on one side and eight beds on the other.
19 There were 16 in each dorm with a smaller dorm at the
20 end with six in it. There were no decorations in the
21 dorms, no curtains, cheap linoleum. It was very basic.
22 There was no visual stimulation.'

23 He then talks about the routine:

24 'The ages were mixed. I was in Belhaven, the next
25 block was called Churchill and at the far end of the

1 long corridor were Argyll and Sutherland. I had to sew
2 my number on every piece of clothing myself.'

3 Then he says what he thinks his number was:

4 'That was it. You were just a number to them.

5 'There was a list put up out in the yard which
6 showed how much pocket money each of us was getting.
7 The money was really just to pay your fare home on
8 a Saturday. I used to walk from Glasgow to Stonehouse
9 just to save money. That would take me a couple of
10 hours.

11 'There were no Christmas decorations. When it was
12 your birthday, you got ice-cream.

13 'At first I used to write letters to my mum, but she
14 disappeared about October 1970 and after that there was
15 no point writing to her and I received no visitors and
16 never saw any social workers, not even after my mum
17 disappeared. I had nobody from the moment I entered
18 that place to the minute I left.

19 'I was never given spending money, only bus fare
20 and, after my mum disappeared, there was nowhere for me
21 to go, so they even stopped giving me that.'

22 'Tavish' then talks about abuse at Dr Guthrie's from
23 paragraph 34:

24 'I was taken upstairs and on my first night was in
25 the shower with another young boy who had been whipped

1 and was black and blue. I just remember looking at him
2 and thinking, "Oh God, I've got three years of this".
3 I was still only 11 years old. I didn't speak to the
4 boy and I think he was deliberately put there to put the
5 fear of God in me. I'm sure it was psychological
6 terror.

7 'The regime there was terrible. I remember, not
8 long after I arrived, I was sound asleep and was
9 brutally awoken one morning and found myself getting
10 shouted at, 'Get up ya lazy fucking bastard'. This guy
11 was right into my face screaming this. My sheets were
12 then thrown all over the place. This happened to me on
13 at least three occasions. I don't recall this happening
14 to anybody else.

15 'I remember once I was playing ping pong. It was my
16 shot and I had the ball. Another boy took the ball off
17 me and I started to cry, as an 11-year-old would.
18 A member of staff came up to me and slapped me so hard
19 I could feel it go right through me. I've worked as
20 a bouncer and I've had broken ribs, but I've never felt
21 anything as sore as that slap. It was brutal. He could
22 have broken my jaw. None of the other boys said a thing
23 when I was slapped and I realised I was on my own in
24 that place. The others simply didn't care.

25 'Mr LYI [REDACTED] taught PE. He used to ask for

1 volunteers, but he was brutal and used to really hurt
2 me. I stopped volunteering because I just couldn't take
3 the punishment anymore, but he kept picking me. He was
4 a psycho, that just seemed to enjoy hurting me. I don't
5 recall if he did it to others.

6 'He had a medicine ball that he would throw at me
7 and really hurt me. He threw it at me one day and I put
8 my hand up to defend myself. It broke my hand and I had
9 to get a bandage put on it. I was lying in bed later
10 that night and the night watchman heard me crying. He
11 came over to my bed and asked what was wrong and I told
12 him what Mr LYI had done. He looked at my hand,
13 which was all black and took me to see Mr GFC who he
14 had to wake. I heard them having an argument and
15 shortly after that I was taken to hospital in Edinburgh
16 where an x-ray showed I had a big crack in my hand.
17 They couldn't put a stookie on it.

18 'Mr LYI also broke my other hand with a big
19 Victorian key. He then rebroke the first of my hands
20 that he had fractured and, when my other hand had
21 healed, he broke that one again as well. I don't recall
22 anybody being present when he did these things.
23 I started trying to avoid him. He was a psychopath.
24 I would hide in nooks and crannies just to get away from
25 him.

1 'He also took me into a room two or three times,
2 pulled my foreskin back and put Vaseline on my penis.
3 I'm sure if I had got an erection he would have raped
4 me.

5 'LYI [REDACTED] was quite a big guy, he was fit and
6 powerful. I think he worked as the painter in the
7 place, not that he was very good at it. I also think he
8 was a black belt in either judo or karate. He was
9 a horrible, horrible man. I think the reason he picked
10 on me was because he got into trouble after he broke my
11 hand with the medicine ball and I had to be taken to
12 hospital. I can't remember if there was ever anybody
13 around when he assaulted me.

14 'Mr LYI [REDACTED] was an evil man and he probably hurt
15 other boys, though I didn't actually see it. I don't
16 know if any of the other boys complained about him.
17 I just know he hurt me over and over again.

18 'Mr KMI [REDACTED] was a fundamentalist, extreme Church of
19 Scotland. I remember complaining to him about having to
20 watch some of the other boys, who were between 12 and
21 13, have a homosexual orgy. All he said was that if
22 a Church of Scotland education was good enough for
23 King James then it was good enough for me. I was going
24 through puberty and there I was having to watch what was
25 like a gang bang every night. I used to wake up and

1 some of the other boys would be trying to masturbate me,
2 but I didn't like this. I didn't like it because
3 I thought it was immoral. I've nothing against
4 homosexuality and I do know it's not learned, because it
5 never made me a homosexual, despite watching so much of
6 it when I was young.

7 'One night I was lying in bed on my side. I was in
8 the second or third bed up. There was a boy [and he
9 names the boy] in the dorm who was always highly sexed,
10 despite the fact he was only 12 or 13. In fact,
11 I remember him giving oral sex to three boys on one
12 occasion. I saw Mr GFG standing next to [and this is
13 the boy's bed] GFG then grabbed him by the hair, pulled
14 him out of the bed and marched him out the dorm.'

15 He then said he heard the boy say:

16 'I don't want to do it. I don't want to do it.'

17 'Tavish' said:

18 'I don't know what he did to the boy and as
19 a 13-year-old boy I thought he had caught him
20 masturbating and was maybe going to give him a cold
21 shower. However, looking back as an adult, I think it
22 was something more sinister though I can't say what.

23 'On Christmas Eve in 1971, I had nowhere to go, so
24 was still at the school. My mum had disappeared. I had
25 no one else and I was the only person left in the

1 school. I was watching TV at about 4.30 pm. A cartoon
2 came on and I thought 'brilliant'. Mr GFC came in
3 and asked me what I was doing and when I said I was just
4 watching cartoons he grabbed me, turned off the TV and
5 told me to find a brush and sweep up the square. It was
6 dark outside. The stars were in the sky. I was
7 standing in the square brushing up and I can honestly
8 say it was the lowest point of my life. I remember
9 looking up in the sky and thinking that even God hated
10 me. Jesus hated me. And I asked myself: what have
11 I done to deserve this?

12 'It was a truly horrible experience that I wouldn't
13 wish on my worst enemy. It was a terrible way to treat
14 a child.

15 'To be fair to Mr GFG he came up to me and asked
16 me what I was doing. When I told him that Mr GFC
17 had ordered me to sweep the square, he grabbed the brush
18 and told me to follow him. We went into the main
19 corridor and I heard him have a heated argument with
20 Mr GFC and Mr GFG shouted, "Are you trying to turn
21 him into a psychopath?"

22 'Sweeping the square was a dreadful experience. It
23 was horrible. There I was on my own on Christmas Eve in
24 this big square and I just thought that God, Jesus and
25 everybody else all hated me. It not only ruined that

1 Christmas, but turned me into an atheist. That was
2 a crime in itself as far as I was concerned.

3 'The next thing I remember [REDACTED] was being back
4 in Calder House Home. I've no recollection of how I got
5 there. [REDACTED] Mr GFC [REDACTED] was
6 a horrible man who never showed me any emotion. He was
7 in charge of all discipline in the place. He always
8 seemed to take pleasure in it and was brutal when doing
9 it.

10 'On another occasion, I was in the square wearing my
11 shorts. For some reason they had sewn up the pockets
12 though. I did have a pocket at the back of the shorts
13 which I used for my tobacco. I had started smoking when
14 I was 11. I was freezing and had put my hands down the
15 front of my shorts to keep them warm.

16 'I got grabbed by a member of staff and taken to
17 Mr GFC [REDACTED] office, who pulled my trousers down, bent
18 me over a table and belted me over the bare backside.
19 I think he only hit me the once. He then told me to get
20 out and not to put my hands down there again. To this
21 day, because of that incident, I never put my hands in
22 my pockets.

23 'Normally, when he gave you belt, he hit your hands,
24 though often enough he would miss and hit you halfway up
25 the arm. It was a big, thick leather strap he used.

1 You would have big black and blue marks up your arm.

2 'I don't know if a discipline book was kept if you
3 received corporal punishment. I don't think Mr GFC
4 was bad man, but he was extremely cold and he was brutal
5 if you got the belt from him. He was one of those that
6 if you ignored him he ignored you. You were just
7 a number to him.

8 'We would all be naked and the man who I believe was
9 called Mr GFB would line us up. He would bend you
10 over his knee, while you were naked, and spank you. You
11 could feel his erection on your stomach. The next time
12 he did it, he was also playing with my bum. When he did
13 that, I walked away and went into the pool. He told
14 others to tell me to come back and that I would enjoy
15 it, but I stayed away. The spanking wasn't
16 a punishment, it was supposed to be fun. This happened
17 on at least three occasions.

18 'This same man used to also show us films of naked
19 boys from the school who had left by that time. The
20 film had been taken at Thornton Loch and had been taken
21 before my time. I remember thinking the film was in
22 colour and high quality. The boys in the film were
23 naked and doing somersaults and jumping about. Looking
24 back, I think it was child pornography and I just knew
25 it was immoral.

1 'He used to take us to a wee byrn called Monynut
2 Water which ran into the Tweed. He took us to guddle
3 fish. There was a wee pool that we dived into to
4 collect stones and was about six or seven feet deep and
5 the same wide. He was filming us as we did it, using
6 a silver cine camera. He was clearly recording our
7 naked bums, so he probably even has a film of me. Even
8 at 12 or 13, I knew that what he was doing was wrong.

9 'I also think he was filming us watching the films
10 of the naked boys. I don't remember if the films had
11 sound. The films weren't sexual as such, but the boys
12 were all naked and jumping about with each other.
13 I wouldn't be surprised if he filmed the orgies I was
14 talking about earlier.

15 'Mr GFC knew this was going on. We were all
16 taken to Thorntonloch for three weeks. I remember it
17 poured rain for the first two weeks. While there,
18 I remember Mr GFB , if that was his name, took me
19 and a few others to Cove Harbour in a Land Rover. He
20 pulled over at one point and took one of the boys into
21 a cottage for 45 minutes and, as far as I'm concerned,
22 he was having sex with the boy. My belief is that this
23 man didn't rape me because, unlike some, I made it clear
24 I didn't want involved with him.

25 'I've no recollection of my release, other than

1 being given my bus fare and shown the door. This was in
2 1972.'

3 'Tavish' then says that when he left the home he
4 started breaking into shops and he was caught and sent
5 to Geilsland. He talks about that at paragraph 60 and
6 61, and in there he says:

7 'A man called Mr EZD broke me with kindness.'

8 And he has no complaints about Geilsland, other than
9 having to work with blue asbestos when he was required
10 to strip old irons. 'Tavish' comments that his
11 education stopped at age 11 and he didn't even learn the
12 alphabet until he was 21.

13 In relation to impact, he talks about that from
14 paragraph 62. If I can go to 62, I'm just going to read
15 out a few paragraphs, my Lady:

16 'In the early 1980s, I started to get a lot of pain
17 in my left shoulder. In the 1990s, I was lifting
18 weights when my arm suddenly became paralysed. I
19 collapsed. In 2006, I got a CT scan which showed I had
20 spondylitis and had a hole in my spine that was round
21 and causing me pain. This had been caused by Mr LYI
22 stabbing me in the back with the Victorian key. That's
23 what he did to me, stabbed me in the spine and broke my
24 hands.

25 'My dad was in [REDACTED] Hospital. He had

1 fought for his country and yet here was his son getting
2 abused in Dr Guthrie's. That was a disgrace. Society
3 had locked me up for nothing. I was never a thief when
4 I went in that place, but it brutalised me. I had no
5 emotions. I hadn't a clue about left and right or right
6 and wrong. This was all because of the way I was
7 treated for two-and-a-half years.

8 'I keep getting flashbacks about being raped in the
9 shower. In the flashbacks I am being held up and
10 masturbated from behind. I started getting these
11 flashbacks when I was in my flat in 1980 when I was
12 22 years old and it was eight years after I had left
13 Dr Guthrie's. I have no idea who was involved in this
14 abuse of me.

15 'I don't know why I have the flashbacks. When
16 I have them, I can clearly see over the walls into the
17 cubicles and I am being held up and masturbated from
18 behind. I have no idea when or if this happened to me,
19 yet it's there in my mind. I just feel there is too
20 much detail that I recall for it not to have happened,
21 especially the fact that in the flashbacks I can see
22 into the cubicles. I wouldn't have been able to see
23 into the cubicles without somebody holding me up.'

24 Going then, my Lady, to paragraph 69:

25 'I used to have a tendency to jump in the middle of

1 the night and if anybody touches me when I'm asleep then
2 I jump up immediately. I'm sure this goes back to when
3 I used to get the covers ripped off me. It never leaves
4 you.'

5 He then says that he knows in the 1990s Mr GFG was
6 [REDACTED] of either assault or sexual
7 assault in either a home or Approved School. He states:

8 'I remember he said that anybody [REDACTED]
9 against him was a liar, that they were all liars.'

10 That is at paragraph 70.

11 He then talks about reporting of abuse, at
12 paragraph 72:

13 'There was a matron in Dr Guthrie's who would look
14 after our health. She was a German woman, a big
15 strapping woman, and I recall her bursting a boil I had
16 on my stomach. I couldn't tell her how I received any
17 of my injuries because you would be scared to tell
18 anybody in case it came back on you. The only one
19 I could really speak normally to was the night watchman,
20 but I never saw him again after he woke up Mr GFC
21 that night.

22 'I told those in the hospital about what Mr LYI
23 had done and when he broke my hand when he threw the
24 medicine ball at me, but I don't know if anything was
25 done to him. I didn't complain to anybody in the home

1 about it because it I was too scared of him.'

2 Paragraph 75:

3 'The first time I complained about all this was
4 about 1988 when I complained to a lawyer.'

5 I complained about all of those who I have mentioned
6 above. He said he couldn't do anything because I had no
7 witnesses and I told him that if that was the case
8 I wanted to take them to court.'

9 Then he talks about the fact that he waited
10 a fortnight, but when he went in to see the lawyer he
11 said that he hadn't been entitled to an education as he
12 had forfeited his rights because he had been a criminal.

13 He then said:

14 'I found out recently that this is ..."

15 The sentence says.

16 'I found out recently that this is true.'

17 I think he might be referring to forfeiting rights
18 if you were convicted.

19 LADY SMITH: It could be, yes.

20 MS FORBES: 'Tavish' then says, at 76:

21 'At the beginning of the century I complained to
22 what I think was called the Jack McConnell Inquiry, but
23 they completely blanked me. Then, in 2014, I wrote to
24 the Scottish Social Services, but all they did was tell
25 me to go to the police. How could I have gone to the

1 police when it was them who had locked me up all those
2 years ago? It was them who took me from my mother. I
3 have no dislike for the police, but it was them who
4 started all this.'

5 He then talks, my Lady, about records and states
6 that he's tried to get his records, but he's been told
7 that they are under a hundred year notice.

8 LADY SMITH: He thinks Scott-Moncrieff were lawyers.

9 They're not, they're accountants, and they were merged
10 with Azets who we heard about from the archivist. It's
11 the same place, where the records were being held.

12 MS FORBES: Yes. In relation to lessons to be learned, he
13 talks about that between paragraphs 80 and 86. He says
14 he would like an apology from the system. If I go to
15 paragraph 82:

16 'I think they should have had this Inquiry 25 or
17 30 years ago. Mr LYI [REDACTED] would be in his 70s or 80s
18 now, but I wouldn't want to see him punished now. Yes,
19 I would have wanted him to suffer what I did, but
20 I wouldn't want an old man hurt in the way I was.

21 'I don't know if it would have made a difference if
22 I had had a social worker. The problem is that if you
23 commit a serious crime you deserve to be locked up, but
24 not for stealing three lemonade bottles. And you don't
25 deserve to be sexually, physically and emotionally

1 abused.

2 'I don't know how you should treat a child who
3 commitments a serious offence.

4 'In Geilsland, they had morals and Mr EZD was
5 a good man. I ran away at 16 because I was sick of it.
6 Mr EZD said he could keep me until I was 18 and even
7 until I was 21 if he thought I was a danger. He beat me
8 with kindness. He died last year.

9 'All I want is an apology for what happened to me
10 for nothing more than stealing three ginger bottles.'

11 He has made the usual declaration, my Lady, at
12 paragraph 87, and he has signed that and it's dated
13 7 March 2017.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 MS FORBES: I think Mr Sheldon now has a statement to read
16 in, my Lady.

17 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

18 'Ally' (read)

19 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this is the statement of 'Ally'. His
20 statement is reference WIT.001.001.8031

21 'Ally' was at Dr Guthrie's from around ██████████ 1975
22 to around ██████████ 1976 and then again between ██████████
23 1978 and ██████████ 1979.

24 At some point, it's not entirely clear when, he
25 became a day boy. 'Ally' was born in 1963. He was

1 brought up in Edinburgh, with a large family. His
2 father died when 'Ally' was young and his mother
3 struggled to cope as a single mother are.

4 'Ally' started to get into trouble and was caught
5 stealing, but the total value of what he stole, he says,
6 was about a pound and so 'Ally' was another young person
7 who found themselves in the care system because of
8 a trivial offence.

9 He says he would have been about 12 when he was sent
10 to the Children's Panel. And that would certainly
11 coincide with his Dr Guthrie's dates, my Lady.

12 Page 2 of his statement, paragraph 6, he says that:

13 'The first time I was at Dr Guthrie's I was there
14 about a year. I never had any issues.

15 'Dr Guthrie's was a big building with lots of
16 different bits to it. There was a swimming pool and
17 a gym. I would say that there were about 60 to 70 boys
18 there. Each dormitory had about 16 boys in it, all
19 different ages. The dormitories were called Belhaven,
20 Geoffrey and Argyll.'

21 I think we know there was another called Stair,
22 certainly at some point.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 MR SHELDON: He says there were eight beds on each side of
25 the dormitory:

1 'All the doors and gates were locked behind you by
2 the officers. The officers were staff members. That's
3 just what I called them. They never wore uniforms. You
4 could go about inside the building but usually
5 an officer would be with you.

6 'SNR [REDACTED], Mr GFC [REDACTED], had a house on the
7 premises. [REDACTED] stayed on the
8 premises. They all worked shifts. I can remember
9 Mr GBD [REDACTED]. I had a lot of issues with Mr GBD [REDACTED] the
10 second time I was there. The other staff I remember who
11 were okay were Mr Keddie and Mr KMI [REDACTED]. Mr KMI [REDACTED] had
12 a lot of expensive bikes and rolling skates that he let
13 us use. I also got on fine with HWG [REDACTED] and
14 Bob Horn.'

15 He talks about the routine and he notes he was given
16 clothes and shoes. He can't remember if everyone wore
17 the same:

18 'I think everyone might have worn grey jumpers. At
19 this time I still didn't realise I would be staying
20 there.'

21 I should have read in, my Lady, that when he first
22 went to Dr Guthrie's he was told it was just for
23 a visit.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 MR SHELDON: 'Every morning I got up at 6.30. You would go

1 and get washed, then make your bed. After this, you
2 went for breakfast. After the activities at night you
3 would have supper before getting ready for bed. I was
4 normally in bed for about nine. There was a woman
5 called Betty who did cooking who was very good. The
6 food was good and all the meals were fine. When she
7 retired in 1978 a new guy came in. Everyone started
8 complaining because he wasn't as good as Betty.
9 Eventually Betty came back for a while.

10 'There were showers that we used. The officers
11 would supervise you. They wouldn't watch you. It was
12 just to make sure there was no carry on. You would have
13 a shower at different times. It depended on what you
14 had been doing. The school was a block of four rooms.
15 There was also a changing room. I don't think any of
16 the staff were trained as teachers. There were two old
17 women would taught us arts and crafts.

18 'If you were a 'good guy' you were allowed to do
19 metalwork or joinery. I couldn't have been a 'good guy'
20 as I never got to do any of these things. In the
21 afternoon you did nothing. It was really boring. I had
22 no education between 1975 and 1976 when I was first in
23 Dr Guthrie's.

24 'The staff would sometimes take you out in a Land
25 Rover. I'm not sure where we went. It might have been

1 the Peebles area. There were usually seven of us and we
2 had to kill rabbits that had Myxomatosis.

3 'There was a summer camp near to Dunbar that we
4 would go to. I remember me and two of my pals walked
5 out to see when the tide was out. We got stuck and
6 a motor boat had to come and rescue us.

7 'You were allowed to go home for Christmas. I can't
8 remember my birthday being celebrated either of the
9 times I was there. I didn't get a cake or a present.

10 'I never had any visits from my mother when I was in
11 the home. If I had ran away, no one from the social
12 work came to see me to find out what had happened.

13 'I think Kenny Waugh visited me a couple of times.
14 I didn't like the man. I hated him with a passion.'

15 I think he was a social worker, my Lady:

16 'I don't remember any official visits to the school
17 or inspections.

18 'I never saw anyone getting medical treatment.
19 I can't even remember anyone having a plaster on them.

20 'I left Dr Guthrie's the first time in [REDACTED] 1976.
21 I went back to Lizmore School to try to get into
22 secondary school. I was taunted by the other kids.

23 'At an assembly I was given the belt for talking so
24 I ran out of the school. I then started 'kipping' from
25 school.

1 'I eventually went to high school. I was in the
2 education class, which was on the ground floor.
3 Everyone could see you and knew why you were there.'

4 I assume, my Lady, he means it was some sort of
5 remedial class.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes. It must have been.

7 MR SHELDON: 'In 1977, I was put in Dr Guthrie's for the
8 second time. The routine was the same as the first
9 time.

10 'There was a points system for good behaviour. This
11 depended on your attitude and how you presented
12 yourself. If you had enough points you would be allowed
13 home at the weekend.

14 'I must have had a bad attitude because I never got
15 any points. This meant I had to stay at the weekends.

16 'Sometimes if Bob Horn was working at the weekend,
17 he would take me to his house. He was married and had
18 children. Bob was a good guy, but I think he did it to
19 save him having to stay at the school as well.

20 'I never ran away the first time I was at
21 Dr Guthrie's. The second time I ran away a few times.
22 It wasn't easy due to the locked door at the main
23 entrance. If you saw a chance when someone came in and
24 the door was left open you could go for it.

25 'The officers weren't supposed to take you back. It

1 was the police who were supposed to do this. If the
2 police took you back, they would sometimes give you
3 a battering. Once you were returned, they would see you
4 getting another battering from the officers. If you ran
5 away you were put on FTR, failure to return.

6 'I don't know why they kept taking me back when
7 I was running away.

8 'If someone ran away, we were all woken about two in
9 the morning. Mr GBD made us all stand outside in the
10 square. This would happen even if it was raining. We
11 had to stand there about three hours as a punishment for
12 someone running away.

13 'Mr GBD made my life a misery. He was a vicious
14 bully and would regularly shout me over and get me to
15 put my hands out. He would then get a big bunch of keys
16 and hit me over the fingers. My fingers are still bent
17 now. I think this was a result of being hit although
18 I'm not certain.

19 'Another time he took me into his office. I can't
20 even remember what I had done wrong. I think he thought
21 he was my dad. He put me over his knee and belted me
22 with his hand on the backside over my trousers. He then
23 stood me up.

24 'I grabbed a wooden letter opener that was on his
25 desk and threatened him with. I know I shouldn't have

1 done that. I ran out of his office and saw that the
2 front door was open. I managed to get out. Mr GBD
3 and two other staff members were chasing me. I managed
4 to run away and hid in the woods at Ellens Glen Road.
5 I then went to my brother's.

6 'I was away for about a week. This was the first
7 time that I had ran away. HWG and another
8 officer came and gave me a chance to go back. I handed
9 myself over to him. When I got back, I was given
10 a slap.

11 'Every night, Mr GBD would force me to go
12 swimming. My eyes were stinging with the chlorine.
13 I had red rings around my eyes and stuff coming out my
14 ears. I wasn't given any choice. I was never offered
15 any other activities. Everyone else was allowed to
16 choose. I absolutely hated him.

17 'The punishments from the staff were always the
18 same, a slap or a punch on the side of the head or the
19 back. I was never given the strap when I was at
20 Dr Guthrie's.

21 'One night I was swimming and someone grabbed me by
22 the balls and pulled me under the water to the bottom.
23 I was in agony. I told an officer, but nothing was
24 done. I was told there had been about 25 boys in the
25 pool and I couldn't say who was really responsible.

1 'If I had ran away and the police were taking me
2 back, I would tell them that I was being bullied by the
3 staff and Mr GBD . They never did anything about
4 this.

5 'The last time I ran away from Dr Guthrie's, I was
6 taken to Howdenhall Assessment Centre and then
7 an emergency Children's Panel. After this, I was
8 released. No one prepared me for leaving.

9 'I have seen official letters that said I was
10 a delinquent and a bit thick. This was what was being
11 said after I had left Dr Guthrie's, where I had been
12 given no education either of the times that I had been
13 there.

14 'After leaving Dr Guthrie's I had no more contact
15 with the social work. I had started glue sniffing.
16 I was stealing from garages. It was petty crime. Not
17 long after this I was jailed for assaulting a police
18 officer.

19 'As a result of my time in care I hate social
20 workers. I would never allow them to take my
21 grandchildren from me. Even now I'm still living my
22 time at Dr Guthrie's every day.'

23 'Ally' says he's managed to get some of his records
24 from the Dr Guthrie's Foundation, having written to
25 them, and he was given a letter from the Foundation that

1 let him go to Register House and get copies of all his
2 records from his time at Dr Guthrie's. He says:

3 'I would like to know why I was incarcerated. No
4 one has ever told me.'

5 He says he's been going to Future Pathways:

6 'Every time I go I'm crying when I have to talk
7 about what happened to me.'

8 He has made the usual declaration and signed
9 statement, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR SHELDON: I think Ms Forbes has one that would fit before
12 the break, my Lady.

13 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

14 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
15 who is anonymous and known as 'Alexander'. The
16 reference for his statement is WIT-1-000001014.

17 'Alexander' (read)

18 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Alexander' was born in 1964 and he
19 talks about his life before care between paragraphs 2
20 and 17. He was born in Glasgow and then they moved to
21 East Kilbride, lived with his parents, but they divorced
22 in 1968 or 1969, and he was brought up by his mother and
23 grandmother until 1972, when his mother met his
24 stepfather.

25 He has two brothers and two sisters. He can't

1 remember his biological father, but it turned out his
2 stepfather [REDACTED] and the family were getting
3 threats. He ended up in Galway, in Ireland, for
4 two years, but then he returned in 1975 and the rest of
5 the family came back in 1976.

6 After two years he says his oldest brother and he
7 went to live with his aunt and his grandmother. He says
8 he was ten or 11 when he returned from Ireland. He was
9 placed in an assessment centre. He says that he was
10 really a punch bag for his stepdad and both his stepdad
11 and mother were alcoholics. His aunt had tried to adopt
12 him, but his mother and stepfather didn't allow it.

13 About the first year of high school, the social work
14 got involved and he attended a Children's Panel and he
15 was taken to Howdenhall Assessment Centre on care and
16 protection. He told the social work what was happening
17 with his stepfather as well.

18 He was taken to Howdenhall, he says, from the second
19 Panel he was at, on [REDACTED] 1977. At that time he
20 was 12 years old.

21 'Alexander' talks about Howdenhall between
22 paragraphs 18 and 49. He says he had two different
23 periods in Howdenhall. I think in the records,
24 my Lady -- we have records that state that he was in the
25 assessment centre from [REDACTED] 1977 to [REDACTED] 1977

1 and then again for a period on [REDACTED] 1977, but
2 I don't think we have the date for when he was released
3 the second time.

4 Sorry, I do, my Lady. Until he went to
5 Dr Guthrie's, on [REDACTED] 1978. So that second time,
6 there was about a six-month period. He was at
7 Howdenhall then until he was 13 years old.

8 In relation to Howdenhall, 'Alexander' talks about
9 punishments being belted by SNR [REDACTED], being locked
10 in a cell. The longest he was in a cell was for a week,
11 and he was 12 then. There was sexual abuse from staff
12 member EWA [REDACTED]. He was told he was going to be going
13 home, but he said he didn't want to go back.

14 The abuse continued from his stepfather, the social
15 work got involved again. He thinks that was through the
16 school. He was taken to a Panel and put back into
17 Howdenhall for the second time. Mr EWA [REDACTED] was still there
18 the second time, but there was no abuse from him the
19 second time.

20 He was taken out of class one day to a Panel and
21 asked if he wanted to go home and he said no, so he was
22 moved then to Dr Guthrie's on [REDACTED] 1978, when he was
23 13 years old. He talks about Dr Guthrie's between
24 paragraphs 52 and 89.

25 I'm just going to paragraph 52, my Lady:

1 'I went to Dr Guthrie's on [REDACTED] 1978. I was
2 13 years old. It was the same social worker that took
3 me there. I wasn't told I was going to a different
4 place. They asked me if I wanted to go home. I said
5 no. They told my mum [and he names his stepdad] what
6 I'd said and decided I was remaining in care, but
7 I wasn't told I would be going to a different place.
8 I was taken from the Panel to Dr Guthrie's. I never
9 thought anything of it. I was just glad to get out of
10 the assessment centre.

11 'Guthrie's was massive. We went up the driveway and
12 in front door. There was a big nondescript corridor all
13 the way to the other end of the school. I was taken
14 into one of the side rooms, which was like a meeting
15 room, where I was met by one of the care workers or
16 teachers. I can't remember who it was. I was taken up
17 the stairs and told to have a shower and change into
18 their uniform, shown where I'd be sleeping and taken
19 down to the assembly hall, and that was it.

20 'Because it was late afternoon the classrooms were
21 coming out and all the boys were coming in to the
22 assembly hall. It was a room about 50-foot wide and at
23 least 150-foot long with rows and rows of chairs and
24 a gap up the middle. I was told where to sit and
25 informed that this was where the boys from my dorm sit.

1 That's the only instructions I was given.

2 'I met the boys I was sharing a dorm with. There
3 were two main dorms at the front of the school. I can't
4 remember the names of them. But they were big rooms.
5 There were another two big rooms at the back of the
6 school. There were two smaller rooms where four or five
7 boys slept in each. I was in one of the big rooms.
8 There were about 25 to 30 in each of the big dorms
9 upstairs. There were about 120 to 140 in the school,
10 all boys. The girls' school was in Gracemount and they
11 were kept separate from us at all times.

12 'If you went in the front door, on the right-hand
13 side was the door to the assembly hall. If you went to
14 the left, there was a small corridor, where there were
15 meeting rooms and offices for social workers and care
16 workers. On the right-hand side, there was a set of
17 stairs that led to the two front dormitories. There was
18 a corridor leading from the front of the school to the
19 back and there were the other two big dormitories there.
20 On the bottom, you went along the corridor and there was
21 a big trophy case that was empty and there was a door
22 that led to the headmaster's house.

23 'You would pass the headmaster's office and then
24 there were two medical rooms. After this, was the
25 stairs, then the dining hall and the kitchens at the

1 bottom. Both sets of stairs led to a parade square.
2 There was a woodwork room opposite this as well as a
3 boiler room. If you went through the lane, I was
4 informed it was an old hospital building and it was too
5 high, so they had turned them into classrooms. There
6 was a swimming pool, the gym and the massive playing
7 fields.'

8 He then says [REDACTED] went there to
9 work as a care worker as it's now an old folks' home and
10 he told her what it was before, and the parade square is
11 now gardens.

12 Paragraph 56 'Alexander' continues:

13 'I got there in late afternoon, so from the assembly
14 hall I went down to the dining room. We had our dinner,
15 then went back up to the assembly room. From 5.30,
16 6 o'clock until about 9.30 you had a choice of
17 activities you could do. Sit and watch TV or go to the
18 PE hall, music and that sort of thing.

19 'It was single beds in the rooms and you had
20 a cabinet at the side of your bed. The matron or
21 laundry staff would put the next day's underwear in and
22 any books or things that you might have. Nobody went
23 over any rules or regulations. The boys told me what
24 was happening and at what time, because the staff were
25 just weren't interested in the slightest.

1 'The only two staff members I remember were
2 GBD, who was a senior social worker and
3 Mr KEP, the PE teacher. I can't remember any other
4 names, except the headmaster, who was Mr Guthrie. He
5 was the great grandson of the founder, Dr Guthrie.

6 'Along with two others, I ran the cigarette and
7 tobacco side of things every Sunday night and Monday
8 morning. We would pick it up from where it was hidden
9 on the Sunday night, before the boys came back into the
10 school from home and ran things that way.'

11 Then he names two boys and says:

12 'The three of us were inseparable. We were the same
13 age.'

14 He says the two boys were in one dorm, which he says
15 he was in:

16 'But they thought it was best to split us up, so
17 I was put into one of the smaller rooms. I can't
18 remember when I was moved. I remember being in there
19 quite a while, because it was opposite the night
20 watchman's room. I think they were keeping an eye on
21 me.

22 'We were banged up every morning, shouted at,
23 military style. Someone shouted, "Right, everybody up",
24 that sort of thing. Then we would get a towel and go
25 for a shower. When I first arrived at Guthrie's it was

1 a walk-through shower, then they decided to put in
2 cubicle showers. So there was six or seven cubicles and
3 you would line up and wait your turn. We would go back
4 and get dressed and wait to be called to go down for
5 breakfast. From there, you went to the assembly hall
6 and then split up to go to your classrooms that had been
7 given to you. There were about 20-odd in each class.

8 'They had four classrooms in the old hospital and
9 one upstairs next to the sewing room. I think there
10 were six altogether. I was in the same classroom all
11 the time. It was like school going through the years.
12 So you had the juniors who would move up, then, when you
13 were in your teens, you had like first year, second
14 year, that sort of thing. You had one teacher until
15 break, then a different teacher after break until lunch.
16 Different teachers for different subjects.

17 'You were supposed to sit in the dining room with
18 the boys from your dorm, but we sat with our mates
19 mostly. At break time you would go to the parade
20 square, then back to the class, then lunch in the dining
21 room. Everybody ate together. After lunch, it was back
22 to the classroom until the end of the school day. You
23 would then go out into the parade square before going
24 into the assembly hall. You would then go down for your
25 dinner, back to the assembly room, then pick what you

1 wanted to do that night. There was playing football,
2 there was a swimming pool you could use, if they could
3 be bothered opening it up, or you could sit and watch TV
4 for the night. There were no games, like table tennis
5 or pool. I think they had them, but they were
6 destroyed.

7 'I don't know how old the youngest boys were, but as
8 soon as you became 16 you had to leave. Nobody stayed
9 over 16. I left ... [he says a date in ██████████ 1979]
10 as that's when the school finished up ██████████.'

11 And he was 16 later that month:

12 'I remember we were allowed to sit downstairs until
13 Top of the Pops finished, then you would go upstairs and
14 have a shower. So bedtime was roughly 9.30. You
15 weren't locked up. They couldn't do that, because it
16 was a major fire risk. Guthrie's was built about 1870
17 and when they were putting the cubicle showers in they
18 lifted the linoleum and the floor boards and found
19 between six and eight inches of wax. They investigated
20 and found it was right throughout the school. It used
21 to be for homeless kids, waifs and strays when it first
22 opened and they were made to beeswax the floor every day
23 and it seeped through the wooden floor boards and built
24 up. So the school were very cautious to lock you up
25 overnight. You could go to the toilet overnight if you

1 needed to.

2 'The food was bulk cooked, but a bit better than the
3 assessment centre. You did get options at lunchtime and
4 dinner time of different meats and potatoes or chips,
5 things like that. I've seen the same coming out of army
6 kitchens in my time. It's not something you would write
7 home about.

8 'You had a shower every morning and night. When you
9 go upstairs there were the shower rooms and the toilets.
10 You went upstairs again and it was the dorms, which were
11 parallel to each other. So you would go to the stairs,
12 one dorm would have a shower first, then next one and
13 the smaller rooms would go last, so that you weren't all
14 queued up waiting to go in at the one time. It was all
15 spaced out and well organised.

16 'You had to wear the uniform all the time. It was
17 a shirt, jeans and a denim jacket. Again, we wore black
18 plimsolls on our feet. There were two women upstairs at
19 the end of one of the dorms and they mended all your
20 clothes or if you needed new stuff, they made sure it
21 was taken to your locker and your name was stitched into
22 every item of clothing.

23 'The schooling was very, very basic. They weren't
24 trying to push anything on you to go and get an O-Level
25 or an A-Level. In my time there, nobody left with any

1 qualifications. When I was 15, in my last year, they
2 put me to Castlebrae High School, but that didn't work
3 out because they wanted to put me into certain class and
4 I couldn't do it due to my lack of education and they
5 couldn't put me back to year one at 15 years old.
6 I don't know whose idea it was to put me to Castlebrae.
7 I think it was a trial for me and three or four of the
8 older boys. It lasted about two days, maybe a week at
9 the most. I was there either in the morning or the
10 afternoon. I certainly didn't spend full days there.
11 They would put me to the back of the class and I just
12 sat there twiddling my thumbs. I think it was between
13 Guthrie's and the Education Department who thought they
14 would see if it was feasible to put boys into mainstream
15 education.

16 'I've not had any form of rigid education ever, as
17 I've never stayed in one place long enough. Just out of
18 sheer chance I'm pretty good at maths, but that was
19 maybe working in bars and as a bar manager and totalling
20 up prices in my head. Guthrie's education was more like
21 the end of primary school level. Nothing above that.

22 'There was a points system in Guthrie's. If you
23 earned enough points, you could get home at the
24 weekend.'

25 We have talked about that, my Lady, already, and

1 I think that accords with the evidence that we have
2 heard.

3 In paragraph 69:

4 'I refused to go home. It was my own choice.
5 I wasn't going anywhere near my house. I basically
6 stayed in the school. They knew I would do something
7 and intentionally get caught, so I didn't have enough
8 points anyway. It was a way for me to say to them: you
9 have me at the weekend.

10 'If you stayed in the school you could go walks at
11 the weekend with the care staff to the Pentlands or the
12 Braids. They would take you in the minibus or the Land
13 Rover, depending on how many there were. If you stayed
14 at the weekend, you had to stay in the uniform.

15 'There were no trips or holidays at Guthrie's. You
16 could go to the Scouts on a Thursday night, which was
17 held in the church on the corner down from the school.
18 I think we went to church at Easter.'

19 He then says he went home from Guthrie's the first
20 Christmas he was there and then said when he came back
21 he wasn't going back. He talks about his stepdad just
22 being drunk the whole time he was there and talks about
23 where his siblings were at the time. Then he goes on to
24 say that when he did stay at Guthrie's for Christmas
25 they had a Christmas dinner, but you didn't get

1 a present or anything like that and birthday was
2 non-existent. There were no issues in relation to bed
3 wetting. He talks about that at 72. In relation to
4 running away, at 73:

5 'There were boys that ran away. Guthrie's wasn't
6 just for boys from Edinburgh. It had boys from right
7 across the central belt, Glasgow, Fife, even the
8 Borders. Some were there for stealing and things like
9 that and some were there on care and protection orders.
10 You weren't separated. There was an unwritten rule
11 between us that we never asked what someone was in for
12 and we never said why we were in. If you ran away you
13 wouldn't get away over a weekend for six weeks, minimum.
14 If this happened two or three times, you were placed in
15 secure accommodation.'

16 He then talks about there being a matron and a nurse
17 at Dr Guthrie's. He says, at paragraph 75:

18 'I saw the matron when GBD broke my ribs. It was
19 put down to food poisoning. I saw the matron every
20 morning for a week and she gave me painkillers. I had
21 an x-ray years later which showed I had broken ribs and
22 that's when it clicked. If there was something bad
23 happening to a boy they would get a doctor to attend the
24 school.'

25 Then he talks about there being a private dentist on

1 the Dalkeith Road they could attend if there were
2 problems with teeth.

3 In relation to visits, 'Alexander' said his aunt and
4 uncle visited a couple of times and his stepdad was
5 called in once and he was taken out of class to go to
6 the meeting.

7 At paragraph 78, he says he stepdad was sitting
8 there and GBD came in:

9 'They weren't happy with me because of the situation
10 with the tobacco and the cigarettes and he got up and
11 belted me around the face and knocked me off my seat.
12 GBD took a hold of me and I refused to speak. I was
13 taken back to the assembly hall. It was something
14 I'd got into, me and my two mates, just got into rolling
15 cigarettes and selling them.'

16 He talks about how he and his friends would buy
17 tobacco from the shop when they went home and, when they
18 came back, they would hide them in the school and get
19 them out when the boys came back after the weekend.

20 He then talks about the fact he saw a social work
21 three times whilst he was there, at paragraph 79. He
22 says that he saw a social worker on the day that he went
23 there, on his last day there, and once when a social
24 worker came and asked him if he wanted to be adopted by
25 his stepfather. He said they told them no, but this

1 went through anyway. But that he doesn't accept that
2 and doesn't have association with his stepfather's
3 surname.

4 He talks about the fact that you weren't allowed any
5 of your own possessions, at paragraph 80. He says that
6 if you took anything in, then you would be asked to
7 leave it with them because teenage boys would just say
8 to others, 'I want that, I'm having it'.

9 He talks about the point system then again, at
10 paragraph 81, and how that would affect you when you got
11 home for leave.

12 At paragraph 82, he says:

13 'If you did anything wrong you would get the belt
14 from either GBD [REDACTED], again he says he was a senior
15 social worker or Mr Guthrie, the headmaster'.

16 'Alexander' says he got the belt a lot of times. He
17 would go to Mr Guthrie's office to get it and it would
18 be two or three of the belt over the hands:

19 'If you did something wrong and you weren't going
20 home for the weekend, then you could be stopped from
21 going out for a walk with the staff and be confined to
22 the school.'

23 He goes on to talk about abuse at Dr Guthrie's.
24 I'm not sure if you want me to finish or we can finish
25 after --

1 LADY SMITH: We can maybe finish after the lunch break
2 because there's a little bit to go and there is some
3 detail we shouldn't rush over.

4 Before I go for the lunch break, some further names
5 have appeared in the read-ins, Mr LYI and
6 Mr GVI, Mr GFG, Mr GFB and Mr GFG. Some of
7 these were mentioned yesterday. Again, they are
8 protected by my General Restriction Order. They mustn't
9 be identified outside this room.

10 Thank you. 2 o'clock.

11 (1.03 pm)

12 (The luncheon adjournment)

13 (2.00 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Now, we'll now return to the statement of the
15 man's pseudonym, 'Alexander', and we were in the last
16 section of it, I think, Ms Forbes, just before the lunch
17 break.

18 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady. We had, I think, come to the
19 section that deals with abuse at Dr Guthrie's. From
20 paragraph 83, I'll read from there:

21 'On one occasion I went home at the weekend.
22 I can't remember why. I think my mum and ... [he names
23 his stepdad] were away for the weekend. I think
24 I already knew that they weren't going to be home. It
25 was my sisters that were at home with my older brother.

1 I was there the Saturday and Sunday.

2 'When I went back to the school, GBD was
3 already there and he asked to speak to me in his office.
4 I went into the office and he turned round and asked me
5 where the lead was. I asked what he was talking about
6 and he said he was talking about the lead from the
7 windows. The building was built in the 1800s and had
8 leaded windows downstairs and in some of the upstairs
9 rooms. I didn't know what he was talking about, but he
10 kept on asking me where it was. I told him I didn't
11 know. He said there was no point in getting the police
12 as I wouldn't admit it to them and there would be no
13 report anyway. He punched me in the ribs and said no
14 one was going to believe me as I was in an Approved
15 School. He punched me, then picked me up from the floor
16 and told me I was going to pay for it. I think he
17 realised what he had done and didn't want to go any
18 further with it. That's why he picked me up from the
19 office floor.

20 'The Council or the social work department, gave
21 Guthrie's pocket money for if you were going home to pay
22 bus fares and spending money. If you weren't going
23 home, it was put into a savings account for when you
24 left. He said I would pay for it out of my savings.
25 There was a list in the room across from the

1 headmaster's office that was updated every week with how
2 much money you had saved.'

3 He says that his name, and he names two other boys,
4 their names were all scored out:

5 'He had blamed all three of us for stealing the
6 lead. I couldn't say how much I had, maybe 15 to 20
7 pounds because I hadn't been home.'

8 He says that Mr GBD didn't assault the other two
9 boys:

10 'I saw the matron on the Monday morning because
11 I was complaining to the night watchman that I was in so
12 much pain. He said there was nothing he could do and
13 that he would put me down on the list to see her. The
14 matron came into the dorm in the morning, asked me where
15 it was sore and examined me on left side of my chest and
16 said it was food poisoning. I don't know if there were
17 reports made about it. I didn't tell her what had
18 happened. I didn't hear anything else about it and
19 didn't have any money in the savings account when
20 I left. GBD must have told the headmaster for him to
21 take the money from us, but he didn't say anything to us
22 at all.

23 'Some of the boys asked me why I was in with food
24 poisoning and I told them I wasn't and that GBD had
25 attacked me. That's the only people I told. I didn't

1 tell the night watchman what had happened.

2 'GBD called ... [and he names his stepdad] on one
3 occasion about our tobacco selling.'

4 He says his stepdad came into Guthrie's:

5 'The three of us were in the meeting room and I had
6 said something. I can't remember what it was.'

7 He says the stepdad got up and then slapped him
8 right across the face. He said:

9 'He knocked me out my chair and told me not to talk
10 to him like that. GBD got up and grabbed hold of his
11 stepdad. Guthrie's had known about us selling
12 cigarettes. They weren't sure about it, but a couple of
13 younger guys might have told them who they got their
14 cigarettes from.'

15 He says that they knew him and the two other boys
16 were thick as thieves anyway:

17 'I refused to say anything else and I was told to go
18 back to the assembly room.'

19 He says his stepdad was escorted out the building.

20 'Alexander' said he was 15 when this happened:

21 'That was all the abuse I suffered in Dr Guthrie's.
22 Because I was there for a while I was aware of what
23 I could get away with and what not to even attempt,
24 because there would be consequences. We all looked
25 after each other.'

1 He says a date in [REDACTED] 1979 he was informed by
2 [REDACTED] GBD that he was leaving Dr Guthrie's and, after
3 lunch, they were told to stay in the assembly room while
4 the rest either went to lunch or went home and they got
5 taken upstairs and got changed:

6 'The other boys had people picking them up, parents
7 or relatives. I was told a social worker was picking me
8 up. [REDACTED] GBD saw the car drawing up. He opened the door
9 and told me I was no longer their concern and I was sent
10 out the door.'

11 He then says he went to stay at his mum and
12 stepdad's for about two months and then told the social
13 work to get him out of there. They tried to find him
14 a halfway house and he was put into a place just outside
15 of Portobello, and he was there for about three or four
16 months. From there he went to Jubilee Cottage. He
17 would see a social worker if he needed any money for
18 anything.

19 He had a job from Jubilee Cottage in a department
20 store and was a trainee commis chef. It was one of
21 those government job creation schemes, back in the
22 1980s.

23 He then goes on to say that there was a time when he
24 moved over to East Kilbride and was living with his
25 grandmother, in 1985. He stayed in bedsits after that,

1 anywhere that would take him. He didn't have much work.
2 He went to catering college and joined the Territorial
3 Army down in Surrey and he was working with the military
4 from 1986 to 1991.

5 He was told he was asthmatic at one point and then
6 had to leave the military and after that he was working
7 with agencies. He met someone and at the time of this
8 statement they had been together, my Lady, for 22 years.
9 However, he's been diagnosed with COPD and he's been
10 working in corporate security.

11 He does say that he saw someone that he has named in
12 the statement, from Howdenhall, in a bar in Edinburgh
13 a couple of times and then he has seen them in the
14 Bridges in Edinburgh and he thought he was following
15 him. So he jumped on a bus and got away.

16 He talks about impact between 101 and 103 and he
17 says that until he took control of his life 22 years ago
18 he was really kicked from pillar to post.

19 He says, at paragraph 104, that he never reported
20 the abuse that he suffered.

21 At paragraph 5, he says he has records and some
22 dates he was in the assessment centre at Dr Guthrie's in
23 there are wrong, as it says he left in 1980, but he says
24 he left in 1979 and he knows that because it was [REDACTED]
25 before his 16th birthday.

1 I think the records that we have say that he was in
2 the assessment centre between [REDACTED] 1977 and [REDACTED]
3 1977, and then again [REDACTED] 1977 to [REDACTED] 1978, when
4 he went to Dr Guthrie's.

5 In relation to lessons to be learned, he says, at
6 paragraph 107, that those in positions of responsibility
7 have to listen.

8 And at paragraph 108, he says something that a lot
9 of applicants have said, that people have got to listen
10 to kids.

11 At paragraph 109, he has made the usual declaration
12 and he has signed the statement and it's dated
13 15 June 2022.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS FORBES: My Lady, Mr Sheldon now has a reading or two to
16 do.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MR SHELDON: My Lady, there are two read-ins, both of which
19 are relatively short. The first one is the statement of
20 'Olly' and the reference for his statement is
21 WIT.001.002.5352.

22 'Olly' (read)

23 MR SHELDON: 'Olly' was at Dr Guthrie's between [REDACTED] 1983 and
24 [REDACTED] 1984. My Lady, his statement is actually
25 quite a long one, because he was also at Howdenhall

1 Assessment Centre, St Katherine's, Wellington and
2 Rossie. It seems, I think, as the applicant's evidence
3 this morning indicated, that Wellington was seen as
4 a more secure unit and Rossie as a more secure unit
5 still.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR SHELDON: At all events, the section about Dr Guthrie's
8 is relatively short and because I'm conscious the other
9 portions may be read in at a later stage, I can take it
10 short in that way.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR SHELDON: 'Olly' was born in 1969, brought up in
13 Edinburgh, and he says that his home life was not so
14 good. They were quite poor. His father was
15 an alcoholic and he says his mum had a hard life because
16 of his dad and she took it out on the kids.

17 His dad didn't take responsibility and there would
18 be fighting and shouting and arguing because of the
19 drunkenness. He says that his mum didn't really want
20 a boy and he feels that he was a major disappointment to
21 her from start. And in the end he thought: if I'm going
22 to get the blame for something I might as well just do
23 it.

24 He had problems at school because he needed glasses
25 and didn't initially get them. But, ultimately, did get

1 them and seemed to pick up at school academically. He
2 had an early experience, paragraph 8, of an apparent
3 attempt to sexually assault him by a much older person,
4 but he managed to get away on that occasion.

5 Paragraph 10, he moves to secondary school and it's
6 at that stage that he ends up at Edinburgh
7 Assessment Centre by which I think we take it, it must
8 be Howdenhall/Liberton Assessment Centre.

9 He says he went to the assessment centre because his
10 mother said to the social worker:

11 'If I wasn't removed from the family setting she
12 would throw herself out of a window and commit suicide.
13 So I was put in front of the Children's Panel when I was
14 nine or ten years old.'

15 And reading short to paragraph 12, he says:

16 'The social work got involved through the school
17 when I was seven because I would go in black and blue
18 from my dad battering me with the belt or the shoe or
19 the spanner. My dad only battered me, not my siblings,
20 because he used to attack my mum, so I used to
21 antagonise him so he would leave her alone and go for
22 me.'

23 He spoke to his social worker and told him about his
24 father battering him, but his mother wouldn't back him
25 up:

1 'She said I was uncontrollable because I was doing
2 things like smashing windows in a derelict building.
3 I didn't think that was such a major thing, but it
4 seemed to be enough to justify putting me in care.
5 I was the only one in the family to appear before the
6 Panel.'

7 He says that might also be the case because:

8 '... of my mother threatening to commit suicide.'

9 He didn't find out much later that his mother had
10 threatened to commit suicide unless he was removed:

11 'I applied for my records from the social work
12 department. A lot of it was redacted, but they forgot
13 to redact that bit. It blew my mind. But she still
14 denies it to this day.'

15 He says he wasn't present at the Panel. They asked
16 his name and why he was smashing windows and why I was
17 so unruly:

18 'If I remember right, I said, "I don't know what
19 you're talking about. I've done nothing wrong". They
20 said I was making up stories about my dad, but I told
21 them I wasn't making it up. My social worker did say
22 something to them about the bruises I had, but they said
23 they were from fighting with friends. There were fights
24 with friends, but it's one thing to have a black eye
25 compared with being black and blue. However, my mum

1 denied everything, so what could I do?'

2 So he goes, first, as I say, to the
3 assessment centre and later St Katherine's Children's
4 Home, which he felt was a bit more relaxed than the
5 assessment centre. He describes physical abuse at the
6 assessment centre.

7 But, turning to page 13, he says he is sent to
8 Dr Guthrie's when he's 10 or 11 and that given the
9 date --

10 LADY SMITH: It might be right.

11 MR SHELDON: It might be right or a little older.

12 LADY SMITH: If it's 1979 to 1981 -- which were the dates it
13 was given -- it could be that.

14 MR SHELDON: Yes.

15 So he went to Dr Guthrie's. He thinks he must have
16 been at Dr Guthrie's quite a while:

17 'Because at Guthrie's I did most of my schooling
18 inside. The abuse in Dr Guthrie's was more physical
19 rather than sexual. Guthrie's handled older boys. The
20 age was from 12 to 15 or 16. Guthrie's was dormitories,
21 about 20 in each dormitory, all ages with each other.
22 You didn't wear your own clothes. They were taken from
23 you. You wore a uniform like a prison uniform, blue and
24 white or red and white shirts, raggy jeans and jacket.
25 They were more like working clothes.

1 'I think they must have washed the clothes when we
2 were away at the weekend because I don't remember the
3 clothes ever being dirty. Everyone had a number. The
4 number was used for everything.

5 'SNR [REDACTED] was Mr GFC [REDACTED]. He was
6 [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Mr GWU [REDACTED], Charlie was
7 in charge of my unit. There were five units or
8 dormitories ranging from 20 to 25 people in each. I was
9 on North Wing.'

10 He says:

11 'You got up with the staff shouting at you very
12 loudly. You would stand to get a shower. After
13 breakfast, you went on parade. There was a parade
14 ground in the middle of the square in Dr Guthrie's. The
15 governor would come round and inspect us, made sure our
16 boots were polished. You would polish your boots
17 straight after your classes and they were put in your
18 pigeonhole which had your number. If the boots were not
19 up to standard you were punished at the end of the week.
20 You lost time from home leave, either a day or the whole
21 weekend. I lost one day for having a button missing on
22 my shirt. It was to teach you discipline, I suppose, as
23 up to then I had lived without any kind of discipline,
24 apart from that which I got beaten into me.

25 'At nighttime, bedtime was 8.00. The routine was

1 you would wash your private parts. Then you would
2 change the water and do your neck, your face and behind
3 your ears. There was always members of staff watching
4 in case fights broke out. Then it was into bed and
5 lights out.

6 'The breakfast room was just in the dormitory. We
7 would all eat together. One boy would be on kitchen
8 duty, so he would go down and boil eggs. There was
9 toast, porridge, eggs. One boy on kitchen duty helped
10 serve and would help clean up. Everybody took turns on
11 kitchen duty. It was about a week at a time. As far as
12 I can remember, the food was adequate at Dr Guthrie's.

13 'The showers were individual cubicles, but you would
14 get undressed and dressed in front of everyone. You
15 would have a certain time to get a shower, for five
16 minutes. It was six at a time. You wore your uniform
17 after your shower and wore pyjamas at night.

18 'We got our schooling in there. Mr GWV taught
19 English. Mrs Hamilton did History and English. She was
20 a really nice woman. I learned a lot from her. She
21 really cared about people. If she wrote something bad
22 about you, you knew you were in trouble because she
23 didn't write anything bad about anyone, unless she was
24 really pushed into it.

25 'Once a week we went to the headmaster's office to

1 learn about the history of Guthrie's. We used to read
2 about children sent to Guthrie's. I remember I read
3 about one kid who smashed a window and got ten years
4 hard labour at Dr Guthrie's. I think they did that to
5 show you how the social aspect of life and how things
6 had been before. These kids would be taken to the pits
7 at the back, which was all concrete. They would be
8 shackled up and be breaking rocks all day. Then it all
9 started to change with female philanthropists. It was
10 really interesting learning about the economics of it
11 all, the social order.

12 'We would get nominations from teachers. This meant
13 being rewarded for doing good work, and if you got
14 a nomination it meant you could get way two hours
15 earlier on a Friday. If you were bad, you got
16 a demerit, so if you got a merit or nomination from
17 another teacher it cancelled out, so you didn't get away
18 early. If you got a demerit, you could argue your case.
19 But, with Mrs Hamilton, you just couldn't because she
20 was always so fair. If you were arguing your case, you
21 would argue it in front of Charlie, the manager of the
22 unit. He would listen to both sides. I think he was
23 fair.

24 'I always tried to get nominations. One week I got
25 seven nominations from my teachers and one demerit,

1 which was a bit unfair on the other lads, so I got told
2 I could pick out some of my mates to get away early
3 too.'

4 He names the ones that he did do that with:

5 'I did want to get home at weekends. I wanted to
6 see my friends. Some of them had mothers who were much
7 more understanding than mine.

8 'Guthrie's was more physical, a more practical
9 education. We built a motorbike and got to ride around
10 the field at the back. I loved it. We were taught that
11 by the metalwork teacher who also did woodwork. You
12 would build a motorbike from the engine up and then race
13 around the field at weekends.

14 'I was at Dr Guthrie's for about 18 months before
15 I was allowed to go to Gillespie's, which was after
16 I saw a psychologist. I was still in Guthrie's, but
17 they allowed you to go to outside school for a while.

18 'After Gillespie's, I went to Boroughmuir High
19 School. Then there was a fight and I went back to
20 Gillespie's.'

21 And after a couple of months, he was pulled up in
22 front of the Governor of Guthrie's and asked why there
23 were big gaps in his curriculum, not turning up for
24 Maths, Geography and French. This was because he had
25 been bunking off at these mainstream schools, it seems.

1 So he was taken out of mainstream school and put back
2 into Guthrie's, and he started doing a bunk from
3 Guthrie's.

4 In relation to chores, he says:

5 'You had to keep the floors mirror shiny, which
6 meant some kid on their knees scrubbing and then
7 polishing it. Everybody had to do something. If not
8 the floor, it would be dusting. If they came round for
9 inspections, they would look out for dust around the
10 door frames.

11 'After dinner you would have a smoke, then go and
12 play football. Guthrie's was a huge place. It had its
13 own swimming pool. It was really physical. After tea,
14 there was what was termed "association" from about five
15 until eight o'clock. You would relax on the wing or
16 outside in the parade square. There was football,
17 basketball and murderball, which is a cross between
18 British bulldogs and rugby, but with more punching and
19 kicking going on. There was an extensive library.
20 I used to read a lot.

21 'Everyone in Guthrie's saw a psychologist or
22 psychiatrist. I first saw one within two weeks of being
23 there. I can't remember his name. I didn't want to
24 open up to him, so I just said everything was fine.
25 Back then, I would have been bad for fighting and

1 I would be asked why I had hit the other boy. They had
2 a file on you.

3 'If you were being kept in at the weekend, you just
4 had to sit in the dormitory and read a book. We weren't
5 allowed to watch TV. I wish I hadn't fucked things up
6 at Guthrie's because that led to me being put in the
7 closed unit, segregation.

8 'If you were out of order, you were put in the
9 segregation cells right down the stairs. The governor
10 would see you the next day. There was no bed, just
11 a mattress on the floor. You got blankets and a piss
12 pot in the corner. You got out once a day to empty it.
13 There was a sluice room. It was like an oversized sink
14 with a hole in it, where you would empty out your urine
15 and faeces. The governor could order you to be kept in
16 there for seven to 14 days.

17 You got your food brought to you and taken away. It
18 was the same food as usual, but cold. Even the tea was
19 cold. They would give you a book if you wanted one.'

20 He talks about bed wetting:

21 'There was a young lad in the bed nearby and he used
22 to wet the bed all the time. His sheets were stripped
23 off and he got a rubber mattress. You weren't punished
24 for wetting the bed. They would try to find if there
25 was a reason for it. I didn't wet the bed.'

1 In relation to abuse, he says:

2 'Guthrie's was hard. It was physical. It wasn't
3 sexual, more physical violence. Mr GWU used to whack
4 you with a clog across the back of the head when you
5 were walking along the corridor. Mr GWV chased us
6 about with a piece of wood, a four-by-two. I don't
7 blame Mr GWV, as that day we had filled his desk with
8 earth and stole his wallet. He started chasing us about
9 with this bit of wood. It was quite funny until he
10 caught you. I was hit on the leg. It was the only time
11 Mr GWV did it.

12 'Mr GWU, he was [REDACTED]. He would hit you
13 with clogs. He used to smoke cigars and he wore clogs.
14 He would take off his clog and use it as an ashtray. He
15 was absolutely nuts. I was hit maybe half a dozen times
16 over the whole time I was there. Other people got hit
17 more than me. There was quite a lot of shuffling in the
18 queue when you walked past him. New people were pushed
19 into his firing line.

20 'The English teacher would get you to recite
21 a couple of pages. If you got it wrong, he would whack
22 you.

23 'Two lads came to Guthrie's and I started bunking
24 off.

25 'When I was bunking off at Guthrie's I got caught

1 thieving.'

2 He talks about breaking into a house and stealing
3 golf clubs and was, I think, involved in selling the
4 stolen stuff. He says he ended up being kept in
5 Guthrie's through the week and didn't get to go home at
6 weekends:

7 'Because of that, I started running away. I would
8 be caught by the police and get dragged back to
9 Dr Guthrie's. The only way they could keep me there was
10 to keep me in segregation, but they couldn't keep me in
11 there for months, so because of that they felt I should
12 be moved into a more secure unit. I went to
13 Wellington Farm.'

14 So simply moving on then, my Lady, to the section on
15 life after care, page 24. He says after being in care:

16 'I was homeless and taking drugs. I met a woman
17 called [REDACTED] and we bonded. It is easier to survive on
18 the streets as a couple. She got pregnant and we were
19 given temporary accommodation. She managed to stop
20 taking drugs and even stopped smoking and tried to
21 support me to come off drugs.'

22 He and his girlfriend split up and he said he
23 started taking drugs in huge quantities:

24 'Which led me to go to prison. I was involved in
25 prison in York, where I did a degree in Social Sciences

1 and a diploma in Criminology. I worked for a teaching
2 certificate and a computer certificate. Then I went to
3 Teesside Prison. It took two interviews to be accepted
4 there.'

5 LADY SMITH: It's an interesting way to refer to admission
6 to a particular prison, but no doubt it was a system for
7 selecting only appropriate prisoners for the place.

8 MR SHELDON: He says it was aimed at proper resettlement,
9 proper counselling, so there must have been a particular
10 programme.

11 He says he started to see counsellors, psychologists
12 and social workers:

13 'Who really wanted to help you.'

14 And by this time he was 30-something.

15 He talks about his employment history. He worked
16 for Barnet Council, worked for the National Farmers'
17 Union and, ultimately, as a drugs counsellor. He came
18 back up to Edinburgh for a friend's funeral and
19 discovered that he had serious health problems himself
20 and thought he would stay up in Edinburgh, as he had
21 a wider circle of friends there and he phoned his work
22 and told them he's sorry, but he wouldn't be coming
23 back.

24 Under 'Lessons to be learned', he says:

25 'Instead of just focusing on the physical side of

1 work in care institutions, they should focus more on
2 academic work. There should be more counselling. The
3 social work should have believed me when I told them the
4 truth. When I complained about my social worker, why
5 did I not get a new one? I had complained about him in
6 Rossie and to SNR [REDACTED] at Dr Guthrie's,
7 Mr GFC [REDACTED].

8 'My hope for the Inquiry is to get things changed
9 for those who are in the system.'

10 And he has made the usual declaration and signed,
11 my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR SHELDON: The next statement, my Lady, is from 'Niall'
14 and his statement is WIT.001.001.8978.

15 'Niall' (read)

16 MR SHELDON: 'Niall' had apparently two admissions to
17 Dr Guthrie's, [REDACTED] 1982 to [REDACTED] 1983, and
18 [REDACTED] 1983 to [REDACTED] 1983, so quite a short second
19 visit.

20 'Niall' was born in 1969. He was born in East
21 Lothian, but moved to Fife when his mum married his
22 stepfather, who was in the Merchant Navy.

23 He and his sibling didn't take to the stepfather and
24 as a result 'Niall' kept running away from home. He
25 ended up appearing in front of the Children's Panel

1 a few times, though the only police involvement was:

2 'When they took me back home when they caught me
3 when I ran away.'

4 He talks about his first social workers who worked
5 for Fife Council and he says they were all right.

6 Page 2, paragraph 6, he says he ended up in several
7 children's homes in Fife and then, ultimately, when his
8 stepfather came back again from the sea, he ran away
9 again and that's when he was sent to Dr Guthrie's.

10 He says:

11 'This is the only place I was ever in that
12 I've a complaint about. I was 11 and it wrecked my
13 life. The other places were actually better than my
14 family home and I was keeping up with my schooling.'

15 It seems that he and his sister were separated
16 during that period.

17 In relation to Dr Guthrie's, he says he was taken
18 there by his social worker:

19 'But can't recall who it was when we met when we
20 first arrived. I remember we were shown into an office,
21 then I was shown around.'

22 And his social worker left. He was given his
23 number:

24 'They then took all my clothes and gave me a uniform
25 of jeans, sweatshirt and a T-shirt.

1 'That night, while I was watching TV, a member of
2 staff came up to me and doused my hair with oil that is
3 used to kill nits. They didn't even warn me they were
4 going to do it and the stuff ended up in my eyes.

5 'I was put in a dorm with between 14 or 16 boys who
6 were all roughly the same age as me.

7 'Dr Guthrie's was a very regimented place.
8 Everything had to be done at a certain time in a certain
9 manner. It was almost run like the army.

10 'Mr GFC was SNR and stayed in the
11 home. I rarely had any dealings with him. GBD
12 was a member of staff who I remember always smelled of
13 aftershave. Another one I recall was GUH the night
14 watchman, who stayed outside the school, but would come
15 in at nighttime and walk around the dorms making sure
16 everything was okay. I don't recall the names of other
17 members of staff.'

18 He talks about routine and says many of the same
19 things that we've heard from other applicants; that they
20 got up at 7.00 am:

21 'This was done by a member of staff coming in and
22 shouting at us to get up and putting the lights on.'

23 They then got showered before going back to the dorm
24 to get dressed.

25 He says that they would be joined on the stairs,

1 sitting on the stairs by boys from other dorms. There
2 were four dorms in all, each holding about 16 boys of
3 various ages and they would all then go down for
4 breakfast, usually a breakfast roll with cereal and tea.

5 After breakfast they would have assembly, which was
6 when Mr GFC came in and if anybody had gotten into
7 trouble he would ask for them to come and see him in his
8 office:

9 'We would then go to school, which was on the site.
10 We would stay in school until lunchtime, when we would
11 return to the dining room before returning to school for
12 afternoon lessons until 3.30. There was maybe seven or
13 eight in each class and the teachers mostly came from
14 outside.

15 'After school, we would play in the big square or,
16 as often as not, jump into the toilets for a quick
17 smoke. You could play football or whatever in the
18 square, then you would go up to your dorm.

19 'We would have tea at about 5.00 in the dining room.
20 We didn't have any chores to do, other than shining our
21 shoes in the morning. I can't recall what time we went
22 to bed at, but, just before we did, we could watch TV or
23 play pool, during which time you would have your pyjamas
24 and night coat on.

25 'Sometimes in the evening we would go to the nearby

1 Scouts, which I only joined because it meant getting out
2 of the home for a while. Also, now and again, you would
3 go away camping with them.

4 'At the weekend a lot of the boys could go home, but
5 I didn't get home often, as my mum was often away on
6 a sea trip with my stepdad.

7 'The food was all right, though nothing special. We
8 were always well fed. You had to take a shower every
9 morning, which was supervised.'

10 In relation to discipline, he says they didn't give
11 anybody the belt at Dr Guthrie's:

12 'The main punishment for anybody who broke the rules
13 was that you didn't get to go home at the weekend.

14 **GBD** would throw his keys at you or hit you with
15 one of his clogs, but other than that there was no
16 physical punishment.

17 'We had all the classes that you would have had in
18 an outside school, though I don't recall doing any exams
19 during the two years that I was there.

20 'We did not go on any trips while I was at the
21 school or go on holiday anywhere other than that when
22 I was taken on camping trips with the Scouts.

23 'I have no recollection of anybody's birthday being
24 celebrated and I was always home for Christmas.'

25 He says he never received any visits from anybody,

1 though he remembers that other boys did. He says:

2 'I'm not aware of any official visits and if they
3 happened I have no knowledge of them.'

4 He says that he once got a cut on his arm while
5 climbing through a window and this was dealt with by the
6 matron:

7 'If it had been serious, I would have been taken to
8 hospital.'

9 He says there were two matrons, one who looked after
10 the swimming pool and one who was in charge:

11 'I only ran away on the one occasion. I was walking
12 to the school when I saw the fields and just ran for it.
13 However, I was caught after about five minutes. I don't
14 recall being punished for this or being asked why I had
15 run away. I have no recollection of bed wetting being
16 a problem for me or any of the other boys during my time
17 in Dr Guthrie's.'

18 He then goes on to talk about abuse at Dr Guthrie's.
19 He says:

20 'The school had both a swimming pool and
21 a gymnasium. When you were swimming it was always under
22 the supervision of one of the matrons. To this day,
23 I don't understand why it was we all had to swim naked
24 in front of her. We were never issued with trunks.
25 I don't recall her name.

1 'GBD', the teacher I mentioned earlier, used
2 to get you to massage his shoulders. He wore clogs,
3 which he would hit you with whenever it took his fancy
4 and carried a big set of keys that he would hit you
5 with. That was really painful.

6 'Within the school, there was a hierarchy among the
7 boys. Those in the top tier ruled the roost.'

8 He names a particular boy who was in what he would
9 call the second tier:

10 'He was a couple of years older than me.'

11 And describes him:

12 'At the weekends most of the boys would go home,
13 though I rarely did. Often I was left alone in my dorm
14 or sometimes there were just a few of us there. My bed
15 was closest to the door.

16 'One night, at start of my second year there,
17 I believe it was a Saturday or Sunday night, the boy
18 [that he's just been talking about] came into the dorm
19 and over to my bed. He woke me, grabbed me and told me
20 to be quiet.

21 'He told me he would kill me if I said anything or
22 didn't do as he said. He said that where he was from it
23 was easy to have somebody killed. I was a quiet, mild
24 mannered boy and couldn't stick up for myself. I was
25 terrified.

1 'He then forced me to give him oral sex and then
2 penetrated me. This lasted until he was finished. This
3 abuse of me by the same boy continued every weekend
4 thereafter until I left the school, which was about
5 a year later.

6 'There was never any problem during the week. It
7 only happened at the weekend when most of the boys were
8 away. However, both GBD and the night watchman
9 were there and saw him coming into my dorm. They saw
10 what was happening through the window of the dorm.

11 'I can't remember if there were any other boys in my
12 dorm when this was happening, but if there were, they
13 would have been at the other end of the dorm or would
14 have been too scared to say anything. I don't know if
15 he ever assaulted any of the other boys.

16 'After two years in Dr Guthrie's, I was 13. I was
17 told one day that I was leaving and taken back to
18 Kirkcaldy. However, after just two nights I was taken
19 back to Dr Guthrie's by my social worker.

20 'We were taken into the visiting room and I just
21 lost the plot. I just couldn't handle being put back in
22 there knowing I would once more be abused by this boy.
23 I smashed all the windows in the visiting room.

24 'GBD and GUH came into the room and
25 restrained me. They then took me into the medical room

1 where they strapped me to a bed. There was a clock
2 there and I'll always remember that I was strapped to
3 the bed at 6.00 pm and wasn't released until 12 hours
4 later at 6.00 am.

5 'How on earth were they able to get away with doing
6 that to a wee boy? I wasn't physically injured, but
7 I couldn't get up for a drink or get fed and I ended up
8 wetting myself. This went on for 12 hours and has
9 stayed with me all my life.

10 'Staff did come in and check on me from time to
11 time, but at no time did they offer me any help or
12 assistance. I was terrified. When they untied me I was
13 taken for a shower, got dressed, and taken back to the
14 children's home in Kirkcaldy. They acted as if nothing
15 had happened.

16 'The irony is that by smashing the windows I got
17 chucked out of Dr Guthrie's. If only I had known it was
18 as easy as that I would have done it long before.'

19 On reporting, he says:

20 'When I had been taken out of Dr Guthrie's and then
21 returned after just two days, I did try and tell my
22 social worker, Ian Fowler. I didn't give him all the
23 details about what the abusive boy had been doing to me,
24 but I tried to tell him I just couldn't go back there.
25 He basically ignored me.

1 'There was nobody in the school I could talk to
2 about it. Also I was convinced my life was in danger if
3 I said anything about what the other child was doing as
4 I was sure he would kill me.

5 'I did tell my nana about it one time when I stayed
6 with her one weekend, but she was too old to do anything
7 about it. I loved staying with her. She was a great
8 person. Talking to her was like getting things off my
9 chest.

10 'After the horrible experience of having been tied
11 to a bed for 12 hours, my social worker took me back to
12 the children's home in Kirkcaldy. I'd been there a few
13 times before and liked it, so I was glad to be there.

14 'I was only there for a short period before I was
15 moved to Melville. I stayed there until I was 16 **Secondary**

16 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
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20 'While there I got a placement working at an old
21 folks' home, which I continued to do after I left at 16.
22 Once I left, that was me no longer under the
23 jurisdiction of the social work department and ...'

24 He changed his name back to his name as it had been
25 before his stepfather came on the scene.

1 LADY SMITH: Came along.

2 MR SHELDON: After being in care, he worked in an old folks'
3 home in [REDACTED] until he was 18. He moved to Dunfermline,
4 where he was married, but that only lasted a few months,
5 but had a son. He says he hasn't had any contact with
6 his son or daughter for some time, mainly because of my
7 drug addiction. He also has two daughters from two
8 other relationships. He worked as a bouncer in a pub
9 that [REDACTED] and has worked in various
10 capacities in security all over the country. He says he
11 also obtained his licence to be a bodyguard.

12 On impact, he says:

13 'At the time when I was getting abused, I struggled
14 to get to sleep. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

15 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 'I was always trying to block out what happened to
20 me at Dr Guthrie's and ended up on drugs, though I have
21 now been clean for a year, though I still suffer from
22 depression for which I take diazepam. I've often
23 thought about suicide.

24 'My present GP is very good. She's not the sort
25 that will simply hand out a prescription. She sits and

1 listens to you.

2 'I've always had difficulties with relationships as
3 a result of what happened at Dr Guthrie's. I have never
4 lifted my hand to a woman, but I was always getting
5 depressed when the relationships didn't work out and
6 they tended not to work out because I always had this in
7 the back of my mind.

8 'I have spent my adult life being embarrassed by
9 what happened and always felt that somehow I allowed it
10 to happen. However, about five years back, I got
11 involved with a group who taught me I was a survivor not
12 a victim. They made me realise that what had happened
13 wasn't something I should be embarrassed about.

14 'I have never reported the abuse that I suffered to
15 anybody.'

16 He says that children shouldn't be frightened to
17 talk about things. They should have somebody they can
18 trust and talk to. They shouldn't have to live or
19 suffer in silence.

20 He's given the usual declaration and signed the
21 statement in 2018, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: It's very striking, is it not, Mr Sheldon, that
23 when this young man -- he was still a teenager, he
24 wasn't even 16, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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8 well, it was of the time.

9 It wasn't.

10 Where are we going next?

11 MR SHELDON: Ms Forbes does have another read-in. It may
12 not dovetail with the break, but no doubt we can just --

13 LADY SMITH: We can get it started and then break at
14 an appropriate point and then come back after a short
15 breather.

16 MR SHELDON: Thank you.

17 MS FORBES: The next statement is from a witness who is
18 anonymous and is known as 'Liam'.

19 'Liam' (read)

20 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Liam's' statement is
21 WIT.001.001.8472.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Liam' was born in 1969.

24 LADY SMITH: It's the person who otherwise would have given
25 live evidence this morning, I have you. Thank you.

1 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Liam' was born in 1969, [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]. I think that's relevant for his
3 dates that he talks about later.

4 He talks about his life before going into care, at
5 paragraphs 2 to 4. He had two younger brothers and also
6 an older sister. His older sister and him had the same
7 mum, but she had a different dad than him.

8 Originally, he stayed with his parents and siblings
9 in Stirling, but they later moved to Dunfermline and he
10 says that his mum and dad were constantly splitting up
11 and getting back together and they ultimately split up
12 after they moved back to Dunfermline. Indeed, we do
13 have records, my Lady, that document that by August 1976
14 they'd split up, but then they got back together for
15 a short period of time, before finally splitting up for
16 good.

17 'Liam' says the social work started to become
18 involved because his mum was struggling to cope with the
19 children after the split. And during that time he said
20 that he and his siblings spent some time with foster
21 carers, and they all went there and it was on two
22 separate occasions. He talks about that later, but he
23 says he went to Lynburn Primary School, had been
24 misbehaving in class. At that time he was primary 2 or
25 3, and his mum was away from his dad at that time and he

1 says they went to visit a children's home with his mum
2 and he didn't think anything of it. But, eventually, he
3 was sent there because he wasn't behaving at school.
4 That's what he thinks.

5 He talks about foster care from paragraph 5. From
6 the records we have, my Lady, it seems that he went
7 initially for a short period when he was six years old,
8 in 1976. He would have been seven that year, but this
9 was before he turned seven and he says that first time
10 was okay. It was just for a week or something and then
11 he went to foster care a second time. The records that
12 we have, my Lady, show that that was in [REDACTED] to
13 [REDACTED] 1977, but this time he was in foster care on
14 his own and stayed with a family in Rosyth.

15 That, again, was only for a short period, only two
16 weeks, but he describes that at paragraph 6, as being
17 the worst two weeks of his life. There were physical
18 assaults from the foster father, who would bar him and
19 hit him with tyre wraps and he was made to sleep in
20 a wet bed after wetting it. He didn't want to stay
21 there and when the social work came to see him he locked
22 himself in the social worker's car and wanted to go back
23 home, but at that time they didn't allow it.

24 He did return home for a period of time after that.

25 He talks about this children's home that he ended up

1 in from paragraph 10 onwards and that's redacted in the
2 statement on the screen. But, from the records we have,
3 he was there between [REDACTED] 1977 until [REDACTED] 1978 and he
4 was seven years old still then at that time.

5 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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14 He went from there back to his mother's house -- and
15 this is down to paragraph 51 now. But his mother seemed
16 to have difficulties with prescription drugs and there
17 were a lot of problems. As a result of that his mum
18 seemed to tell his dad that she had to take him and his
19 brothers and his dad indeed did take them, albeit his
20 sister stayed with his grandmother.

21 He was just told by his dad one Sunday what was
22 happening. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

23 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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25

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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3
4 Secondary Institutions He seems to think it was at that time, when
5 he came out of the children's home, that he went to stay
6 with his father.

7 His father at that time had moved to Cowdenbeath
8 and, initially, I think it was a homeless shelter that
9 they were staying in. It was him and his two brothers,
10 and they were then living with their dad for a period of
11 time.

12 He talks about being back at home with his dad from
13 paragraph 54. He says that he stayed with him on and
14 off until, he thinks, 1979, but I think from our records
15 it might have been on and off a bit later than that.
16 But his dad certainly had a drinking problem and was
17 an alcoholic and found it difficult to bring them up.

18 There was a period of time then when he was sent to
19 Ribleton House in Glenrothes. From our records, he was
20 in and out of Ribleton House from [REDACTED] 1979 up to
21 [REDACTED] 1982. He talks about that in the following
22 paragraphs. So he would be back and forward between
23 being there and living with his dad.

24 But, at that time -- he talks about this at
25 paragraph 58 -- his dad was going out drinking. 'Liam'

1 was getting into trouble and was stealing things and
2 wasn't going to school. He got into a lot of trouble at
3 one point with some other people for stealing some money
4 from an old woman and they all went to court, but the
5 blame seemed to be put on to him.

6 The others involved got probation, but he was placed
7 on an order for his own safety. He seems to think that
8 was because of his dad's drinking as well.

9 Again, he thinks that was in about 1979, but there
10 is a time when he was spoken to by social work and
11 I think in the records it shows that his dad went to
12 social work and said that he wasn't coping and because
13 'Liam' was getting into trouble he couldn't cope with
14 looking after him and he needed to go away.

15 Again, there was then a Children's Hearing that he
16 remembers, at paragraph 59, his dad being there with the
17 social worker and it was decided he was going to go to
18 Dr Guthrie's. He thinks he went back to Rimbleton
19 first, before being taken to Dr Guthrie's. I think our
20 records do show that seems to be what happened.

21 His younger brother went to stay with his mum and
22 his older brother stayed on at Rimbleton.

23 He talks about Dr Guthrie's, my Lady, from
24 paragraph 61 onwards. It seems as though there were two
25 periods when he was at Dr Guthrie's, from the records we

1 have. First of all, from [REDACTED] 1982, when he was
2 12 years old, until [REDACTED] 1983, when he went to
3 St Davids, when he was 13 years old. Then again he --
4 I think he was in and out of Dr Guthrie's and St Davids
5 during that period and, thereafter, he was in St Davids
6 for a period before going to Rossie later in
7 [REDACTED] 1983.

8 So there are a lot of records detailing him being
9 back and forward between Dr Guthrie's, St Davids and
10 then St Davids and Rossie.

11 If I can go then to paragraph 61 of 'Liam's'
12 statement, where he talks about Dr Guthrie's again. He
13 thinks he went there when he was about ten. But, from
14 our records, he would have been a bit older and he
15 certainly wasn't there as long as he thought he was.
16 I think that accords sometimes, my Lady, with some of
17 the memories that the applicants seem to have.

18 He talks about it being a massive imposing building
19 and he talks about the wings that we've heard about and
20 there being dormitories in each wing. It was more
21 closed than the children's home that he'd been in. He
22 thinks you couldn't just walk off the site and to run
23 away you needed to find an opportunity.

24 He talks about the courtyard at paragraph 63. He
25 says they had a big courtyard:

1 'That's where all the boys used to congregate after
2 meals. There was a place in the courtyard called the
3 pans. It had urinals in there.'

4 And I think we have heard some evidence about the
5 pans before.

6 He says:

7 'The staff would open the pans up. The staff would
8 go in there and smoke. Some of the boys went to smoke
9 in there as well. There was a lot of bullying and
10 sexual assaults in there. It was amazing the things
11 that I saw in there.'

12 He talks about staff from paragraph 64:

13 'Mr GFC was SNR, GBC was
14 a member of the residential staff. His name was
15 GBC. There was a teacher, who was also
16 a social worker, called Mr GBD.

17 'You had a key worker in the place. Mine was called
18 Graham McCulloch. He was a young guy. He was a good
19 guy. I had no problems with him. You could speak to
20 your key worker if you had any problems. There was
21 a lot going on in there that you were scared to speak
22 about.

23 'There was a matron. I can't remember her name.
24 There was a janitor. I can't remember the janitor's
25 name. For some reason I think his first name might have

1 place was about. He told me about the regime. For the
2 first one or two weeks I just spent my days vegetating
3 until the other boys came back.

4 'You got up in the morning, about seven. They used
5 to come in and flick all the lights on in the dormitory.
6 We then had to make our beds, tidy and sweep the dorm.
7 You would then have to go for a shower. That happened
8 every morning. You then got dressed. You went down to
9 breakfast. After breakfast, you went to the courtyard.
10 You would line up in your classes. There were ten or 12
11 different classes. During the day you would also go to
12 the gym and go swimming.

13 'We slept in dorms. There were about 12 boys in my
14 dorm. There were all different ages of boys in the
15 dorms. We were all mixed in. There were about three
16 boys the same age as me in my dorm. We were the
17 youngest. The rest of the boys were a lot older. There
18 were boys as old as 16 in my dorm. The door wasn't
19 locked at night. It was always open. There was a night
20 watchman who supervised at night.

21 'There was a big shower block. We all had to go
22 into the shower together and shower in front of one
23 another. There were about ten of us at a time. It was
24 all different ages of boys who were in there at the one
25 time.

1 'Meal times were all had in the dining hall. There
2 was breakfast, lunch and tea. Everybody ate at the same
3 time, apart from lunchtime. They had a system where
4 each class took turns. They rotated which class got
5 their lunch first. I think they gave you a bun or
6 a cake at supper time. You could leave what you wanted
7 to. If you didn't want it, you didn't have to eat it.
8 The food was all right.

9 'You were issued with your clothes. There were two
10 outfits. There was one for going to school and another
11 for wearing at night. The clothes were a pair of jeans
12 and a jumper which said "Dr Guthrie's" on it. We wore
13 Jesus sandals.

14 'You weren't allowed anything of your own in the
15 place. You weren't allowed to smoke, but a lot of boys
16 brought tobacco in with them.

17 'We went to school in the place. When I first went
18 there, I was still primary school age, because of that
19 I was kept in a class all day with the same teacher.
20 I'm sure I spent my first six or seven months with just
21 the one teacher. After that, I was high school age.
22 That's when I started going to Art, Maths and History
23 classes. You would go around the place, going from one
24 class to another. There were different teachers for
25 different subjects.

1 'Every Sunday they made us go to the local church
2 just outside the school. We had to go there if we
3 hadn't gone home. It didn't matter if you were
4 a Protestant or a Catholic. You were made to go.
5 I didn't like it. No stuff happened there.

6 'There was a student who used to come up to see me
7 at the weekend. I think she was a student social
8 worker. She used to come up and take me out into
9 Edinburgh on a Saturday afternoon. There were two
10 different students who did that. They were all right.

11 'One of the other boys and I were involved with the
12 NSPCC. We were part of a club run by them. One
13 weeknight a week, Dr Guthrie's used to let us put our
14 own clothes on and go out in Edinburgh with the club.
15 We went out ice skating or went to the pictures. We did
16 things like that.

17 'I'm pretty sure that you got to go home every
18 second weekend. You would go home on a Friday at
19 12 o'clock and come back on the Sunday. I never got to
20 go home. The first weekend I went home to see my dad,
21 I decided that I didn't want to go home and stay with
22 him at the weekends. He was still drinking. That was
23 my decision. I then didn't have contact with him for
24 about a year. I did go home to my mum's, but it wasn't
25 often.

1 'There was a TV in our dorm. There was a bit
2 carpeted off where you could sit and watch the TV in the
3 evenings. In the other dorm, there was a table tennis
4 table and a couple of pool tables. There were no books,
5 toys, games or anything like that. We used to go
6 between the two dorms doing things. A member of staff
7 used to sit in the corridor and sometimes in the dorm to
8 supervise.

9 'There was nothing like grounds or a playground
10 which we could go out and play in our leisure time.
11 There was a swimming pool and a gym, though. On
12 a Wednesday or a Thursday night, it was up to a member
13 of staff to decide whether we could go to the swimming
14 pool or to the gym to play football.

15 'There were no celebrations or birthdays. It was
16 just another day. I never got home for the Christmas
17 I was there. There was only me and one other boy who
18 got left in there. They were all right with us.
19 I think we got one present each. We had a Christmas
20 dinner.

21 'My mum never came near the place. She was never
22 there.

23 'I didn't have any contact with my dad during the
24 first year I was there. When my dad did make contact it
25 was in the lead-up to my gran and my grandad dying

1 a week apart from each other. He took me to see my gran
2 in hospital. I didn't know she was dying at the time.
3 My dad then took me back to Dr Guthrie's. My gran and
4 grandad then died. The headmaster told me that had
5 happened. After that, my dad came to visit and I was in
6 contact with him again. My dad came up to visit
7 sporadically after that. No one watched us when I had
8 visits.

9 'Now and again the social worker would suddenly
10 appear.'

11 He names his original social worker, who was
12 a woman, and then he names a male social worker, who
13 became his social worker whilst he was in Guthrie's.
14 And 'Liam' says:

15 'There were never any inspections or inspectors who
16 came in.'

17 He talks about there being a matron there who would
18 deal with any problems or injuries, at paragraph 88, and
19 then he goes on to talk about discipline from
20 paragraph 89:

21 'I always remember that on Fridays a meeting was
22 held. The residential staff were there. The meeting
23 was held to talk about how you had got on during the
24 week. There was always a teacher there. If you had one
25 bad report you didn't get to go home until the Saturday

1 morning. If you had two bad reports, you didn't get to
2 go out until Saturday afternoon. If you got three bad
3 reports, you never got to go home for the weekend. If
4 you were good and got a teacher's nomination, you got
5 home on Friday at 12 o'clock.

6 'I had stopped bed wetting by the time I went to
7 Dr Guthrie's. There were a lot of bed wetters though.
8 They never really got punished. If they wet the bed,
9 they were given a waterproof mattress. They changed the
10 downy cover if boys wet the bed.'

11 'Liam' then talks about abuse at Dr Guthrie's from
12 paragraph 91:

13 'There was that much happened in Dr Guthrie's that
14 it's difficult to remember it at all.

15 'GBC' got his nickname because he used to go
16 around grabbing boys by their lower lip. He'd push his
17 fingers down your mouth, grab your lip and twist it.
18 You would end up with a bust lip. He did that to me
19 a couple of times. One of the times he did that to me
20 was just before I was due to go home to my mum's. My
21 mum saw what had happened to me. I told her what had
22 happened. She called the headmaster the following
23 Monday morning. I don't know what happened after that.
24 I think it was swept under the carpet.

25 'GBC' used to set boys on to other boys. If

1 you gave him cheek and he couldn't get you, he would
2 open the pans, throw you in and get another boy to come
3 in and batter you. He had boys who he would give the
4 cigarettes to do that.

5 'Mr GBD was quite physical. He could be all
6 right sometimes, but other times he could be a right
7 cunt. I was punched by him. I saw him punch other
8 boys.

9 'Mr GBD was in the building during some nights.
10 If you misbehaved in the dormitory at night and he heard
11 something, he used to shout out to the night watchman,
12 "I'm in room 13, GUH, if you need me. If any of the
13 boys are playing up, just come and get me". If we
14 carried on misbehaving, he would come into the
15 dormitory, flick the lights on, get everyone out of
16 their bed, line us up with our hands out and hit us on
17 the knuckles with a clog. He would slap you and grab
18 you. That happened every Thursday night he stayed. He
19 sometimes used to make you stand in the corridor in the
20 freezing cold for hours on end. If you spoke or moved,
21 you got a slap.

22 'Mr GBD used to call assemblies if there were
23 things happened. He would assault boys in front of
24 everybody. There was a boy who got hung with a scarf in
25 the pans. He got pulled up over a pipe with a scarf

1 around his neck by one of the other boys. There were
2 a few of us saw that. The boy had a big mark on his
3 neck. One of the members of staff got hold of that.
4 Mr GBD then called an assembly about what had
5 happened. He grabbed the boy who had hung the other boy
6 and pushed him about in front of us all. He slapped the
7 boy in front of everybody and said, "How would you like
8 that if someone did that to you?"

9 'A swimming class was held every Thursday. The
10 janitor would pick the boys that he wanted to take to
11 the swimming pool. He would supervise us when we went
12 to the pool. The matron would also sometimes be there.
13 We never got any trunks to wear. We all had to be
14 naked. When the matron wasn't there, this janitor would
15 take photos of us whilst we were running about the pool
16 naked. He made us play this game. It was like tig, but
17 instead of touching each other's arms, we would have to
18 pull each other's private parts. That went on for ages.
19 At the time we thought nothing of it.

20 'Older boys used to come up to and say, "You're on
21 the gasp". That meant that you weren't allowed to
22 smoke. The older boys would then attack you if they
23 caught you smoking. They were just being bullies.

24 'Some of the older boys would make the younger boys
25 masturbate them for a draw of a fag.'

1 Then he names the main bully:

2 'He was much older than me. He showed me his penis.
3 He tried to touch me with it. He said that if I didn't
4 do it he would batter me. I refused to do it. I was
5 frightened. I ended up getting flung into the urinals
6 in the pans. I landed in all of the urine. He then
7 battered me. He did that because I wouldn't masturbate
8 him. Whilst I was there, I did see older boys make
9 younger boys masturbate them. I saw older boys making
10 younger boys suck them off. That all went on in the
11 pans.

12 'There was a lot of carry on in the dormitories at
13 night. You made sure everybody was asleep before you
14 went to sleep. Boys would masturbate on top of other
15 boys whilst they were sleeping. Some of the boys would
16 pee on you whilst you were asleep. I was masturbated on
17 and peed on whilst I was asleep. I would find that out
18 in the morning when I woke up from one of the other
19 boys. The staff just turned a blind eye to it. They
20 must have known stuff was going on. I can't pinpoint
21 any specific incident where a staff member witnessed
22 things though.'

23 He then talks about leaving Guthrie's and he says
24 that before he left Dr Guthrie's there was a meeting and
25 his dad and some social workers were there and he was

1 asked if he wanted to go to an outside high school and
2 stay with a family. Not foster care, but more like
3 supported living and he didn't want to go and stay with
4 a family because of his experiences when he was fostered
5 and he asked to go to a children's home. That's when
6 St Davids was brought up.

7 He says then that there was a time when staff
8 members from St David's came to Dr Guthrie's and took
9 him out for his dinner and he went to St David's over
10 a weekend [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

11 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] He then got to go
12 to St David's during his weekend leave.

13 Then he also got to stay there during the summer
14 holidays, to stay at St David's.

15 He then talks about St David's from paragraph 103.
16 It's clear from his records, my Lady, that he was back
17 and forward at that time between Dr Guthrie's and
18 St David's. [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

19 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
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1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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5 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

He

6 talks about Rossie from paragraph 105 onwards.

7 I think from the records that we have he was there
8 a couple of times. The first time was when he was
9 13 years old and it was from [REDACTED] 1983. He was still
10 going to St David's at that point sometimes. Then he
11 went to -- ultimately, he went to Melville House in
12 [REDACTED] 1985, when he was 14 years old, and that meant
13 that he was in Rossie for about a year and five months.

14 There were times when he was in secure accommodation
15 during that period at Rossie and that, as your Ladyship
16 has said, related to, again, absconding and sniffing
17 glue and this was at the MacDonald Wing, which is
18 mentioned more than once and then he would get to go
19 back again to Melville House.

20 Then the second time he was in Rossie, it was in [REDACTED]
21 1985, when he was 14 years old. He was there for about
22 three or four months, again in the secure part,
23 MacDonald Wing and then back into Melville House in
24 [REDACTED] 1985, when he was 15 years old.

25 So I think the kind of ages he has in his statement

1 are maybe slightly out. But, again, that accords with
2 what he'd said earlier about how -- I think he was
3 younger when he was in certain places.

4 During his time in Rossie, it's clear he was in the
5 open section and in the secure units at various
6 different intervals and would earn his way out again
7 before being sent back.

8 He talks about abuse at Rossie Farm, at
9 paragraph 140, and says that there were cells in the
10 isolation wing and people -- boys who misbehaved or
11 lashed out at staff would be restrained and put in
12 there. But there weren't physical assaults like what
13 happened at Dr Guthrie's, where he says, at
14 paragraph 140, staff hit the kids.

15 There was a lot that went on in the dorms at night.
16 There were a lot of assaults and fights between the
17 boys, but he never saw anything sexual happening. This
18 is at paragraph 141. But he did see a lot of boys
19 physically assaulted by other boys. He was assaulted
20 himself by other boys and he did see other boys with
21 significant injuries, including black eyes.

22 He did have an experience of a staff member
23 assaulting him. This is at paragraph 145. It was a
24 janitor called GBF and he was booted in the
25 stomach by him and then punched a couple of times, but

1 it seems as though SNR [REDACTED] tried to
2 smooth things between him and that member of staff and
3 had them working together after that and he didn't have
4 problems with him again.

5 I think then leaving Rossie, there was the first
6 time and then the second time he talks about there being
7 a wee halfway house there, like a flat that four or five
8 boys could stay in to learn how to cook. Towards the
9 end of his first time in Rossie, he went to stay there
10 and he had been keeping out of trouble at that point.

11 But then, obviously, things changed after he was
12 sent back there from Melville House. He talks about
13 Melville House from paragraph 153. Again, his dates,
14 I think, may be right about that, when he was about 14.

15 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21 There was then a leaver's unit in Melville House
22 that he was put into and after the second time, being in
23 Rossie and moved back to Melville House, he was able to
24 go into that and therein arrange for supported lodgings
25 in Dunfermline.

1 He then doesn't talk too much, my Lady, about what
2 really happened after his life -- to him after leaving
3 care. He got into supported lodgings in Dunfermline and
4 he had a YTS course which he did for a period of time.
5 This is from paragraph 201 onwards.

6 But he was glue sniffing, drinking, getting lifted
7 by the police, and he never really had his own address
8 until he met his partner. I think this is the person
9 who became his wife. He met her when he was 23. He
10 says she was the one who sorted him out, his life had
11 been chaotic before then.

12 In relation to impact, from paragraph 204, he says
13 there was no support from Social Services after he left
14 Melville House. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

15 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16 [REDACTED]
17 At paragraph 205, 'Liam' said he doesn't think he
18 was prepared when he came out of care. He ended up
19 being in and out of jail. He doesn't tell us about
20 that.

21 He ended up having a drug problem and he says his
22 drinking and substance abuse was definitely down to his
23 time in care.

24 At 206, 'Liam' says that being in care has had an
25 impact on his mental health. He tried to commit suicide

1 a couple of times when he came out of care and he took
2 overdoses, wanting to end it all.

3 At paragraph 207, he talks about being an angry
4 person and being violent and that this was all down to
5 the way he had been treated in care.

6 He comments, at paragraph 208, that he had hardly
7 been home at all over the years he was in care and he
8 was probably mentally the same age when he left care as
9 he had been when he went in. That's how he felt. Time
10 had stopped.

11 At paragraph 209, 'Liam' talks about keeping things
12 bottled up for years and not wanting to talk about it
13 and really taking drugs when he did think about it or
14 lashing out.

15 There was a counsellor -- he saw a number of
16 counsellors over the years, but there was one he trusted
17 in about 2000 and she helped him a lot, but she had
18 a background that he could relate to. She had been in
19 care herself and had had a drug problem and he says she
20 helped him to put a lot of things to sleep. It took
21 a lot of time for him to get to that point.

22 He's also seeing a drug counsellor. He sees her
23 every two months.

24 He talks, at 211, about the fact that his life could
25 have turned out totally different if he hadn't ended up

1 in care and that he's the only one in his family who has
2 been in prison or been in trouble with the police and
3 that his siblings have all gone on to do different
4 things.

5 There is a final thoughts section in his statement,
6 at paragraphs 213 to 215, and he states that he was
7 worried at the time that if he reported anything that
8 his name would get back to the people who were caring
9 for him, because whoever he could talk to was part of
10 the system, so he couldn't speak to them and he thinks
11 that there should have been someone not connected to the
12 system who he could trust.

13 He didn't speak to social workers about what was
14 happening whilst he was in care because he saw them as
15 part of the system that had put him into care and he
16 never got on with his social workers.

17 At paragraph 215, 'Liam' says that he hopes
18 something good comes out of the Inquiry and he hopes
19 that any other kid in his predicament wouldn't end up in
20 care. He talks about being in care with rapists,
21 murderers and paedophiles, and I think that particularly
22 relates to his time in Rossie where there were people
23 with quite serious offences.

24 He says you should be kept in the category you are
25 in and you shouldn't be mixed in with people who have

1 done much worse things.

2 'Liam' has made the usual declaration at
3 paragraph 216 and signed that, and it's dated
4 7 May 2018.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Forbes.

6 MS FORBES: There is another statement on the list, but
7 I don't know if I could guarantee I would finish it
8 today.

9 LADY SMITH: We should maybe leave that until next week
10 then. We have done quite well with taking in a lot of
11 evidence today. So, when I say next week, of course
12 that will be Tuesday and we'll start evidence at
13 10 o'clock with the witness in person on Tuesday.
14 I don't have the schedule in front of me, but I think we
15 do.

16 MS FORBES: I think there are two witnesses planned for
17 Tuesday morning, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Very well. Thank you all. I hope everybody
19 has a good weekend. The final names for the day of
20 people whose identities are protected by my General
21 Restriction Order, you have heard just about all of them
22 already, Mr GWV, Mr GWU, GUH, GBC, who
23 is GBC, GBE and GBF. My order
24 must be respected and they mustn't be identified as
25 identified in our evidence outside this room.

1 Thank you.

2 (3.37 pm)

3 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

4 on, Tuesday, 4 June 2024)

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