

1

Tuesday, 2 July, 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome back to Phase 8 of
4 our case study hearings and Chapter 7, in which we are
5 looking into the abuse of children in residential
6 accommodation for young offenders and children, and
7 young persons in need of care and protection at
8 Bellfield, Cardross Park and Calder House.

9 Now, I am glad to see we seem to have achieved
10 a good video link for the first of this morning's
11 witnesses.

12 MR SHELDON: Indeed, my Lady.

13 LADY SMITH: Would you like to introduce, Mr Sheldon?

14 MR SHELDON: Yes. The first live witness today, my Lady, is
15 anonymous and his chosen pseudonym is 'Glen'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Glen' (Called)

18 LADY SMITH: 'Glen', good morning.

19 A. Morning.

20 LADY SMITH: Can I introduce myself, please: I am
21 Lady Smith and I chair the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry
22 here in Edinburgh. Thank you very much for making
23 yourself available to join us over the link this
24 morning. What I would like to do, first of all, is
25 invite you to take an oath to tell the truth.

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

(The witness was sworn)

LADY SMITH: Thank you. Now, 'Glen', before I hand back to Mr Sheldon to invite him to start taking your evidence from you; can I just explain one or two things? This is about you, and helping us to help you. It is really important that we do all we can to make the whole experience of giving evidence as comfortable as possible for you. And I say that knowing, as I do, that it is really hard to talk about bad things that happened in your childhood and to do it in this sort of situation, which is a public forum and for public purposes. I get that. I also understand that some people may think they are all prepared and they are going to cope and they are taken by surprise at their own emotions as we go through the questioning. That is absolutely okay. You must let me know if you need a break or a pause or if you can't cope, or if we are not making sense. If we are not getting the questions out in a way that's explained well enough to you, that's our fault not yours.

So it is very much for you to speak up and tell us what will help you if there is anything that we can do that we are not doing already.

You have, I think, available to you there your written statement. I am really grateful to you for having provided that already. It has been such a help

1 to me. That is already evidence before the Inquiry. It
2 is there for you to refer to, if you want to, during
3 your evidence.

4 Otherwise, if you have any questions at the moment
5 I am happy to answer them. But I will hand over to
6 Mr Sheldon if you don't.

7 A. No, it's okay. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: Right, I will do that now, 'Glen'. Thank you.

9 Mr Sheldon.

10 Questions by Mr Sheldon

11 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

12 Good morning, 'Glen'.

13 A. Morning.

14 Q. As Lady Smith has just said, you should have a copy of
15 your statement in front of you.

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. Could you just turn for me, please, to the last page?

18 It is page 25 of your statement.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Just right at the foot of that page, paragraph 126,

21 I think you say:

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

24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true.'

1 And is that right, 'Glen'?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. I think you have signed it and dated it; is that your
4 signature?

5 A. Yes, it is. Yes.

6 Q. Thank you. You can just go back to the start of your
7 statement, then. I don't need your date of birth,
8 'Glen', but I think you were born in 1958; is that
9 right?

10 A. That's correct, yes.

11 Q. And you tell us on the first page of your statement
12 a little bit about your early life; that you were born
13 in London.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Your mum was a single mother and she came back to
16 Glasgow, to Port Glasgow, when you were still young; is
17 that right?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. You then lived with your grandmother and your uncle, in
20 Port Glasgow. Did you all live together? Was your
21 mother living with you at that time?

22 A. Yes, we were all in the same house.

23 Q. All right. You say, in paragraph 4, that although you
24 describe yourself as being a bit feral at that time,
25 that life was fine, but then your grandmother had to go

1 into a care home and your uncle passed away. I think at
2 that stage, perhaps, difficulties started for you
3 'Glen'; is that right?

4 A. Yes, aye, my stepfather was introduced into the mix. My
5 grandmother was really the one that was looking after me
6 and when she passed then it fell to my mother and her
7 partner.

8 Q. And I think they had a problem with alcohol; is that
9 right?

10 A. Yes, my mother was quite depressed, of a nervous
11 disposition, as they used to say, so alcohol was
12 quite -- featured quite heavily in the whole outcome --
13 or the whole situation, rather. There was a lot of
14 alcohol, yeah.

15 Q. And you say, I think because of that, if I am reading
16 this correctly, you were basically put out of the house
17 and you were expected to go to school, but you didn't;
18 is that right?

19 A. No, I didn't go to school, no. I would go out the house
20 and just roam, and meet up with friends and get into all
21 sorts of bother, you know. School didn't appeal to me.

22 Q. You tell us over the page, looking at paragraph 7, that
23 really you didn't have any money because your mother and
24 stepfather were spending all the money on drink and
25 gambling. You say that you were stealing vegetables out

1 of neighbours' gardens and shoplifting foods. It sounds
2 as though these were fairly desperate times; would that
3 be fair?

4 A. Yes, at some points we didn't have any electric or gas
5 or -- bare floor boards. Back in the day, when they had
6 warrant sales, when they come out and they would put a
7 sticker on something and say ten bob for the telly and,
8 you know, people just come in. A warrant sale. I don't
9 believe they do it anymore.

10 But there was no -- no, there was no food.
11 I remember going into the Co-op and filling up a
12 shopping trolley and going in -- and in those days you
13 had a back door. You go in the front door, fill up your
14 shopping trolley and go straight out the back door and
15 home with it. Woolworths was the same sort of thing.

16 Going up into the posh area -- Kilmacolm wasn't far
17 from us. This is when we were in [REDACTED], so
18 Kilmacolm, up the country road, was about a mile, two
19 miles, and these nice private houses had gardens with
20 vegetables in, some had greenhouses with tomatoes. Even
21 grapes. So we would take our shopping bag up there and
22 fill up with it.

23 And I remember one occasion coming across the field,
24 the farmer's field, and the farmer had phoned the police
25 and the police met me on the road and said, 'What's in

1 the bag?' So I showed them what was in the bag and they
2 gave me a lift -- sorry for laughing. But they gave me
3 a lift home with what was in it, because it was
4 vegetables. I think they were expecting jewellery or
5 silverware, or something from breaking into a house.
6 But, no, it was just vegetables and fruit. So they gave
7 me a lift home. That's the sort of thing.

8 Q. All right. But it sounds as though -- and I am looking
9 at paragraph 6 now, going back to paragraph 6.

10 It sounds as though, at some point, the law, as it
11 were, did catch up with you and you had to go to
12 a Children's Panel; do you remember how that came about?

13 A. Not really. I remember the Children's Panel. And my
14 mother, I think, suggested that perhaps a spell in one
15 of the institutions would be a better option for me.
16 I think she, you know -- to try and -- I think what she
17 basically said was, 'Yeah, put him away', or 'Take him
18 into care', or words to that effect, but yeah.

19 I remember -- I don't remember what led up to the
20 Children's Panel. I remember being at the Panel.

21 I remember being then told that they could take me and
22 try and sort me out or something, words to that effect.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Glen', could it have been because you weren't
24 going to school?

25 A. Erm, it might have been. It might have been something

1 to do with that. As I say, I think I would have been in
2 high school by this time.

3 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

4 A. And I wasn't attending high school much at all, to be
5 honest.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MR SHELDON: Yes, I think you tell us that you would have
8 been about 12 or 13 at that stage.

9 A. Yes, something like that, yes.

10 Q. So that would be right, because you go to high school at
11 11.

12 A. I think I was 11. I was in Holy Family Primary School
13 and then I was in St Stephen's High School, which
14 I remember vaguely, because, as I said, I wasn't going.
15 I would occasionally go, but not anywhere that was
16 regular. I must have been -- I was probably -- I think
17 they had an absence officer back then or somebody that
18 looked into truancy -- that was it, a truancy person --
19 which possibly led to them taking a dim view and sending
20 me -- or getting into residential care.

21 Q. Can you tell us anything else about the Children's Panel
22 and what your experience of that was?

23 A. Oh, man. I think at least three people behind a table
24 in an office and that's really about as much as I can
25 say. I don't have, really, that much memory of that, to

1 be honest.

2 Q. All right.

3 You tell us that the decision, I think, was to send

4 you to a place called Bellfield Remand Home. And you

5 described being, I think -- arriving there.

6 But can I ask you this: did you go straight to

7 Bellfield from the Children's Hearing or were you able

8 to go home first?

9 A. I was actually -- I got my things mixed up. I was

10 actually -- the first place I went to was St Ninian's.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. Having received my paperwork through ... oh, gee whizz.

13 They look into your background. Birthlink. Birthlink.

14 They dug up all my records and that. I had always

15 thought I was put to Bellfield from St Ninian's -- oh,

16 sorry --

17 LADY SMITH: From the Children's Panel? You thought it was

18 the Children's Panel that sent you to Bellfield?

19 A. No, I thought I had -- I had -- I was in Bellfield first

20 of all.

21 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

22 A. I was actually in St Ninian's.

23 LADY SMITH: Right.

24 A. It was St Ninian's who put me to Bellfield.

25 LADY SMITH: Oh, right, thank you.

1 MR SHELDON: So this would have been 1971 or 1972; would
2 that sound about right?

3 A. Somewhere around there, yes.

4 Q. Right. If you could turn, then, please, to page 9 of
5 your statement, and we will just look briefly at your
6 time at St Ninian's.

7 'Glen', you will know that we have heard evidence on
8 a previous -- in a previous case study about St Ninian's
9 in Falkland, and the Christian Brothers.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I am not going to go into all the background with you,
12 but I obviously want to get your evidence about your
13 experiences there.

14 You tell us -- and this is just at the top of
15 page 9 -- that you are not sure what time of day you
16 arrived, but you remember thinking that life was looking
17 up and that this was going to be a great place to stay;
18 what made you think that?

19 A. Yes, it was like a castle, from my account. It was like
20 a big mansion house-type place. It was in the
21 countryside and it looked like it would be, you know,
22 all right. Just first impressions: oh, yes, this is
23 a great place. It looks like it could be fun.

24 Which it turned out not to be, unfortunately.

25 Q. Well, I was going to ask you about that. Because in the

1 next paragraph you say St Ninian's was run by "God's
2 Gestapo", the Christian Brothers. Now, that's a pretty
3 striking expression, 'Glen'; is that what the boys
4 called them?

5 A. No, that's my thoughts on them. Not when I was there,
6 but since. You know, the only thing you could compare
7 them to, really, was -- they were cruel. They were
8 not -- you know, having grown up a Catholic myself and,
9 you know, I've been baptised and confirmation and
10 everything, it is not something you would expect from
11 people supposed to be in the clergy. They had black
12 cassocks and collars, to look at them you would
13 think: that's a priest or a monk.

14 I don't know what exactly they are -- their status
15 is within the Church. But what happened and what went
16 on there was not what you would consider to be what you
17 think a bunch of Catholics, priests or monks, would be
18 carrying on with. It is not something you expected. It
19 was like: so who are these guys?

20 You know, just shocking.

21 Q. You tell us, 'Glen', that you were in a dormitory. You
22 think there were about 12 boys in each dormitory; is
23 that right?

24 A. That's pretty much what I thought it was. And it is all
25 pretty blurred, a long time ago. And I think that -- we

1 certainly were in dormitories. We certainly slept in
2 little beds, single beds. There wasn't a bunk bed
3 system or anything like that. There was a room where
4 one of them would stay, one of the adults, one of the
5 Christian Brothers, overnight, like a night watchman.
6 And I think it was in the middle of two dormitories. We
7 would have a dorm on either side, which would meet in
8 the middle with this room, where one of them would stay
9 overnight.

10 How many was in the dormitory? I don't know. Maybe
11 six or seven, maybe eight --

12 Q. Right.

13 A. -- beds. Possibly ten.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 Taking this a little bit short, I think you go on to
16 talk about the routine at St Ninian's. You talk about
17 the morning routine; about lunch; about school classes.

18 You say, in paragraph 49, that you won some medals
19 for orienteering and cross-country running?

20 A. Yes, I was quite good at the running. Plenty of
21 experience, running away from the police. But, yeah,
22 I had some medals. Funnily enough, my mother kept those
23 for a long, long time, and was very proud of the fact
24 that I had won these. I was quite good at the field
25 sports; the thousand metres; the mile; orienteering,

1 that sort of thing. I think I even represented the
2 place at one point at a sports meet, at some point,
3 somewhere.

4 Q. Over the page, paragraph 50, you talk about the games
5 room where you could play. You say you remember girls
6 coming from the village:

7 'Coming up to the grounds to speak to us and the
8 Brothers were not happy about that.'

9 A. No, that's right, yeah.

10 Q. Did they say that? Did they say that they weren't happy
11 with --

12 A. Oh, they would come out and tell us to get inside and
13 chase the girls off: get away, go on. What are you
14 doing up round here?

15 That sort of thing.

16 Q. Moving on in your statement to paragraph 52, you say the
17 food was all right, certainly better than Bellfield. We
18 will come back to Bellfield in a moment or two.

19 But you then go on to talk about the showers. You
20 said that the showers were available to use at any time,
21 but that there was no privacy and the Brothers would be
22 supervising. You say that there was all sorts of sexual
23 abuse going on in the showers involving the Brothers;
24 can you tell us a bit more about that, please?

25 A. Well, they would be in there, going round and checking,

1 making sure you had washed, you know, in your private
2 parts. And then to your arm pits, up in your thigh,
3 around your genitalia, you know. They would say, 'Oh,
4 mind to wash there'. They would actually put their hand
5 on you and say, you know, 'Check to see you have washed
6 in there', and all that. You know, sort of allegedly
7 supervising to make sure you were clean. There was no
8 need to be touching people. You know, just ask
9 somebody: make sure you wash in there, you know.

10 But they were quite hands on, if you want to say,
11 that sort of thing.

12 Q. All right. You say in the next paragraph you feel
13 that's all a bit sketchy to you and you feel you only
14 dreamt this. You then go on to say:

15 'Brother Ryan did sexually assault and rape me.'

16 So I just want to get your best recollection about
17 all this. First of all, what happened at the showers?
18 And, secondly, what Brother Ryan did to you.

19 A. Well, I am not sure it was 'Ryan', to be honest, because
20 I made a statement to Police Scotland as a -- there is
21 an ongoing investigation into this. And they told me
22 that actually Brother Ryan wasn't there at the same time
23 I was there. They say: he may have visited; do you
24 recall?

25 I said, 'Well, from my recollection, it was -- there

1 was a Ryan and there was a Kennedy -- a Kelly, sorry.
2 And a BHD, a Nugent.'.

3 So it was -- I don't know how I ended up getting
4 that name in my head somehow.

5 Q. Yes, it is perhaps my fault, 'Glen'. I should have
6 taken you to paragraph 44, where you name some of the
7 Brothers, and you do mention a Brother BHD,
8 Brother Sweeney, Farrell, and Ryan.

9 A. Oh, right, aye. Sweeney, Farrell and Ryan.

10 LADY SMITH: And you mentioned a Brother Kelly.

11 A. Kelly?

12 LADY SMITH: Did you say Kelly?

13 A. Oh, yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Not at paragraph 44, but a couple of minutes
15 ago, I think you said Kelly or Kenny, or Kennedy.

16 A. I think there was a Kelly, a Brother Kelly.

17 LADY SMITH: Okay.

18 MR SHELDON: All right, thank you. And the memory of being
19 sexually assaulted and raped; is that a clear memory to
20 you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. All right.

23 A. Absolutely.

24 Q. Thank you. I might come back to that just in a moment
25 or two. But you talk, at paragraph 55, about chores,

1 and in particular about bed wetters. You say they had
2 to deal with their soiled sheets; what did they have to
3 do? How did that routine work? For the bed wetters,
4 I mean.

5 A. They had to take their dirty linen to the laundry room,
6 and parade past everybody. You know, they were shamed.
7 You know, 'There's a bed wetter', sort of thing, and
8 'They are off to get their washing -- get their linen
9 cleaned'. Just a bit of humiliation, really, to the
10 poor people who were bed wetting.

11 Q. Did they get called names at all?

12 A. Yes. Aye, some of the boys would be -- you know, there
13 is nothing worse than a child's, you know, vengeance, or
14 bitterness to another child. So, yes, there would be
15 name calling, yes.

16 Q. Over the page, paragraph 56, you talk a bit about school
17 at St Ninian's and, about halfway down that paragraph,
18 you say:

19 'It was very basic education and didn't lead towards
20 passing any exams. They didn't seem to care about my
21 lack of education.'

22 And reading that short, you say what they did was to
23 a very poor standard; what makes you say that, 'Glen'?

24 A. Well, there was no -- I wouldn't say there was any --
25 I didn't learn anything about English or history or

1 science or mathematics. It was basic arithmetic sort of
2 thing. You know, your times table, that sort of thing,
3 nothing you would expect to be getting if you were in
4 a secondary school setting. I don't know. It was
5 BHD who was the main teacher. I think he was SNR
6 SNR. Did they have any formal qualifications?
7 I don't know. But it seemed to be you were getting the
8 same thing time after time and he would throw temper
9 tantrums and hit people, throw things at people. And
10 there was no -- I didn't learn anything there.
11 I wasn't -- it was more getting -- I don't know, maybe
12 it was a vehicle for him to ride ... I have no idea what
13 the purpose of it was. It didn't seem to go anywhere.
14 It didn't matter to me, anyway.

15 Q. You tell us, in fact, that Brother BHD was
16 a psychopath?

17 A. Oh, aye.

18 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that, please?

19 A. He would hit for no reason and give a right hiding. We
20 ran away and were brought back, me and a friend, and we
21 were greeted by Brother BHD and the police. When
22 they left, we got hit, punched, put into a place we
23 would call 'the dungeon', like in the cellar, situation,
24 and placed in there for -- at least overnight, anyway.
25 He just -- he would suddenly fly into a rage, almost

1 frothing at the mouth, you know, and just laughing.
2 Something you wouldn't do to a child or anybody for that
3 matter. To my mind, he seemed to come unhinged.

4 Q. You say, at paragraph 57, you watched him punch and kick
5 a pupil to the ground; it was clenched fist punching?

6 A. Yes, there was no open hand. You would get the back of
7 a hand or you would get a punch. Or, like I say, he
8 would throw something at you. Pick up a chair even,
9 maybe, or a duster or whatever. He was a nasty piece of
10 work.

11 Q. You say you would often get a clip around the ear; was
12 that with the open hand or was that a punch?

13 A. It would just be the back of the hand.

14 Back then, corporal punishment was allowed and, you
15 know, you would get the strap. No belt, but -- it was
16 never a belt; a ruler would be a handy tool to be
17 hitting somebody with or, you know, the back of the
18 hand, or if the situation's bad enough, a punch.

19 Q. Yes, you say that with the ruler he would use the sharp
20 edge; do I understand that that's not the flat of the
21 ruler, it is the edge?

22 A. No, no, the edge. You know, just across the back of
23 your hands or your knuckles. It was really, really
24 sore. The old wooden rulers they used to have.

25 Q. You mentioned a moment ago that you had run away and,

1 when you got back, you were assaulted and thrown in what
2 you describe as 'the dungeon'; can you tell us about the
3 dungeon, please?

4 A. It was like -- what you would say is the cellar or the
5 basement. You were taken down. There were no windows,
6 it's dark. It is a room, you were put in there and you
7 didn't really -- I don't think you had a toilet
8 facility; I think it was just a bucket. You would be in
9 there for perhaps 12 hours, maybe 24 hours. Same sort
10 of thing.

11 They had the same sort of thing at St Andrew's, the
12 last place I was in. No heating, so you would be cold
13 in the winter and probably, in the summer time, it would
14 be quite warm. How would you say, like, I don't know.
15 Like a cooler, like the solitary confinement type thing.

16 Q. What sorts of things did boys do that got them put in
17 the dungeon?

18 A. Well, running away was the biggest thing to be -- or any
19 sort of disciplinary thing. I think at one point I read
20 some reports that I got, some letters written, or by --
21 they thought that I was a criminal element, you know.
22 The documentation I have had supplied to me to go
23 through redress, if you read what they were saying,
24 I was a bad, bad person. So they sort of thought that
25 maybe putting people in there would teach you a lesson

1 after running away, sort of thing: oh, right, we are not
2 having that. You are going to be put in here and then
3 hopefully it will be a deterrent to -- not to do it
4 again.

5 LADY SMITH: 'Glen', these documents you say you got when
6 you were looking for items to support your redress
7 claim; are these records from St Ninian's you managed to
8 get hold of?

9 A. Yes, yes. They stated in that that the reason that they
10 put me to Bellfield was that I was a -- that St Ninian's
11 wasn't a home for criminals; it was for orphaned boys
12 and I didn't fit in because I was a criminal element.

13 LADY SMITH: That must have been tough to read.

14 A. Yes, it was.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. I am sure it was.

16 Mr Sheldon.

17 A. Yes, yes. Sorry.

18 LADY SMITH: Don't apologise.

19 MR SHELDON: Can I ask you just a couple of other things
20 about the dungeon, 'Glen'?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did anyone -- sorry, I will give you a moment.

23 A. Aye, right.

24 Q. Are you all right to carry on?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. When you were in the dungeon; did anyone come to visit
2 you? Did any members of staff come to see you or speak
3 to you?

4 A. No, not anybody.

5 Q. Were you --

6 A. Sorry?

7 Q. Were you given food or water?

8 A. Not that I can recall. You were just left in there and
9 you were out.

10 In a child's mind, it seems like a long time.
11 I would say it was at least overnight or even maybe
12 possibly 12 hours.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. We weren't put in -- I don't think I was in there for
15 days on end, just like a -- maybe their idea was
16 a short, sharp shock; get you in there and deprive you
17 of this, deprive you of that, and let that be a lesson
18 to you.

19 I think I ran away on more than one occasion from
20 there, just to get away. The most regretful thing was
21 to tell the police. Of course, when they caught you,
22 the police would say, 'Why are you running away?', and
23 you would say, 'The place is a hell hole', and you were
24 getting abused. And then they go and hand you over
25 again, just put you back into the same place you just

1 tried to get away from, you know. Terrible.

2 Q. Yes.

3 Over the page, at page 12, looking at paragraph 62,
4 about healthcare, you tell us that if you went to see
5 the nurse she looked after the daily cuts and bruises
6 suffered by the boys. You go on:

7 'You were never alone with the nurse and one of the
8 Brothers was always in attendance, so you could not tell
9 her how you came by your injuries.'

10 Can you just tell us about that? Do we take it from
11 that, should we take it from that, that in some cases
12 these injuries were caused by the Brothers?

13 A. Yes, I would think that she would be aware, really, of
14 what was going on. Where else are you going to get that
15 sort of damage from? I am not saying she was in
16 cahoots, but she probably would have a very good idea
17 what was going on. And to tell -- you couldn't really
18 say anything anyway, because the Brother's standing over
19 you. You know, they were controlling everything. You
20 know, there would be fear. If you were going to say
21 something, then you would pay for it later on. So there
22 was no real reason or any sort of gain to be had by
23 telling. You were just going to get yourself into more
24 bother. So it was, 'How did that happen?'

25 'I fell down the stairs' or 'I tripped up and put my

1 hand out and I sprained my hand' or whatever. I don't
2 think we ever seen a doctor.

3 And again, as for the nurse, was she a nurse? Did
4 she have any qualifications? You know, cuts and
5 bruises, that sort of thing. I have no idea. But they
6 were always there at your heels with the doctor. You
7 had no opportunity to tell anybody anything. If you
8 did, then you would leave yourself open to be -- you
9 know, to retribution.

10 Q. And just to be clear, 'Glen', at least in some cases
11 these were cuts and bruises caused by assaults?

12 A. BHD was your main man for cuts and bruises.
13 I don't recall anybody else being violent the way he
14 was. I did mention this to Police Scotland and they
15 said: unfortunately, he has passed away, but we have had
16 that said before by other people who had been at
17 St Ninian's. He was a nasty piece of work.

18 Q. In the next sentence, paragraph 62, you say:

19 'The anal bleeding I had as a result of being raped
20 by Brother Ryan I had to look after myself.'

21 Perhaps an obvious question, 'Glen', but I take it
22 you didn't feel able to go and see the nurse about that
23 particular injury?

24 A. No, it is not something that I would be happy about.
25 Even in later life, I can't stand anybody being around

1 there. I won't go for a prostate exam. I was -- I had
2 to go in -- many years ago I had go in and see about
3 haemorrhoids, into the hospital, and they had to
4 administer a suppository and I had to have a general
5 anaesthetic because of it. I was clenching up all the
6 time. I couldn't stand to have anything to do with that
7 sort of thing. So, no, it's not something you felt
8 like -- a lot of embarrassment. Just -- still
9 embarrassed about it. And guilt. You know: what did
10 I do? What was my problem?

11 You know? So, no, it is not something that -- just
12 to talk about it generally. I am ashamed, you know? It
13 wasn't me that done anything, but, you know, that's what
14 happened.

15 Q. A little later on that page, a little further down that
16 page, you were talking about trips and holidays.

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. You note that you don't recall the boys getting visitors
19 and you didn't go on any trips away, but you know that
20 the Brothers took some of the boys on trips. You say:

21 'Knowing what I know now, I am glad I didn't go, as
22 I suspect some of the boys would be sexually abused.'

23 Why did you suspect that?

24 A. Just to recap, as I said before, I have since had
25 information from the Birthlink people, the records from

1 St Ninian's, and we were away on a trip. We went to
2 Burntisland, I believe, camping. And in that document,
3 it says that I, again, was a criminal element, because
4 I stole various items from shops whilst there. This is
5 something I didn't remember, being away at Burntisland.
6 But, apparently, it is in black and white in the record
7 that I was. We all went to this place for a camping
8 holiday and, again, I was a criminal element. I think
9 I must have been Al Capone in a previous life or
10 something.

11 But the Christian Brothers weren't really impressed
12 with me and my antics. I couldn't remember being off at
13 Burntisland. That is news to me. But it is in black
14 and white, that I did go somewhere.

15 I think they were taking boys off to sporting
16 events, is what I am on about. I did run for the
17 school. I can't remember being away from the school
18 doing any sports, but I could have been. I just can't
19 remember, to be honest.

20 But there was quite a lot of -- in the showers, they
21 would be in there. So I imagine if you were away -- you
22 were away sometimes -- there would be the same sort of
23 procedure that was followed as was when you were at the
24 school.

25 Q. Page 13, paragraph 68. You have told us a bit about

1 running away --

2 A. Mm-hm.

3 Q. -- and you are talking there about after the rape by
4 Brother Ryan. You said you decided to run away with
5 another boy and he told you about his own experiences,
6 I think; is that right? Had he told you that he had
7 also had an experience --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- like yours? What did he say to you?

10 A. We were just, like, chatting, and I was: why are you
11 running away?

12 'Oh, well, I had an incident.'

13 'Oh, yes, same with me.'

14 And comparing notes. Literally, you know: 'did you
15 get ...?'

16 'Oh, yes, I have had that as well.'

17 I think he was also knocked about by
18 Brother BHD. I don't think, to be honest, I don't
19 think anybody escaped unscathed in some way, shape or
20 form. Either sexually, or physically beaten, or what
21 have you.

22 So, yeah, we compared notes when we were off -- we
23 were in the cells together. One of the new towns, we
24 were caught in one of the new towns at the time that
25 they were building, in Fife; is that where St Ninian's

1 is, in Fife?

2 LADY SMITH: That's right, it is.

3 MR SHELDON: That's right, 'Glen'. It is kind of in the
4 middle of Fife, in the countryside.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say in your statement -- sorry, go on.

7 A. When we were on the run -- on the run! We were caught
8 in one of the new towns. I can remember it because they
9 were building it in Fife, Newton something or other, and
10 the police caught us. I was rugby tackled by the police
11 and, actually, I think I got smacked round the ear with
12 one of the truncheons.

13 Anyway, we were both put into the cells and we had
14 a conversation in there and we were chatting away
15 about -- and how we all -- what happened to us and
16 stuff. And then, of course, the police wanted to know
17 why we ran away. We told the police why we ran away.
18 No, just back in the car and back round to St Ninian's,
19 and dumped back round with them.

20 Q. You say about that:

21 'It was a ridiculous situation' and 'we were put
22 back into the fire.'

23 A. Absolutely.

24 Q. Is that how it felt to you?

25 A. I keep saying to people, back in the day, there was

1 a saying: children should be seen and not heard.

2 We were seen and we weren't heard.

3 We -- not like today's children. Today's children
4 are getting bank cards and sexual education and LGBT.
5 We had none of that. Saying something to the kids: what
6 do you know? Shut up. You are just a child. How can
7 you know what's wrong and what's right?

8 So it was back in the fire and try again. We'd run
9 away. Try again.

10 You know. I ran away several times. I thought it
11 was only twice, but apparently it was more than that.
12 That's why they put me to Bell -- one of the other
13 reasons why they put me to Bellfield, because I think
14 Bellfield was a more secure establishment. There wasn't
15 the freedom you had at St Ninian's.

16 Q. We'll just come on to Bellfield in a moment, 'Glen'.
17 But I just want to take you, finally, to paragraph 73.
18 It is page 14.

19 You have told us a little bit about some of the
20 sexually abusive things that the Brothers did. You say
21 they would watch the boys showering and you told us
22 about their touching you, feeling your genitals during
23 showering. You say that they would check under the
24 covers of sleeping boys and feel your genitals; can you
25 tell us about that, please?

1 A. Well, that would be to try to see 'Oh, have you wet the
2 bed?' and then put their hand in underneath and then
3 inside your pyjamas. Basically, manipulate you. On
4 occasion, they would even get in beside you. Climb
5 into -- try to be in the same bed.

6 Q. And is that -- sorry, go on.

7 A. First orgasm was at the hands of a pervert. You know,
8 just ... that's just sort of -- that's your start in
9 life, your first sexual encounter. It sets you up for
10 all sorts of things later on.

11 Q. You talked about sometimes the Brothers getting into bed
12 with you; is that what happened with Brother Ryan?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. I know it's difficult to talk about, but can you tell us
15 about that, please?

16 A. Like I said, he'd come in, like, you could either end up
17 in the room that they would spend the night in or they
18 would get in with somebody. If it wasn't you, you could
19 hear -- you know, you'd be lying with your eyes closed
20 and you could hear somebody else getting the attention
21 if it wasn't your turn.

22 Q. What would you hear?

23 A. Like, you know, crying, and, 'Leave me alone', or stuff
24 like that. You know, Brothers saying, like, 'Just stop
25 doing that. I am just going to check and make sure you

1 have not wet yourself', or whatever. You know, you
2 would be lying, thinking, 'Not me tonight', or 'Not
3 my --' You know, your eyes -- tucked -- just hoping
4 they would not be coming to you and it would be somebody
5 else. I think everybody -- just about everybody had it
6 done to them. But, for me, personally, yeah, that
7 happened. Yes, you wouldn't -- you would just hopefully
8 get a night where nothing would happen, you know? Just
9 trying to sleep and you would be on edge at the same
10 time.

11 Q. I think you tell us that on this occasion you recall
12 being grabbed from behind and raped; is that what
13 happened, 'Glen'?

14 A. In the bathrooms? In the shower facility? Yes.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. Yes. Just at night. I mean, you could go to the
17 bathroom. There was no -- you know, to make
18 a comparison again between Bellfield and St Ninian's,
19 at Bellfield you were on a lock-in system, you had to
20 ask the night watchman who would have to come and let
21 you out to go to the bathroom. At St Ninian's you could
22 just get up and go to the toilet, no matter what the
23 time of night. So you go there and then somebody --
24 well, whoever the duty person would be on that night
25 watch -- you know, like a night watchman's position.

1 But it would be one of the Christian Brothers. I don't
2 think they employed a night watchman as such; they would
3 just take turns. Of course, if you go into the bathroom
4 at whatever time, in the small hours, and be followed in
5 and catch a reflection in the mirror -- and then the
6 next thing you know, you are on the floor, and you are
7 waking up, coming round. I don't know what they had
8 done, choked you out or something, or chloroform or
9 whatever it is that they used, but you would be
10 incapacitated.

11 Q. In the statement, 'Glen', you tell us:

12 'I was in my own bed when he got into it and raped
13 me.'

14 Now, is that how it happened or is your recollection
15 that this happened to you in the shower? Or did it
16 happen in both situations?

17 A. I think in both. In both.

18 There is a point to be made here. How would you
19 say? You would become used. You become used to it.

20 I had situations at home where people would get into
21 bed, you know, supposed aunts and uncles would turn up
22 when the drink was flowing.

23 Q. This was at your mum's house?

24 A. When we lived in [REDACTED], in Port Glasgow. So-called
25 aunts and uncles would come round for a good old knees

1 up and you could be lying in your bed and that so-called
2 auntie or so-called uncle would be in bed with you. So,
3 I mean, I am not saying that it was acceptable. But,
4 with that sort of background, going into the situation
5 at St Ninian's, to have that, it was just -- it wasn't
6 new to me. It wasn't something that I would say I was
7 used to, but it had happened previously.

8 What am I trying to say here? I am not trying to
9 say that I was up for it, but it was behaviour that had
10 become something that you got used to.

11 Q. And just finally on that, 'Glen', and I think you have
12 already told us this already, but just to confirm it.
13 I think what happened to you with Brother Ryan, that
14 left you with some injuries, didn't it?

15 A. Yes. Yes. Yeah, I had a bit of a sore behind for quite
16 some time. And I had to sort myself out there,
17 because -- how can you explain it? It is like a bit --
18 you know, yeah, there was blood. There was, you know,
19 penetration. You are only a kid and I don't want to go
20 into things like the size of people's penises or what
21 have you, but there was obviously no lubricants
22 involved, shall we say. It was rough sex. In the
23 roughest of manners. You know, non-consensual rough
24 sex.

25 I think probably that's why, you know, if they were

1 going to try and do it they would prefer that you were
2 limp. You know, there was no resistance. So they
3 either somehow made you unconscious or restrained, so
4 they could have their way.

5 Q. Well, you tell us, then, 'Glen', that you were at
6 St Ninian's for a period. You think it was about
7 a year, 18-months, perhaps.

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. And although you weren't consulted, you were then put in
10 a car and taken to the next home.

11 Now, you say in the statement -- this is
12 paragraph 78 -- that was St Andrew's. But I think you
13 indicated earlier on that your recollection --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- now is that you went from St Ninian's to Bellfield
16 and then St Andrew's?

17 A. Yes. I got -- somehow, somewhere, I got my locations
18 mixed up. Like I said earlier, I thought initially
19 I was in Bellfield first, then St Andrew's.
20 St Ninian's, rather. But it was St Ninian's, Bellfield,
21 then St Andrew's. That was the order.

22 Q. I suppose it makes geographical sense, because am
23 I right in thinking that Bellfield is actually pretty
24 close, geographically, to St Andrew's?

25 A. Yes, aye, it is on the Clyde. Dumbarton, I think,

1 Bellfield is.

2 Q. That's right.

3 A. St Andrew's is more towards Dunoon. In fact, across
4 from the Holy Loch Naval Base. Sorry, not Holy Loch --
5 -- Gare Loch.

6 Q. If we can turn back to page 2 of your statement. Can
7 I just ask you this: what were your first impressions of
8 Bellfield when you arrived? Do you remember?

9 A. I think it was night time when I arrived. I am not
10 absolutely sure.

11 Impressions? I think relief to be out of
12 St Ninian's and unsure what Bellfield had -- Bellfield
13 was more of a prison-type establishment.

14 Q. Is that how it felt to you?

15 A. Yes. It was quite, you know -- issued a -- I think we
16 had a uniform of some description, a kit issued. When
17 you arrived you got shoes and trousers and a shirt to
18 wear. As I say, a bit like a uniform. You slept in
19 a secure environment. How would you say it? I think
20 the windows were locked. I don't think they had bars
21 on, but they were certainly locked. And the door to the
22 accommodation you were in was locked.

23 As I recall, the actual door into the dormitory was
24 like the old fashioned reinforced glass with wire
25 through it, little squares of wire. And you were put in

1 and if you wanted to -- like I say, if you wanted to go
2 to the bathroom you had to get the attention of the
3 night watchman person, to let you out to go to the
4 bathroom.

5 Q. How did you do that?

6 A. Knock on the door: let me out, I need to go to the
7 bathroom.

8 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 13, that there must have been
9 about six members of staff and you think about 50 boys
10 between 12 and 16.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. It sounds as though there weren't that many staff for
13 really quite a large number of boys; is that how you
14 remember it?

15 A. Well, at lunch or at meal times, you would have -- the
16 staff members would sit on a raised platform at the
17 front. As far as I can recall, at lunch there would be
18 maybe three or four men sat at this big table and all
19 the rest of us facing them at our long benches, long
20 tables and benches. And all we would see up there would
21 be maybe three or four staff. So maybe that's where
22 I am getting the idea from.

23 I mean, I never actually bothered to count how many
24 staff there were, but, at meal times -- that is maybe
25 not all the staff that were there on duty. It would

1 probably be just three or four members sat at that
2 table.

3 Q. You said, I think, a moment ago that it was all men;
4 were there any women on the staff?

5 A. There was a woman. I recall a woman. I don't know what
6 her role was or what she was, but there was a female
7 there at some point, I recall. But actually what she
8 done or what her job was, I don't know.

9 Q. At paragraph 14 of your statement, you say -- and you
10 have already told us that Bellfield seemed a bit like
11 a prison to you. You say at paragraph 14:

12 'Bellfield was very regimented.'

13 What do you mean by that, 'Glen'?

14 A. Well, meal times -- and going to meal times, going to
15 activities, you would all be basically lined up, and
16 a head count, and then we would go to whatever it was.
17 Was it dinner or ... I don't remember any class there,
18 any school as such. Working. I think there was
19 a little machine shop or a mechanics place, where they
20 would potter about with a car engine, something like
21 that. But I don't think I was ever involved in that.

22 There would be -- they would put you into a -- what
23 would you say? Like an old tennis court, with high,
24 high fences. And they would basically -- it was a bit
25 like the old Roman arena. They would put you all in

1 there, chuck a ball in and leave you to it. There was
2 scrapping and murder ball and just -- like an exercise
3 yard in the prison that you see in the movies. You
4 know, a guy sitting in the corner and there were people
5 fighting and all sorts of things. And sometimes the
6 ball would go over the wall or over the fence and
7 somebody would be asked 'Oi, whoever, go and get the
8 ball', and they would let them out the little side gate
9 and quite often you wouldn't see them again. They would
10 be off to get the ball and they would just keep going.
11 They would run away. You would see them the next day
12 because they would always get caught, everybody got
13 caught. If you were trying to imagine what a prison
14 would be like, that was pretty close.

15 Q. Yes, you say there was games of what you call 'murder
16 ball'; what was murder ball?

17 A. Well, you get two teams and one team has the ball and
18 you have to get the ball off the other team by any means
19 necessary. Punching, kicking, gouging, you name it.
20 And then you had to get that ball through their
21 defences. And, a bit like rugby, touch down on their
22 line, but you had to keep the ball. And as I say, there
23 was no rules, how you got that ball.

24 It was a bit -- I later discovered when joining the
25 army that it was a popular game with the army as well,

1 only we used a water bottle full of water. At Bellfield
2 it was a football.

3 Q. Okay. You mentioned a moment ago classwork, and some
4 classes. I will come back to that in just a moment or
5 two.

6 But I just want to ask you briefly about
7 paragraph 17 in your statement. You talk about the
8 dormitories, they are locked. You mentioned if you
9 needed to go to the toilet you had to attract the
10 attention of a staff member. But you talk, then, about
11 bed wetters and you say:

12 'I think the bed wetters were humiliated by the
13 staff.'

14 Can you tell us more about that, please?

15 A. One of the things for punishment was to ... and make
16 a person who had wet the bed stand at the window without
17 their top, pyjama top on. And it would be quite, if it
18 was winter time, obviously it would be quite cold. It
19 probably encouraged bed wetting, to be honest, because
20 there is nothing worse than being bitterly cold. It is
21 not just that person; it is the whole room, the whole
22 dormitory is then getting exposed. It is like mass
23 punishment.

24 But then, what would it -- maybe to try to make the
25 rest of the boys dislike the boy who has caused the

1 punishment, saying, 'Don't wet that F-ing bed again.
2 Look what you caused. We are all getting this now
3 because you wet the bed'. It is humiliating him and
4 then alienating him because he's upset everybody else
5 because the poor soul wet the bed, and instead of being
6 given sympathy, he is being held up as: this is
7 happening because of him. Let's take it all out on him.

8 And the army had a very similar strategy, you know;
9 one person does wrong, everybody gets punished.

10 I think maybe whoever was running that place was
11 probably ex-army or maybe they were all ex-army.
12 I don't know. But certainly everyone would have paid
13 the price for somebody wetting the bed.

14 And it would be the same routine as well with the
15 bedclothes, make them -- everybody sort of standing and
16 then the walk of shame with the wet bedlinen to go to
17 the laundry to get new linen, just humiliating the poor
18 soul, whoever it was that had done the big crime of
19 wetting the bed.

20 Q. And, 'Glen', I think we know that after your time in
21 care you were in the army yourself?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are you telling us that really there were some
24 similarities in the regime at Bellfield to life in the
25 army?

1 A. Oh, absolutely. When you joined the army, you found,
2 you know -- we are talking the army now, you know, the
3 post-war years, 1970s, Korea and all that. Discipline
4 was in the fist. I had it when I joined the army. You
5 know, broken teeth, punch to the stomach. Just a big
6 bully, a big bullying organisation. The way they kept
7 control was through violence and fear. You know, to be
8 in charge of men you had to be hard. I ended up being
9 a [REDACTED]. You had to be -- if you
10 were going to control all these guys, you had to be
11 harder than them, basically.

12 Q. And that's how --

13 A. Sorry, I think the guys that -- the people who were
14 running Bellfield were probably, possibly, potentially
15 be, even today, ex -- you know, prison wardens or
16 ex-military because of the discipline and everything
17 like that. That's my theory.

18 Q. All right. We will come back to discipline at Bellfield
19 and so on.

20 I just want to ask you briefly about classwork. You
21 say, paragraph 22, you don't recall doing any classroom
22 work; does that mean that there were no -- what we might
23 call academic subjects like English or arithmetic, or
24 something like that?

25 A. No, there was nothing, nothing that I can recall. We

1 didn't get any of that.

2 Q. Okay.

3 LADY SMITH: And you told me you don't remember getting such

4 lessons when you were at St Ninian's either.

5 A. No, St Ninian's was very rudimentary. Just basic

6 arithmetic and your times table. There was no

7 mathematics as such or English, or history, or any of

8 the other subjects you might get at school.

9 LADY SMITH: And yet by this stage you were high school age?

10 A. I was high school age, yes. I must say, to be honest,

11 I quite enjoyed not having to do schoolwork, because

12 I didn't like schoolwork anyway. But the option should

13 have been there, if you wanted to, I think.

14 MR SHELTON: Did anyone go out from the home to schools in

15 the community, to mainstream schools, or was everyone

16 held in the home?

17 A. Just in the home, as far as I know. Nobody was doing

18 any other form of education.

19 Q. You have told us about murder ball and some of those

20 sorts of activities. You mention in your statement that

21 there were sheds where you could do car mechanics or

22 woodwork. Apart from those things; what was there to

23 do? What was a day like at Bellfield?

24 A. Well, again, it would probably be much structured around

25 the military. Picking up paper, area cleaning, washing

1 down, mopping the corridors. Just general little wee
2 jobs about the place. Like I say, litter picking, house
3 cleaning, that sort of thing.

4 Or a lot of time was spent in this exercise yard.
5 You got fired in there and then ... you could probably
6 just -- two members of staff could probably monitor that
7 quite easily. I don't know if it was done to make life
8 easier for them or were they understaffed, or was it
9 just the way it was. You were just there. I think it
10 was more or less a holding centre while they found
11 somewhere else for you to go. So you weren't there --
12 you weren't expected to be there a long time. That's my
13 feeling on it.

14 It is just: this is a bad boy. We don't want him.
15 Let's put him in a secure facility until we can find
16 somewhere else we can put him.

17 That's how I seen it.

18 Q. Do you recall how long you were there?

19 A. I have no idea. Time with me is -- I have no clue,
20 sorry.

21 Q. Would it be days? Weeks? Months?

22 A. It felt like it was at least a month. At least a month.
23 But, again, I have no -- I can't remember days and dates
24 or ... I can hardly remember what happened last week.

25 Q. Right. You do tell us that there was a trip while you

1 were at Bellfield.

2 A. Oh, yes, yes.

3 Q. And it sounds like quite a memorable trip to
4 a distillery?

5 A. Ballantine's Distillery, oh yes, that was quite
6 enjoyable. In fact, I got drunk there.

7 What it was, there was a vat, in the whisky-making
8 process, and you could look into this vat and see all
9 this -- thing getting mixed around and stuff. The man
10 taking the tour said: well, while you are looking at it,
11 don't take a deep breath.

12 Well guess who took a deep breath? Next thing I was
13 lying on the floor and woke up, 'What's going on': it
14 was the fumes from the process.

15 And I always remember they had geese there, and
16 I said, 'Well, why do you have all these geese?' and
17 they said they are really good guard dogs, because the
18 Romans used them -- and that's always stuck with me:
19 geese, good guard dogs.

20 It's funny the things -- it's like one of the other
21 things that stuck with me is every Friday we got two
22 shell pies, mashed tatties and beans. That was the
23 highlight of the week food-wise. Everybody wants
24 Friday, get my two pies. You know, silly little things
25 like that.

1 Q. Yes, I think you said earlier on in your statement that
2 other than that the food was pretty 'diabolical'.
3 That's your word.

4 A. To be honest with you, the pie and beans-- you would get
5 tatties that hadn't been eyed. They would be put in
6 a tatty rumbler and then put in a pan and mashed. You
7 got black eyes and bits of skin, bad bits in the tatties
8 and what have you. But, to us, it was manna from
9 heaven. Two shell pies and beans and tatties; oh, man,
10 you'd kill for that. It was good stuff. Like I say,
11 silly little things. You know, out of all that misery,
12 you remember two shell pies, beans and tatties. It was
13 a highlight. It was something to hold on to.

14 Q. I was going to say, it was something you could hold on
15 to as some comfort in difficult times?

16 A. Absolutely, a little ray of sunshine, you know.

17 Q. Well, moving back, I am afraid, to more serious things,
18 'Glen'.

19 At the foot of page 5, you tell us that you don't
20 remember any social work involvement; is that right?
21 You don't recall any social worker?

22 A. I don't think I was ever visited by a social worker.
23 I think the only time I ever seen a social worker was
24 when they were wanting to ship me off somewhere else.
25 I mean, like, at St Ninian's, I think, somebody appeared

1 and I was bundled into a car and then driven to, you
2 know, Bellfield. And the same again from Bellfield to
3 St Andrew's.

4 Q. Thank you. On those occasions; were you told where you
5 were going and why you were going there?

6 A. No: so and so, get your bag packed, go in that car and
7 never darken our doorstep again. And off we went.

8 Q. You mentioned that you think there was a Children's
9 Panel at the start of all of this; do you recall there
10 being another Children's Panel at all during your time
11 in care?

12 A. No, no. I don't recall anything. You know, like I say,
13 just get in the car and go. That's it. End of.

14 Q. Over the page, 'Glen', page 6, paragraph 29, you talk
15 about discipline. Perhaps you could just tell us in
16 your own words about how discipline was handled at
17 Bellfield?

18 A. Oh, again, it was the old 'violence is the answer'.
19 Clip round the ear, kick in the backside, punch maybe,
20 now and again, for any sort of transgression.

21 Q. You talk, again, about being put in a locked room; what
22 was this room like? Was this like the one in
23 St Ninian's or different?

24 A. It was like an annex. It was, in fact, more or less in
25 the attic, as I remember. You went up rather than down.

1 And again, you are put in there. And it was, again,
2 more like a cooler situation. It would be really hot in
3 the winter -- not that I was there that long. I can't
4 remember whether it was winter or summer, or in between.
5 It was -- I recall it quite cold. So it might have been
6 early in the year.

7 Q. Did it have a window?

8 A. Yes, but there was no -- I don't think there was any
9 glass in it; it was just bars. It was in the ceiling or
10 in the roof, like -- what would you call it? A dormer
11 window or a skylight, or something like that.

12 Q. In the eaves of the house?

13 A. Yes, yes. That's the sort of thing, up in there.

14 Q. Was there a toilet?

15 A. Again, I think -- I can't remember now. It was a long
16 time ago. But I think you would get -- if you knocked
17 on the door you would get to the toilet. I don't think
18 it was just a bucket to use. I think you had a bathroom
19 facility, I believe. As far as I can remember.

20 Q. Do you recall what sort of period of time you or other
21 boys would be kept in there?

22 A. I think it was -- the longest I would be in there was
23 probably overnight. Because I had -- I was put in there
24 because I had split my foot trying to get out of the
25 locked room. Again, it was a plan, you know, trying to

1 escape, get away. And I had a bright idea that -- or we
2 had a bright idea: if you could break the glass, you
3 could get out.

4 And there is bunk beds, and what I done was I swung
5 myself on the bar, the bunk bed and hit the glass with
6 my feet, flat of my feet on the glass, to try and break
7 the glass. Of course, all that happened then was I cut
8 the soles of my feet. So I have scars on the soles of
9 my feet where I cut myself on this glass. Because it
10 didn't shatter; it just broke and cracked. So I have
11 got two cut feet. And of course then the night watchman
12 turned up and it was 'Oh, right, you are trying to get
13 out of here. Oh, we will sort that out'. So off
14 I went.

15 They put some bandages on my feet and I was up in
16 the -- I was in the cooler, as you might call it, for --
17 overnight anyway, definitely overnight and most of the
18 next day.

19 Q. Over the page, page 7, you talk about running away and
20 you say that you ran away on a few occasions, but never
21 got further than the train station. Paragraph 34, you
22 say:

23 'I ran away because I didn't like being there and it
24 was a scary place.'

25 A. Yes, it was. It was less scary than where I had been

1 before, but it still wasn't a -- it still wasn't ideal.
2 There was a lot of boys in there for various things.
3 Like I say, it was more of a holding centre. So you
4 dumped boys in there for stealing cars or for breaking
5 into houses, or for assault or whatever. It was like
6 a mini-Barlinnie for under age boys. They are not old
7 enough to go to the big ranch, but old enough to be in
8 Bellfield, to then get processed and put somewhere.
9 That's how I seen it.

10 It was a -- there was a -- it was -- like, they said
11 at St Ninian's I was a criminal. They reckoned I was
12 criminal, so I was in with criminals. That's how
13 I think the thing was.

14 Q. And I think you tell us earlier in your statement there
15 were some gangs in there as well, gangs of boys?

16 A. Aye. Oh, you had, back in the day, we had Bundy, Boys
17 United Never Die Young, and you had the Tiny Sinn Fein
18 and all that, the Clydebank Boys, all that lot. So, if
19 you came from Clydebank, you would go in with the
20 Clydebank Boys. Or if you were from Port Glasgow or
21 down that way, it was Sinn Fein. That's how stupid we
22 were, Sinn Fein was what the gang was called, Tiny Sinn
23 Fein, but we were all saying Tiny Sin Feen(sic).
24 Couldn't even say the bloody name right. So we were all
25 thick as mince, like, you know.

1 So you had all these different factions. So, when
2 you went in, it was like going to prison. I dare say if
3 you went to Barlinnie now: where are you from? Oh, we
4 will look after you because you are from Bellshill, or
5 wherever.

6 It was the same sort of idea in there.

7 Q. 'Glen', you told us about abuse at Bellfield Remand
8 Home: there is a paragraph about that on page 7. But
9 you mentioned that staff physically abused boys in
10 Bellfield. You say there was physical abuse going on
11 all the time, but you say there was no sexual abuse.

12 A. To me, personally, I never experienced sexual abuse at
13 Bellfield.

14 Q. Were you --

15 A. Only -- what?

16 Q. Were you aware of anybody else or did anyone else
17 indicate that they were being sexually abused?

18 A. Not that I ever knew. I think because the sleeping
19 arrangement was different; they had to gain access. I
20 think if you were to go up and say to the night
21 watchman, 'I need a key to get into dorm whatever', the
22 night watchman is going to say, 'Well, what do you need
23 that for?'

24 Whereas in St Ninian's, it was free range. There
25 was no questioning. And, obviously -- I say

1 'obviously', but probably all the staff at St Ninian's
2 were probably in on it.

3 Q. Page 8, you talk about reporting of abuse at Bellfield
4 or, rather, you are making the point that there was no
5 one to tell about the abuse --

6 A. No.

7 Q. -- because the staff were the abusers. You go on to
8 say:

9 'Some of the staff who didn't do the corporal
10 punishment would not have listened.'

11 Why do you say that?

12 A. It is the old camaraderie, isn't it, stick together?
13 You suffer this? I have had this as well.

14 Nobody will speak up against somebody because they
15 don't want to be the 'grass' or the 'telltale'. So you
16 just accept it. 'Oh, so and so likes a wee bit of this
17 and a wee bit of that', 'Oh, well, aye'. You all moan
18 about it, but nobody's going to step up and say it,
19 because, as soon as you break ranks, the focus is now on
20 you, not the person you were telling on. So rather than
21 be ostracised from their group, they will stick together
22 and just turn a blind eye. It doesn't matter; it was
23 only a wee slap. It was only a kick, doesn't make any
24 difference. It is good for them anyway. Give them
25 a clip round the ear.

1 That was the attitude back then. A lot of people
2 would say we should be doing that nowadays with our
3 kids. But, no, I disagree totally. You don't need to
4 be belting people to get them to be good.

5 Q. And, to you, was it just a wee slap or a wee punch?

6 A. No... bloody sare. Your head was ringing and you just
7 about passed out because an adult, weighing 16 stone,
8 has just put his whole weight behind that. To somebody
9 that's built like a stick insect and 13 years old, a big
10 35-year-old, 40-year-old man hitting you is going to be
11 sare, you know?

12 Q. You tell us that there was -- sorry. You tell us:

13 'There was no outlet to voice your concerns to.
14 There were no telephones and these people had complete
15 control of you.'

16 A. Yes, there is no -- I mean, later on I read somewhere
17 that you were supposed to get social work, access to
18 your social worker, but there was no access to anybody.
19 I mean, anything you wanted to do or say had to go
20 through those people. So you are now asking the abuser
21 for permission to speak to somebody about the abuse you
22 are getting. And I don't think the abuser's going to be
23 too keen in giving you permission to speak to anybody.

24 And there was never any suggestion that you could
25 speak to anyone. We had no rights. We had nothing

1 to -- no guidance, no nothing. We didn't know what we
2 could do, what we couldn't do. You were just put in
3 there and left at the mercy of those that are in charge.
4 There was no ever -- never any ... again, going back to
5 the sort of military-style justice. You know, you go in
6 front of the man and you say: do you accept the charges?

7 And I have had many, many, many times in front of
8 the man: do you accept the charges? On the date such
9 and such that you did ...

10 And you say yes or no, and you take it on the chin.

11 Going off subject a little bit, in the army I was
12 once convicted of 'dumb insolence' for looking the wrong
13 way at an officer. Dumb insolence. Now, that's the
14 sort of situation you had at Bellfield and places like
15 that. You were totally at their mercy.

16 Q. Thank you, that's a very helpful comparison, I think.

17 'Glen', you tell us that you left Bellfield. You
18 have no idea how it came to be that you did leave, you
19 were just told that you were going. I think we
20 understand now that at that stage you went to
21 St Andrew's School.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that was at Shandon, near Helensburgh; is that
24 right?

25 A. Yes, Rhu, near Shandon.

1 Q. And you tell us in your statement that was close to the
2 Faslane -- across the road from the Faslane Naval Base.
3 You tell us a bit about the house; it was a Victorian
4 style house. And there were more modern outhouses in
5 the grounds, and that's where the staff stayed; is that
6 right?

7 A. You had three houses: Rhu, Fruin and Shandon.

8 Q. Well, I was just going to ask you about -- sorry, go on.

9 A. The main house was the original Victorian building.
10 Then you had two more modern houses, where the boys
11 were. So you were: Shandon House, Rhu House or
12 Fruin House. So, as I say, the main house was Shandon,
13 that was the stone-built gothic-type building, and then
14 you had two other big, long buildings, like two storey,
15 which were accommodation for boys. And then you had
16 staff houses, which were round down near the main gate,
17 where the staff houses were.

18 Q. You say that it was a Catholic-run school, but there
19 were no Christian Brothers.

20 A. Oh my God, no, no. No Brothers. Hell, heaven forbid.
21 I would have ran a mile.

22 Q. And paragraph 83, you say, I think, once again you
23 didn't get any schooling at St Andrew's; it was rather
24 a work-based place.

25 A. Um --

1 Q. This is paragraph 83, 'Glen'.

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Can you just explain that for us, please?

4 A. It was all labour-based. It was all hands on, in the
5 engineering -- you know, they had an engineering
6 workshop. They had a woodworking shop. They had a --
7 there was a garden. You could do agriculture or
8 horticulture. They did give me -- I did get some
9 schooling, because they got me up to an acceptable level
10 to pass the army entrance exam. But that was quite
11 rudimentary. I mean, I ended up in the infantry, the
12 lowest of the low. You just got in and that was it. It
13 wasn't a great -- I suppose they found out that I wanted
14 to join the army, so they got me to a point where
15 I could join the army, which I did.

16 But schooling? No, no, it was picks and shovels and
17 wheelbarrows. We were -- at one point, they had -- the
18 headmaster there was building a new house and we dug the
19 foundations. We put in a lot of brick work. The only
20 thing we didn't do was anything to do with electrical,
21 gas or plumbing. We did a lot of the construction work
22 on that house.

23 We dug out all of the old heating pipes. The
24 heating system needed replaced. At some point it looked
25 like the Somme. There was a big bloody trench, because

1 the heating pipes, with steam, came from the boiler room
2 and then went out to all the different-- so they were
3 six-foot below the ground and the pipes needed replaced
4 so we manually, physically, dug the trenches out, so
5 they could get at the pipes.

6 So, yes, there was a lot of labour involved in it.
7 You were working hard. But there was no schooling. Not
8 that much. As I say, just enough to get me past the
9 entrance exam to the army.

10 Q. Sure. You tell us that you were given boiler suits and
11 welly boots for digging. This is at paragraph 89. You
12 weren't given any safety gear or anything like that. So
13 did you have any hard hats or anything like that?

14 A. Oh, no. We were in excavations that were -- nowadays
15 you would have to show the signs up. You would have to
16 have safety equipment in place because of potential
17 cave-ins. And we had a couple of -- where the sides
18 gave way and fell in and luckily there was nobody there
19 to get buried alive. Because this went on through the
20 summer and the winter. It was quite a big job, exposing
21 all the heating pipes.

22 At one point, I was proud as punch, I was given the
23 kango hammer to work, the big breaker. Worked on the
24 electricity.

25 Q. Like a pneumatic thing that vibrates?

1 A. Yes. I was delighted. I am getting to play with this--
2 I am the kiddy, breaking up -- whenever they cross
3 concrete or the road, I would break it up with this
4 thing. Delighted.

5 Then I went off one day -- I needed to go somewhere
6 to do something, I left the thing sitting -- it is funny
7 what you remember. There was a chap called [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] from -- I think he was from Ellon. But
9 [REDACTED] decided that he was going to use this
10 and during the process he broke it. So he left it lying
11 and ran off.

12 So I came back from where I was: oh, it is not
13 working. What's going on with this?

14 So I got one of the staff to come over, and oor
15 [REDACTED] had decided that the fuse had blown in this. You
16 know, it was just plugged into the wall. So he had
17 taken it out, taken the plug apart, put silver paper
18 around the fuse, put it back together, plugged it in and
19 blew the whole thing. I got the blame for that and was
20 put in the cooler, yet again, for something I didn't do.
21 And after I came out the cooler, I was put on the pick
22 and shovel. Thanks, [REDACTED]. I will always
23 remember [REDACTED]. If I ever meet
24 [REDACTED] ...

25 Sorry --

1 Q. Sure.

2 A. -- it is just one of the strange things you remember.

3 Q. Indeed. Just touching on the cooler: what was the
4 cooler at St Andrew's like?

5 A. Again, it was upstairs. It was a room and it was hot in
6 the winter and cold in the summer. There was some bars
7 on the window. And I was in there -- I think I was in
8 there not much more than a day, to be honest.

9 I hadn't done anything wrong. Somebody else had
10 done it and I got the blame because I was left in charge
11 of the machine. So, yes, that was -- I don't think it
12 was a place that was used much, to be honest.

13 Q. Okay. And certainly you tell us, paragraph 100, that
14 you didn't suffer any sexual or physical abuse during
15 your two years at St Andrew's. You say that the staff
16 never hit you or used corporal punishment; is that
17 right?

18 A. Not that happened to me. There was a bit of voyeurism,
19 maybe. We had a sports guy, who was Canadian. From
20 Canada. I can't remember his name. But he would be in
21 the showers. You would be showering after a sport.
22 I remember him telling a story about how he lost his toe
23 when he was messing about after a rugby match and he
24 climbed up on these little shelves that you used to have
25 for holding your soap, made out of porcelain that would

1 come out the wall. And he was climbing on that and it
2 broke and he cut his toe and he lost his toe.
3 I remember him telling -- he would be hanging about the
4 showers.

5 Looking back on that, that's probably not a good
6 thing. I never suffered any sexual abuse there.
7 I don't know of anybody that suffered sexual -- but
8 maybe that was his thing, being in the showers and
9 watching the boys shower.

10 We spent a bit of time with the Royal Navy. We used
11 to go there and use their swimming pool. Again, that
12 was -- there was no segregation. You got men and boys
13 in the swimming pool, in the changing rooms, showering,
14 stuff like that.

15 We went up Ben Nevis one year for New Year. We
16 spent New Year -- got the bells at the top of Ben Nevis,
17 in the emergency shelter they have up there. The Navy
18 boys took rum with them, so they were feeding us rum.
19 We were 12, 13, 14 years old. Now, that's not right.
20 What happened up in there, I don't know. I was drunk.
21 They gave us rum.

22 Were we under supervision? As far as I know, there
23 was only Royal Navy personnel that took us up Ben Nevis.
24 Should there have been teachers from the school there
25 present? Probably.

1 So there were things going on that were untoward.

2 I mean, being put under the floorboards and left down in

3 there, killing cockroaches with DDT, which we all now

4 know is banned because it is carcinogenic, blocked in

5 under the floor. The trap door shut and left in there.

6 Q. Yes, you tell about this at paragraph 91, 'Glen'.

7 I think you were working under the floorboards and

8 spraying for insects, and --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- you think someone -- do you think they deliberately

11 nailed the floorboard back down or was it an accident?

12 A. Aye, somebody put -- I don't know who done it, but

13 somebody did. I couldn't get out and I was stuck down

14 in there. There was a lot of cockroaches. I found the

15 nest where the cockroaches were residing and despatched

16 them with this DDT. We had no PPE for that, or any

17 masks or anything.

18 Q. Yes, you mentioned the lack of safety gear.

19 Sorry, 'Glen', you were breaking up there. We

20 didn't catch that last thing you said.

21 A. Sorry, I didn't catch what you said there.

22 Q. I think the line may be deteriorating. Can you hear me

23 all right now?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You mentioned, before, the lack of safety gear.

1 Actually, at paragraph 92, you tell us about a very
2 serious incident involving one of the St Andrew's boys.
3 I think this is while you were working outside the
4 school; is that right?

5 A. Well, he was one of the guys -- and I'm really, really,
6 really embarrassed. He was probably my best friend
7 there and I can't remember his name, which is sad.

8 But, anyway, he got, I think, like a work experience
9 for the Forestry Commission, cutting down trees, up some
10 glen somewhere or some forest. And then we got news
11 that he'd died in an accident.

12 He had apparently been coming off -- out the forest
13 on the timber lorry and there wasn't enough room in the
14 cab, so they said to him, 'Just ride on the top of the
15 logs', and they put it off the road -- it rolled over
16 into a ditch and, of course, the whole load came on him
17 and he was killed. That was a job, a work experience
18 thing.

19 What happened after that or what the -- I don't know
20 what happened. But he was killed, yes.

21 Q. Sure. My Lady, I am conscious of the time.

22 LADY SMITH: Yes.

23 MR SHELDON: There is perhaps 10 or 15 minutes to go in

24 'Glen's' evidence.

25 LADY SMITH: Well, we should maybe take the break just now.

1 not so extreme, to virtually none. So, the way I see
2 it, my memories of St Andrew's compared to, you know --
3 of St Ninian's is because of the lack of trauma at
4 St Andrew's compared to, you know, St Ninian's.

5 I have been trying to remember all of this stuff.
6 And I even went to a clinical psychologist to try to get
7 hypnotherapy to try to restore memory. And I was told
8 it would not be advisable. It would probably do more
9 harm than good to go back over it. And so I am really
10 trying to remember stuff and it is annoying that
11 I don't. But I think the brain has just put in
12 a defence mechanism there to try to maintain the sanity.

13 I did go to a therapist who said that you have
14 developed a cloak, like a barrier, to protect yourself.
15 Back then, she was saying it is not working any more; it
16 has broken down. This is when I was getting into a lot
17 of bother at work, disciplinaries and stuff.

18 So, yes, I am trying to -- I hope I am being clear
19 enough in what I am saying here. But, yes, it was
20 a different thing. St Andrew's was -- out of the
21 three-- if you would say: which one was your favourite?

22 Probably St Andrew's. But there was abuse, but it
23 just wasn't on the same level as the other places.

24 Q. No, thank you, 'Glen'. You are being -- you have been
25 very helpful and you are being very helpful.

1 At paragraph 102, page 20, you do tell us in your
2 statement:

3 'All in all I had a fairly positive experience at
4 St Andrew's. There was no abuse and although we had to
5 work hard, labouring, I didn't have to attend school
6 which I had no time for. We also had a lot of freedom
7 and spare time.'

8 I think you tell us elsewhere in your statement that
9 there was a lot more to do at St Andrew's, compared to
10 St Ninian's?

11 A. Well, for instance, you wouldn't credit it now, I was
12 allowed an air rifle at St Andrew's. An air rifle. And
13 I was allowed to go out into the woods and shoot pigeons
14 and rabbits and that sort of thing. For me, that was
15 manna from heaven. And I could go home. I got home
16 visits.

17 Q. I was just about to ask you about that. You were
18 allowed to go home to see your family from time to time?

19 A. Yes. It was very much an outdoor-type place. We went
20 canoeing; we went hillwalking; we went orienteering; we
21 spent a lot of time with the Navy. As I said, some of
22 it a bit suspect and some of it, well, okay... it was
23 good enough. For somebody -- from my point of view, as
24 I said before, it was the better of the three. It
25 wasn't perfect, but it was the better of the three.

1 Q. You certainly tell us, at paragraph 102, that it was
2 a huge improvement on Bellfield and St Ninian's, and you
3 would say:
4 'I would say I was a model student.'
5 And I can tell you, 'Glen', that the records from
6 St Andrew's bear that out; that was your headmaster's
7 view as well.
8 A. Oh, right, I did something right there.
9 Q. Absolutely. Over the page, page 21, 'Glen', you go on
10 to talk about life after care. You have already told us
11 that you managed to get enough book learning, as it
12 were, at St Andrew's, to pass the army entrance exam.
13 And you did join the army; is that right?
14 A. Yes. I did, yes.
15 Q. And that was with the Argyll and Southern Highlanders?
16 A. Yes, yes.
17 Q. And you tell us, paragraph 105, that you really served
18 all over the world. And that after 12 years you left
19 with the rank of Corporal. I think, after the army, you
20 continued to work in different capacities for the MoD;
21 is that right?
22 A. Yes, the first job after coming out, I went to the
23 Ministry of Defence at [REDACTED], as a range warden,
24 maintaining and looking after the rifle ranges at [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED].

1 Q. We understand you are still working as an engineer; is
2 that with the MoD, 'Glen'?

3 A. Oh, no, no. I have had a myriad of jobs since then.
4 Currently, I am a lift supervisor/slinger/rigger with
5 [REDACTED].

6 I mean, you know, I can list some of the jobs I have
7 had, if you like?

8 Q. Sure. There is no need, but thank you.

9 Page 22, you begin to talk about the impact. You
10 have already told us a little bit about that, 'Glen'.
11 You talk about the shell or the cloak that you feel you
12 developed. Perhaps you could just tell us a bit more
13 about that and the effect that your experiences, you
14 feel, have had on you?

15 A. Well, you are coming out of that situation and then
16 dumped into -- well, I say 'dumped', going into the army
17 was like -- what was it like? It was like a revelation.
18 It was like this is what you have been looking for;
19 home. People you can trust. A rough system, like
20 I said before. The military justice -- military and
21 justice don't really go together. There was no defence
22 lawyers, no people, nobody to speak for you. You are
23 wheeled in.

24 And my premise was: if you have done it, you have
25 done it, own up to it; if you have not done it, don't

1 own up to it.

2 But, yeah, how did it affect me? Well, like I said
3 before, there was the whole idea of: what are you?
4 What's your -- you know, they would say now: what's your
5 pronoun?

6 I came out of Bellfield and that-- how do you go
7 about dating a woman? How do you meet a woman? Am
8 I even interested in women? I didn't know one from the
9 other. You know, because I was -- you could say I was
10 confused. So where do you get your sexual -- how do
11 you, you know, get a sexual relationship? For me it was
12 prostitutes. In Germany, they are legal. You could go
13 and pay 50 Deutsche Marks for ten minutes with a woman
14 of your choice, and that seemed to work.

15 But, at some point, you need to start trying to be
16 normal and I had all that experience pushing me one way.
17 And then I found out when I was 60 that I have -- I am
18 autistic, with Asperger's. That's something you have
19 from birth; it is not something I caught or was suddenly
20 afflicted with. So I had that unknowingly.

21 So socialising and making friends was difficult. In
22 the army you found that quite easy, because you were put
23 in with a bunch of guys and you lived with them, fought
24 with them, went with them, done everything together.

25 And, yes, so it was -- really ... yes, what happened

1 in Bellfield and all those other places stayed with me.
2 And did I learn anything from it? Yes, I did: don't
3 trust -- don't trust the system.

4 I have had so many disappointments. I can tell you
5 a story. When I was in basic training, there was
6 a bayonet stolen. This is at Bridge of Don in Aberdeen,
7 and the training corporals came in and said: look, we
8 want this bayonet returned. Bring it, somebody return
9 it, nothing more will be said.

10 So we went away and I put my Al Capone mind into
11 gear: if I stole the bayonet; what would I do with it?

12 And, yes, I found it. I found whoever had stolen
13 it, where they put it. And we were told: just come into
14 this room.

15 There was a table in the room. Place it on the
16 table, walk away, no more will be said about it. So
17 what do you think happened? Yeah, muggins found the
18 bayonet, put it on the table, the lights came on, the
19 training corporals appeared out of the woodwork and
20 I was the one that was done for stealing it. I was
21 prosecuted by the army and made to pay a fine, and had
22 a restriction of privileges. All I had done was found
23 it. So they lied to me.

24 Again, going fast forward a bit more, I am still in
25 the army. I'm down in Wiltshire, a place called Frome,

1 and there is a nightclub. A lovely summer's night,
2 these wee country lanes and trees, something out of
3 a picture book. So I've been in the disco, come out,
4 middle of summer, it's 2 o'clock in the morning. It's
5 pitch daylight. Walking back to camp, come round the
6 corner, there was two guys lying in the middle of the
7 road, bloody, beaten. I thought: oh, they have been hit
8 by a car or something.

9 I give first aid. I pull them off the road, put
10 them on the side of the road. I find a telephone box.
11 No mobile phones back then. Phones the ambulance,
12 phones the police. They turn up, I get done for
13 assault, because they haven't been run over, somebody
14 has beaten them up. So, yes, stuff like that.

15 Q. I think you tell us, 'Glen', you have a real problem --
16 or you had a real problem with authority?

17 A. I did, I did. I still do. It is -- I have had a lot of
18 stuff going on recently with the police, I had --

19 Q. You tell us --

20 A. I have a firearms certificate.

21 Q. Oh, sorry, you tell us, at paragraph 117, that you feel
22 the whole care system let you down as it was allowed to
23 do what it wanted with very little supervision:

24 'When faults with the system were identified they
25 were never investigated or followed up.'

1 What did you have in mind about that?

2 A. Well, it is -- it just let everybody down. All the
3 children, now adults, who are not as lucky as me, who
4 went on to be drug addicts, going to prison, being
5 homeless and, in the worst cases, taking their own
6 lives, have been let down by the whole rotten mess.
7 There was no -- there was lack of -- what would you say?
8 Lack of supervision. People were -- children were put
9 into situations where they are supposed to be safe, but
10 all they were used for was to -- for other -- for adults
11 to have their way with. To use as cheap labour, to use
12 as punch bags, to use as sexual entertainment, to fulfil
13 their fantasies or whatever. And it looks pretty much
14 like they have all got away with it scot-free, because
15 they have died. A lot of them are dead now and are
16 beyond the reach of the law.

17 But the organisations themselves are still --
18 speaking earlier, the Christian Brothers are still on
19 the go. Why are they still in existence?

20 That just upsets people like me.

21 I don't know who ran St Andrew's and I don't know
22 who ran Bellfield, and I am talking Local Authorities,
23 probably. I have no idea. But, anyway, the whole sorry
24 mess was ridiculous, scandalous.

25 Q. And I think you make the point, 'Glen', that when you

1 tried to report abuse, things that were happening to
2 you, to the police, then they didn't do anything either?

3 A. Yes. Police Scotland apologised to me. I had
4 an interview with them. They came up and interviewed me
5 in Wick, and I said that. And the inspector there said
6 like: you know, on behalf of Police Scotland, I am
7 really sorry.

8 But that doesn't cut any ice. Their job was to
9 protect and defend the public, and they failed miserably
10 because the social attitude at the time was the child
11 should be seen but not heard. You had no voice. Now,
12 hopefully it is different; a child does have a voice.

13 You only have to turn up at school with your kid
14 nowadays with some bruises and then social services
15 swing into action and start accusing parents of -- and
16 quite rightly so. Because why is a child being bruised?
17 Has the child been battered by its parents?

18 No child should ever be subjected to any sort of
19 violence or abuse. And hopefully we are changing that.
20 This Inquiry, hopefully, will move forward and we will
21 be in a better place.

22 MR SHELDON: All right, 'Glen', those are all the questions
23 I have for you.

24 My Lady?

25 LADY SMITH: 'Glen', thank you so much. I have no further

1 questions. I just repeat the gratitude I expressed
2 earlier to you for engaging with us, as you have done,
3 both by providing your detailed written statement and
4 being prepared to talk about what we have asked you to
5 talk about this morning. It has been really helpful to
6 me to enrich my understanding of what happened in these
7 places.

8 I hope we haven't taken too much out of you by what
9 we have put you through. But please be assured it has
10 been very, very good to have your contribution. Thank
11 you.

12 A. Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: Now, before we move on to the next witness,
14 there was one name mentioned by 'Glen' in his evidence,
15 [REDACTED], who is the name of another boy with
16 him at St Andrew's, I think. His identity is protected
17 by my General Restriction Order and he mustn't be
18 identified outside this room.

19 Now, the next witness.

20 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who is
21 anonymous and is known as 'Tommy'.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Oh, yes, sorry, of course, we will
23 need to just swap over the things on the desk. I will
24 rise for a few minutes so we can do that.

25 (12.02 pm)

1

(A short break)

2

(12.05 pm)

3

LADY SMITH: Rewind.

4

MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

5

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6

MS FORBES: The next applicant is anonymous and known as

7

'Tommy'.

8

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9

'Tommy' (affirmed)

10

LADY SMITH: Good afternoon, 'Tommy'.

11

'Tommy', do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

12

'Tommy', before I hand over to Ms Forbes to begin

13

taking your evidence, one or two things. First of all,

14

the red folder there has your written statement in it.

15

Thank you for providing that. It is already evidence

16

before the Inquiry and it has been really helpful to me

17

to be able to read it in advance.

18

But, quite separately, when it comes to you giving

19

your evidence today, do help me to do anything possible

20

to enable you to give your evidence as comfortably as

21

you can.

22

A. Okay.

23

LADY SMITH: I do know it is difficult doing what you are

24

about to do. It can feel overwhelming at times. Your

25

emotions may take you by surprise. You are in a public

1 forum and you are being asked about things that happened
2 during your childhood that were, I can see, quite
3 distressing in some respects. So if you need a break,
4 just say. If you want a pause, just say. If we are not
5 explaining things properly to you in our questioning,
6 that's our fault, not yours; it is not you being stupid
7 and not understanding us, it is quite the reverse; we
8 are getting it wrong. So tell us if you want to know
9 anything we haven't already told you about.

10 If you are ready, I will hand over to Ms Forbes and
11 she will take it from there; is that all right?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Forbes.

14 Questions by Ms Forbes

15 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady. Good afternoon, 'Tommy'.

16 In front of you is the red folder, as her Ladyship says,
17 and that has your statement. First of all, can I get
18 you to have a look at that and go to the very last page?
19 The paragraphs there are all numbered and I think the
20 very last page is a paragraph 95, which has
21 a declaration, which says:

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

24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true.'

1 That's signed by you and dated 24 March 2021; is
2 that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is that the position?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If you just go back to the front of that statement, or
7 put it to the side - it is a matter for you, whatever
8 helps.

9 Now, just for our records, 'Tommy', that statement
10 has a reference number. So for the transcript I am just
11 going to read out what that reference number is. It is
12 WIT-1-000000642.

13 Now, 'Tommy', you tell us that you were born in
14 1964; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You give us some information on your life before you
17 went into care, between paragraphs 2 and 11 of your
18 statement. Then you tell us that the information you
19 have been given is that you were born in Perth
20 initially?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But you were given up for adoption by your birth mother;
23 is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You were quite young when that happened?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think from the records we have -- and it doesn't
3 matter about dates, but I think from the records we have
4 you were given up for adoption just before you were
5 a year old, about ten months old. So a little bit
6 longer than maybe you said in your statement, but we
7 won't worry about dates.

8 A. Mm-hm.

9 Q. It is obviously something you don't remember, because
10 you were a baby.

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. And at that time you were placed in Quarrier's Village;
13 is that right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. That's something you were told about later and you don't
16 have any memories of that time?

17 A. None, no.

18 Q. Again, 'Tommy', from the records we have, it seems then
19 you were placed in Quarrier's in [REDACTED] 1965 and then
20 you were boarded out to a couple who would then become
21 your adoptive parents, in [REDACTED] 1966. So, at that
22 time, you would have been about a year and a half old?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. They had you live with them, first of all, I think in--
25 was it Glasgow, there was a two bedroomed flat in

1 Glasgow?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And they had a daughter; is that right?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. And she was a couple of years older than you?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. I think then, after the flat in Glasgow, you moved at

8 a certain point to a three bedroomed house in

9 Cumbernauld?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And I think that's where you went to primary school; is

12 that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us, I think, 'Tommy', that you were told you

15 were adopted, when you were about five?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That was by your adoptive parents?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. They didn't want you to find out another way?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. They wanted you to know. Your life with them, from what

22 you tell us, 'Tommy', was very good; you have great

23 memories of your time with them?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you considered them to be your parents?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. However, I think it was about 10 or 11, at that age,
3 when your parents separated; is that right?

4 A. That's correct, yes.

5 Q. That didn't sit well with you. I think it is fair to
6 say you took that quite badly?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you believe that somehow was your fault?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Nobody said that to you at the time?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You took that upon yourself?

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. I think it was later, about 13 or 14, when they actually
15 divorced?

16 A. Yes, something like that.

17 Q. But you stayed with your mum, initially?

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. Is that right? I think it is fair to say that at that
20 time you were going to high school; is it Cumbernauld
21 High School?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you weren't coping well with this break up?

24 A. No.

25 Q. I think that then led to a decision being made by your

1 parents that you would go to a boarding school?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And I think you tell us, 'Tommy', at paragraph 11 of
4 your statement, that you were withdrawing into yourself
5 and feeling really angry inside about what was happening
6 in your family?

7 A. Mm-hm, yes.

8 Q. Now, you talk about the boarding school, 'Tommy', that
9 you went to, from paragraph 12 up to about 51. I think
10 you tell us that the timeframe for that was around
11 [REDACTED], during the first year of high
12 school?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So would you have been about 12 years old at that time?

15 A. Yes, 11 and a half/12.

16 Q. And did you stay at that high school -- boarding school,
17 sorry, in Kinross, until the end of fourth year?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So you would have been coming up to 16 or --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Until you were 16.

22 Now, I am not going to go through with you
23 everything you tell us about the boarding school today,
24 'Tommy'. [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2

3

4

5

6

7 Q. Initially. And then you were going home to stay with
8 your mum initially; is that right? At the weekends and
9 holidays?

10 A. Occasionally, yes.

11 Q. But then sometimes you would go and stay with your dad?

12 A. Yes.

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21 Q. Then it was decided that you would reside at Bellfield
22 Assessment Centre during the holiday periods?

23 A. Yes. We just -- my mother and I weren't getting on at
24 all.

25 Q. Okay. And I think you tell us a little bit more about

1 that further down in your statement. If I could just go
2 to a later part, paragraph 38. I am not sure if that is
3 actually --

4 LADY SMITH: I think it has been redacted as well.

5 MS FORBES: Redacted. I will just remind you about this
6 part that you won't be able to see on the screen,
7 'Tommy'. But I think this is what you were telling us:
8 you were allowed to return home at the weekends. You
9 would take the bus back and forth to the boarding
10 school. And if it was holiday time, your dad would pick
11 you up in the car and you would spend time at his house,
12 in Falkirk. And I think you tell us there were some
13 issues with your mum and her health; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So you were spending some time with your dad; is that
16 what you recall?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think there were some issues with your dad's new
19 partner and his children with her; is that correct?

20 A. No, he didn't have any children with her. It is just
21 she didn't want to know.

22 Q. Okay.

23 But I think they later broke up and he met someone
24 else?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. At that time, anyway, that was causing some difficulty
2 about you going to stay with your dad during the
3 holidays --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and at weekends?

6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

22 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
23
24 Secondary Institutions - to be published later Then something happened during the summer
25 holidays, I think, at one point, and that's when the

1 Social Work Department became involved?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Then it was decided that you would go on a part time
4 basis to Bellfield?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. And you describe it as Bellfield Remand Centre. It was
7 maybe by that time, probably, an Assessment Centre.

8 I think you tell us -- this at paragraph 50, which
9 again is still redacted in your statement. But you say
10 the first time you went there the social worker picked
11 you up from your mum's house and took you to Bellfield?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. But you do remember that there was some Panel
14 involvement at some point?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you tell us about that, 'Tommy'? What do you recall
17 about your involvement with the Panel?

18 A. Just going to -- I think the first one was possibly in
19 Kilsyth or Muirhead, and they told me what was
20 happening. And there was no comment from me because
21 I didn't get any sort of chance to comment.

22 Q. Okay. So did you feel that your views were taken into
23 account at all?

24 A. Oh, not at all, no.

25 Q. And what did you understand at that time about what was

1 happening?

2 A. Nothing.

3 Q. Did you know that -- at all, that the Panel was being

4 convened for you to be staying somewhere other than your

5 mother's house or your father's house during the

6 holidays or at weekends?

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: How old were you by this stage?

9 A. Sort of 14, 14 and a half, maybe.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS FORBES: So by this time you had been at the boarding

12 school for maybe a year or two.

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. But this situation with where you were to go at weekends

15 and holidays had got to a point where a place needed to

16 be found?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The decision was made that you would be going to

19 Bellfield.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. Were you told that that's where you were going to be

22 going?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. What was the first time that you knew about

25 Bellfield? What was the first --

1 A. When I arrived.

2 Q. When you arrived there?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Who took you there?

5 A. The social worker.

6 Q. And where was that from?

7 A. From -- I think that was from either my mum's house or

8 straight from the hearing. I can't remember that.

9 Q. So, from your recollection, you weren't told where you

10 were going?

11 A. No.

12 Q. But, at that time, you would have known they weren't

13 taking you to the boarding school?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Yes. This was somewhere different?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And much further away from the boarding school, which

18 was in Kinross?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Now, you tell us, 'Tommy', about Bellfield, from

21 paragraph 52 of your statement. And I think you start

22 by talking about your arrival there and what you saw;

23 can you tell us about that? What is your recollection

24 of you arriving at Bellfield?

25 A. I didn't really think much of it, to be honest. I just

1 knew that I was not going home. And that I thought it
2 would probably be something similar to the school. And
3 obviously when we arrived and went inside and -- I
4 realised that it wasn't quite like the school.

5 Q. Okay. How did you feel when you arrived at Bellfield?

6 A. Um, to be honest, I can't really remember. But
7 I wouldn't have thought I would have been particularly
8 happy about the fact that I wasn't going home.

9 Q. I think one of the things you tell us, 'Tommy', at
10 paragraph 52, is that you were frightened when you went
11 to Bellfield and you say that it was a strange
12 atmosphere?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you remember what that atmosphere was?

15 A. Um, lots of boys, probably my age, just sitting in
16 a room watching television. And the people that sort of
17 looked after you sitting in chairs behind them, just
18 watching everybody. Nobody spoke, nobody did anything.
19 They just sat and watched TV.

20 Q. When you got there; can you remember being given
21 an introduction by anybody or being shown around?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And the social worker who took you there; did they give
24 you any information after you got there, about what was
25 to happen next?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did you know how long you were going to be there, the
3 first time you went?

4 A. Probably just until the end of the school holidays.

5 Q. Now, this first time that you go to Bellfield, from what
6 you remember; was it at the start of a set of school
7 holidays?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And do you know roughly what they were? Was it the
10 summer holidays or October holidays?

11 A. I can't remember which holidays it was. But probably
12 the summer holidays, yes.

13 Q. And I think you tell us that you are not aware of who
14 was in charge of the centre, and you don't remember the
15 names of the staff?

16 A. No.

17 Q. But one of the things you do say is:
18 'Some of the staff wore normal clothes, but some
19 wore a suit and tie.'

20 A. Mm-hm. The older ones tended to wear suits and ties.

21 Q. The older ones?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you were told you had to address the staff as mister
24 and their surname?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. And there was only male staff, I think you tell us?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. No female staff?
4 A. I think the kitchen staff might have been female, but
5 that's all.
6 Q. But, certainly, the care staff within the --
7 A. All male.
8 Q. -- within the home, looking after the children, were all
9 male?
10 A. Mm-hm.
11 Q. And you tell us that you were addressed using your first
12 name?
13 A. Mm-hm.
14 Q. You give us a little bit more description, 'Tommy',
15 about the makeup of Bellfield, and you say that there
16 were dormitories?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And they were upstairs in the building?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. Were there any -- was there any differentiation between
21 ages or was everyone mixed together?
22 A. Everyone was mixed together.
23 Q. And I think you say there was about 20 boys there in
24 total?
25 A. Yes, it might have been a little bit more than that.

1 But about that sort of number, yes.

2 Q. And were the age ranges from about 11 up to -- I think
3 you said nearly 18?

4 A. Yes. I would have thought so, yes.

5 Q. And by this time you would have been, what, 14 and
6 a half or so?

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Now, you were there during the holidays?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. So you never stayed there during the school week; is
11 that right?

12 A. No.

13 Q. You would be back at boarding school?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. So it might be that during the school week or outwith
16 the holidays, there would be more boys in the building;
17 do you know?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. Okay. You tell us then a little bit about the routine,
20 'Tommy'. You said that in the morning you would get
21 washed before you would go down for breakfast, and that
22 bed at night was around 10 or 11 o'clock?

23 A. Yes, I think so.

24 Q. Okay. So how did that compare with boarding school?

25 A. Boarding school, you went to bed much earlier.

1 Q. Can you remember when that was, roughly, at Kinross?

2 A. If you were in juniors, you would be in bed by

3 9 o'clock. Intermediates, 10 o'clock. And the older

4 ones, a bit later.

5 Q. Okay. Moving on into your statement -- this is at

6 paragraph 56 -- I think you tell us that this was

7 classed at that time as an Assessment Centre, but it

8 seemed more strict; what makes you say that?

9 A. I think because of the experience I had at school.

10 Where it was a boarding school, that was kind of -- you

11 know, you could go out for a walk, you could do that.

12 I didn't realise I was going to be pretty much locked in

13 and watched 24 hours a day. I wasn't ready for that.

14 I wasn't expecting anything like that.

15 Q. When you say 'locked in', 'Tommy'; do you mean that the

16 front doors -- the doors were locked to get outside?

17 A. Yes, you only went out with the staff that were there.

18 Q. Okay. But once you were inside the building; were you

19 able to move about freely or were you --

20 A. No.

21 Q. No. Okay. Can you describe a little bit then about

22 what the set-up was that you recall?

23 A. Big lounge area with lots of chairs, plastic chairs, and

24 a TV. And that was pretty much it.

25 Q. In relation to being able to move around freely; what

1 restrictions were there?

2 A. Well, there was not really anywhere to go, apart from
3 that room, because everywhere else was sort of off
4 limits, unless you were with one of the staff.

5 Q. So there were the dormitories that you would stay in and
6 then there was this big room that you talked about?

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Is this the room with the sort of-- TV and lots of
9 plastic chairs?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you also say that there were residents there who
12 were different from you in a lot of ways. In
13 particular, people that had been part of the justice
14 system and had been put there by the court?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But I think you mentioned that there was no fighting
17 between the boys that you recall?

18 A. No, you didn't dare.

19 Q. Okay. You say you 'didn't dare'; what would be the
20 thing to stop that?

21 A. Erm, you just didn't. You knew that if you get into any
22 sort of trouble in the centre that you would be dealt
23 with very quickly.

24 Q. Okay. By staff?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And when you say 'dealt with'; what did you think
2 would happen to you?

3 A. Oh, there would be violence. Absolutely no doubt about
4 it.

5 Q. Okay. You also say it was just the atmosphere. So the
6 sentence at paragraph 56 is:

7 'There was no fighting. It was just the
8 atmosphere.'

9 I just wondered what you meant by that, 'Tommy'?

10 A. There was no -- you didn't really talk to each other.
11 You didn't -- you know, you would -- it was just a very
12 odd place to be, where you didn't really mix with
13 people. You know, you didn't sit and have a chat with
14 the people that were sitting next to you. You might do
15 it at the dinner table, the breakfast table, whatever.
16 But you didn't ... you kept quiet and that was it.

17 Q. Okay. And you tell us that you were supplied with
18 a sort of uniform, a tracksuit?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. And you weren't allowed to wear your own clothes?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So is that -- at boarding school; did you have a uniform
23 that you would wear to school?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But apart from that; would you be allowed to wear your

1 own clothes?

2 A. At night, yes.

3 Q. So this was quite different from your experience at

4 boarding school?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say that tracksuit then -- which was sort of like

7 a uniform -- meant that it was obvious to people when

8 you went outside that you were from Bellfield?

9 A. Oh, very much, yes.

10 Q. And were you aware of that?

11 A. Mm-hm. People would point at you, and things like that,

12 when you were outside, because they knew where you were

13 from.

14 Q. I think you comment, 'Tommy', that because you were only

15 there at the weekends and holidays you don't know what

16 the general weekday routine would have been.

17 A. No.

18 Q. But I think you have said that you do recall going out

19 sometimes, but with staff.

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. So were you always accompanied by staff when you went

22 out?

23 A. Always, yes.

24 Q. Moving on in your statement, then, 'Tommy', you talk

25 about that room again, the room where there was the

1 television, is that right, and everyone watched it
2 together?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. But that was supervised?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you have described it there as being like an old
7 movie, where all the inmates were sat in rows of chairs,
8 watching the TV?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That reminds me of a scene in The Shawshank Redemption,
11 where everyone is watching something on the television;
12 is that the kind of thing you are talking about?

13 A. Yes, it was up high, and you just sat and watched it and
14 didn't say a word.

15 Q. You say there was a large tin of cigarettes that would
16 be distributed to the boys as they watched the TV?

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. But staff would light it for you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And then would you go back to your seat to smoke it?

21 A. Mm-hm.

22 Q. And at that time, I think you say, you smoked?

23 A. Mm-hm.

24 Q. Did you smoke before you went to Bellfield?

25 A. A little bit. But not -- that pretty much made me smoke

1 a lot more, because there was nothing else to do.

2 Q. Yes. And I think you say you don't even remember there
3 being books available?

4 A. No.

5 Q. In relation to leisure activities, table tennis or
6 things like that; was there anything like that?

7 A. I don't remember anything like that being there. There
8 might have been, but I can't -- I don't remember.

9 Q. Okay. And what about physical exercise and games,
10 things like that?

11 A. Erm, you got out for a walk during the day, maybe.
12 That's pretty much it. I don't remember there being
13 anything else.

14 Q. Okay.

15 But you comment -- this is at paragraph 59 -- that
16 everything -- like everything else, this was regimented
17 by the staff; everything you did was regimented by the
18 staff?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. Were you told during the course of the day where you
21 could be at any given time?

22 A. No, because you were either with the staff outside and
23 you wouldn't do anything anyway, you wouldn't attempt to
24 make a break for it, because it just wasn't done. And
25 then, at night or whatever else, it was pretty much the

1 same thing; you would sit in front of the TV.

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12 Q. So whilst you were at Bellfield for holidays and
13 weekends, outwith the school term, it is a stark
14 difference, really, to what you were able to do?

15 A. Yes, mm-hm.

16 Q. How did you feel about that?

17 A. I think I got to the point where I didn't really feel
18 anything at all. I just resigned myself to the fact
19 that I was going to Bellfield

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 Q. Now, I think you say that you did go home still at
22 Christmas, but really all the other holiday periods were
23 spent at Bellfield?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. And that continued until, I think, near the end of your

1 last term at boarding school?

2 A. Um, yes, it would probably have been the start of maybe
3 fourth year, or part of the way through fourth year.

4 Q. And I think you tell us a little bit later -- and we
5 will come to that, 'Tommy', about how that came about,
6 about how you stopped going to Bellfield.

7 But you go on, 'Tommy', to say that you would get
8 some visits while you were there, from your mum?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. And she would sometimes come with her friend or your
11 sister?

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. But that would always be by appointment?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And there was a room set up for visits?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. On some occasions you would sometimes be allowed to go
18 out?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And is that because you weren't there on the same basis
21 that the other boys around you were there?

22 A. I think so, yes.

23 Q. But the visits weren't frequent; is that right?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So you describe maybe once or twice during the whole

1 summer holidays?

2 A. Yes. And I think it was because my mum just really
3 struggled with the fact that I was there. So the visits
4 didn't last long, either.

5 Q. When you say 'struggled'; did you mean -- I think you
6 talk about this a bit later. Do you think she felt
7 guilty about the fact that you were there?

8 A. Oh, I think she did, yes.

9 Q. And what about your father? Did you get any visits from
10 him?

11 A. No. I think he was still kind of caught up with his
12 partner at the time.

13 Q. Okay.

14 Now, 'Tommy', I am just going to move on in your
15 statement to talk about some things that you tell us
16 that happened at Bellfield. This is from paragraph 62
17 of your statement. That's in relation to abuse.

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. Now, at paragraph 62, 'Tommy', you tell us that there
20 was one person involved in that in relation to you; is
21 that right?

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that person?

24 A. Erm, older man, very thin. Always wore a shirt and tie.
25 And I just always remember the shirt was always sort of

1 quite baggy and you could see the sort of lines on his
2 throat. And just sort of slicked, you know, almost like
3 Brylcreemed hair, grey, short. Very gaunt looking, but
4 always had a sort of blue blazer on, always, with sort
5 of gold buttons.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And when he was with everybody else he was perfectly
8 fine, but if you were on your own with him it was
9 extremely unpleasant.

10 Q. I think you give his age about being in his 50s, maybe?

11 A. Possibly, yes. Might even have been older than that.

12 Q. You talked earlier, 'Tommy', about the fact that some
13 people wore a shirt and tie, but some people didn't;
14 they just wore ordinary clothes?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. In relation to him and what he wore; did he stand out at
17 all?

18 A. No, he was just one of the older ones. He didn't stand
19 out any different from anybody else. It is just that he
20 always wore a shirt and tie.

21 Q. But you mentioned this blue blazer and gold buttons?

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. Is that something that sticks in your mind?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And was he a member of staff?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you know what type of staff member he was?

3 A. No clue.

4 Q. But he was someone within Bellfield who was responsible
5 for the children there --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- and young people? I think you say you can't remember
8 his name; is that right?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Initially, did he say to you that he was going to take
11 you under his wing?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And what did he ask you to do in relation to that?

14 A. At the time, when I first arrived there, it was -- he
15 said that he knew why I was there, and the reason that
16 I was there was not the same as the rest of the boys.
17 So he would sort of look after me.

18 And, at the time, I didn't really know what that
19 meant. I just thought it was -- you know, I suppose --
20 well, protect me from the type of people that were
21 there. That's what I thought.

22 Q. When you say that; do you mean the other boys who were
23 maybe put there by the criminal justice system?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Initially, did you feel like he was someone that might

1 be able to protect you?

2 A. Well, he was a person in authority. I would just -- it

3 was the same at school. You know, your teachers, you

4 respected your teachers. You were expected to respect

5 the people that were supposed to be looking after you,

6 I think.

7 Q. I think you say that there was a particular routine that

8 he would ask you to help him with?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. What was that?

11 A. Usually -- it didn't happen every night. You know,

12 I think the different care givers, I suppose, would take

13 turns to do the suppers or whatever else, whether it was

14 chips or whatever. And if somebody else went in I would

15 breathe a bit of relief, I think, because I knew

16 I wasn't going to be going into the kitchen with him.

17 Q. So he would be asking you to go into the kitchen with

18 him?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. And this is in relation to supper; is this after the

21 usual dinner time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So a later at night snack?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. And sometimes it would be chips or sometimes it would be

1 something else?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When he would ask you to help him; would it just be you
4 on your own that would be doing that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You mentioned the kitchen; is that where you would go to
7 with him?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When you were in the kitchen with him; what happened?

10 A. He would try and get you to touch him, try to kiss you,
11 try to ... various things. Force himself on you. And
12 you couldn't do anything to get away from him.

13 Q. Okay. And I think you tell us, 'Tommy', that it sort of
14 started initially with him hugging you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And then progressed?

17 A. Yes. I just always remember the stubble.

18 Q. Okay. Stubble on his face?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And it progressed to him trying to kiss you?

21 A. Mm-hm.

22 Q. Would that be on the face?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And trying to lick your face?

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. Would this take place in the main kitchen area?

2 A. Yes, because he knew that nobody else would come in.

3 Q. You also say in your statement, 'Tommy', that he would

4 press himself into you?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. Would that be from behind?

7 A. No, from the front.

8 Q. You say that he would also put his hands on your private

9 area, over your clothes?

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. And I think you tell us a little bit more, that that

12 would be a regular thing, and perhaps if you were there

13 maybe five days it would happen on maybe three of those

14 days?

15 A. If he was going into the kitchen, yeah, then it would

16 happen.

17 Q. Okay. And I think, 'Tommy', there is something

18 additional that you have remembered that you want to

19 tell us about --

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. -- that's not in your statement. That's something else

22 he did, a place he took you from the kitchen; is that

23 right?

24 A. Yes, into the storeroom.

25 Q. So was this a storeroom that you could access from the

1 kitchen?

2 A. Yes, the -- a kitchen store area, where they would keep
3 all the food and stuff.

4 LADY SMITH: So this would be a large walk-in store, that
5 kind of place?

6 A. Yes.

7 MS FORBES: What would happen when he took you there?

8 A. He would usually expose himself and try to get you to
9 perform sex acts on him. I was -- I didn't know what he
10 was trying to do, to be honest. I was too young and
11 probably didn't really know what he was trying to do.

12 Q. So when you went into this cupboard; what did he do to
13 you?

14 A. He would try and push you down --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- on to your knees and things like that. But I didn't
17 know what he wanted me to do, so I was trying to back
18 away, and he was always aroused and, erm ... you would
19 just try and make excuses, I think, just to try and get
20 away from him.

21 Q. Okay.

22 And you have said that when he tried to push you
23 down he would expose himself, his penis?

24 A. Yes, mm-hm.

25 Q. Looking back now; is your impression that he wanted you

1 to perform oral sex on him?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Would he say that to you or --

4 A. No.

5 Q. No, okay.

6 A. No. But you could just tell by the -- what he was
7 doing, what he was trying to do. And obviously at the
8 time I was too naive to understand what he was trying to
9 do. I think I probably had quite a sheltered
10 upbringing. Being at boarding school and stuff,
11 I didn't really know what was going on.

12 Q. But you refused, or you say you tried to make excuses to
13 get away?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. And you didn't do what he wanted you to do?

16 A. No.

17 Q. How would that come to an end? How would it finish?

18 A. Um, possibly the food would be ready and somebody
19 might -- from what I can remember, he would probably
20 know how long things took to do and always made sure
21 that whatever he was doing was done by the time the food
22 was ready, to take out to the boys.

23 Q. And what you have told us about going into the store
24 cupboard with him; did that happen more than once?

25 A. Er, it happened a few times.

1 Q. Mm-hm.

2 A. But I think by the -- maybe the third time, I think he
3 realised that it wasn't going to happen.

4 Q. Okay. And I think that's not something that you were
5 able to tell us about before, 'Tommy', in your
6 statement.

7 A. No.

8 Q. But it is something that you have since been able to
9 tell us about?

10 A. Yes, I have -- since the original statement and
11 everything else, I have had, you know, a lot more
12 flashbacks and just a lot more memories from it. And it
13 is just something that needs to get out. And that was
14 why I wanted to come and do this today.

15 Q. And when you talk about flashbacks, 'Tommy', I think we
16 will go on a little bit more later to explain how this
17 came to be. But I think this is not something that you
18 originally remembered; is this right?

19 A. No, not at all.

20 Q. And it came about as a result of you trying to be
21 involved with the Children's Hearings system?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And during the training for that, when it got to the
24 secure care part, your recollections in relation to
25 Bellfield came back?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But, before that, it wasn't something that you had been
3 thinking about?

4 A. I didn't -- I hadn't even considered -- it wasn't even
5 there. There was nothing that I remembered --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- from that time.

8 Q. Just going back to what we were talking about with that
9 member of staff, I think you comment, 'Tommy', that you
10 think that he picked on you because you were an easy
11 target?

12 A. I would have said so, yes.

13 Q. Did you think that some of the other people, some of the
14 other boys who were there, were not people that he could
15 get away with trying that with?

16 A. I wouldn't have thought so. I think some of the boys
17 that were there were probably quite street smart, quite
18 tough, quite ... you know, they knew how to handle
19 themselves.

20 Q. We know that you went in there about 14 and a half,
21 during the holidays and at weekends. Then you left,
22 I think you said, during the course of the fourth
23 year --

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. -- but before the end.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So was this happening throughout the course of that
3 period or was there a point when it stopped?

4 A. Yes, so I would always go there at longer holidays.

5 I think the school realised that there was something
6 not quite right and they tried to keep me at the school
7 at weekends, long weekends, when they were doing various
8 activities. But because there was children at the
9 school at weekends, that was fine. Long weekends, they
10 tried to -- I, obviously, hadn't said anything to anyone
11 about it. But I think some of the teachers had noticed
12 a change, possibly, and thought it was better that
13 I stayed at the school and just did various activities
14 there.

15 Q. So this was the teachers at the boarding school, in
16 Kinross?

17 A. Yes, mm-hm.

18 Q. So there came a point when you weren't going to
19 Bellfield, or as often to Bellfield?

20 A. Not as often. Only -- so it was maybe, like,
21 the October holidays or Easter holidays, or things like
22 that.

23 Q. You mentioned there, 'Tommy', that you didn't tell
24 anyone; did you feel like there was anyone you could
25 tell?

1 A. No. It was just -- you thought nobody would believe
2 you, nobody would listen. It was, you know, just sort
3 of -- the way that I looked at it, it was just accepted.
4 That was just what happened in these places.

5 Q. Okay. I think you say that you didn't hear other boys
6 talking about it?

7 A. No.

8 Q. But you mentioned earlier, 'Tommy', that the times that
9 he picked someone else to go to the kitchen with him,
10 you were relieved?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. And did you wonder whether or not they were receiving
13 the same sort of treatment?

14 A. To be quite honest, I didn't care. It was the fact that
15 I wasn't going.

16 Q. Yes. You say, 'Tommy', that there wasn't any other
17 physical abuse or anything like that from other staff,
18 but there would be some shouting there, if you did
19 something wrong in their eyes?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. But you make a statement, at paragraph 67, that says:
22 'Every day I spent in there was a traumatic
23 experience.'

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. Are you able to say why that was? What made it that

1 way?

2 A. I think because I didn't want to be there. I did
3 everything I could as regards my mum to try to not be
4 there. You know, I said that I would do whatever she
5 needed me to do. But I think the decision had been
6 taken out of her hands, so whether she had wanted me to
7 come home, it wasn't an option.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I just didn't want to be at that place. I would rather
10 have been at school or I would rather have been in
11 a tent somewhere, just as long as I wasn't there.

12 Q. Yes. As you have said, you didn't discuss it with
13 anyone. You tell us at paragraph 69, if it was the
14 summer holidays you would spend maybe the last week of
15 that period with your dad?

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. Then, after that week was over, he would take you back
18 to school; was that boarding school?

19 A. Yes, mm-hm.

20 Q. I think you comment that you think your dad maybe
21 realised that something wasn't right with you being at
22 Bellfield?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Although you didn't tell him, he then started taking you
25 during the breaks from school?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. At that time; was he still with the first partner?

3 A. No, he had split up from her.

4 Q. So things had changed for him in that regard?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. I think you say when you were told by your dad that you
7 weren't going back to Bellfield, you felt such a total
8 relief?

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. And is that how that came to an end? It was really your
11 dad making the decision that he was going to have you?

12 A. I think he noticed there had been a change in my -- just
13 my demeanour and my attitude, and everything else. And
14 I don't think he knew what it was; he just knew that
15 there was something not quite right. I don't know
16 whether it was maybe the change of circumstances, he
17 felt maybe a bit guilty of the fact that he hadn't been
18 there to deal with it. Not deal with the abuse, just
19 deal with the fact that he had other interests at the
20 time.

21 Q. Mm-hm. Then I think you tell us that you left Lendrick
22 Muir in 1981; at that time you had passed your exams and
23 had a place at college?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. You went back, I think, to live with your dad at first;

1 is that right?

2 A. Yes, mm-hm.

3 Q. Then you were studying for an HNC?

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. In Computer Data Processing?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. But I think that wasn't something that you originally
8 wanted to do; it was electronics engineer or even going
9 into the forces?

10 A. Mm-hm.

11 Q. But I think there was an issue about being colour blind;
12 is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But you completed your course?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. But I think you comment that you have never used it
17 again?

18 A. No.

19 Q. 'Tommy', you then go on to tell us about your life after
20 being in care, from paragraph 72. I think you comment
21 that although the relationships with your mum and dad
22 weren't always perfect, that all in all, they were good
23 as an adult, and you and your dad now are the best of
24 friends?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you tell us as well that sadly your mum has
2 passed away?

3 A. Mm-hm.

4 Q. You still have contact with your sister and you are
5 quite close with her, even though she is in Australia;
6 is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In relation to what happened after college, I think you
9 tell us that you got your own flat and you moved out of
10 your dad's house; is that right?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. And you got involved in some coaching, outdoor
13 activities?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. That was voluntary work; is that right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Then you decided that you needed to get a paid job?

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. I think you tell us, at paragraph 77, that your first
20 paid job was working in the hotel in Aviemore. Is it the
21 Eriska Hotel?

22 A. That was near Oban, yes. That was the first job I got.

23 Q. And then you were working as a ski instructor as well?

24 A. Yes, I moved up to Aviemore at the end of the season and
25 worked in a hotel up there.

1 Q. I think you told us you worked in the hotel industry for
2 over 20 years?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Then, later on, you decided to work for yourself; is
5 that right?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. In facilities management. Is that what you have been
8 doing?

9 A. Yes, I run my own business now, doing property
10 maintenance, home improvements, stuff like that.

11 Q. I think you have also kept your hand in volunteering, as
12 well, sometimes; is that right?

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. Over the years.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You tell us a little bit, 'Tommy', about a relationship
17 you had. You got married, but divorced. But now you
18 are with someone again. You have a partner; is that
19 right?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. And you have a daughter together; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How long have you been with your partner now?

24 A. 15 years.

25 Q. And I think your partner worked for the Children's

1 Hearings Service for a while; is that right?

2 A. Yes, mm-hm.

3 Q. Is that something then that you became interested in?

4 A. We were both going to do it together, but logistics of

5 childcare and things like that, it just wasn't going to

6 work. So my wife did it first and then I was going to

7 join, like, maybe a year or a couple of years later.

8 Q. Okay. And moving on, then, 'Tommy', to impact, I think

9 you tell us that until the point where you were doing

10 the training for the Children's Hearings Service, this

11 experience of your time in care didn't have an impact on

12 your adult life, because you weren't -- it wasn't

13 something that you were aware of?

14 A. Didn't remember it at all, no.

15 Q. But it was during this training that this came to

16 fruition, you remembered it?

17 A. Mm-hm.

18 Q. And I think that then meant that you had to step back

19 from the training; is that right?

20 A. Yes, the day that it happened, I had to -- I was

21 three months into the training. And it was just the

22 training on secure accommodation, and by lunchtime I had

23 to go and speak to the facilitator of the course and

24 explain what had happened. And she said, 'I think you

25 need to go home'. I wasn't in a fit state to be in the

1 training course at that time.

2 Q. Is that something that took you by surprise?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think, because of that, you weren't able to continue
5 with that training; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Then I think we got into the period of Covid, where it
8 was then going to be online; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But you prefer a sort of face-to-face type of training;
11 is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is it fair to say that it is something that you would
14 like to take up again, but it is important for you to
15 get this process out of the way before doing that?

16 A. Yes, I think I have got a lot to offer the Children's
17 Hearings system. But, at the moment, I just -- until
18 this is out the road and ... I need to process this and
19 deal with it. I don't know that I could make informed
20 decisions at the moment in a Children's Hearing with
21 certain things.

22 Q. And I think in relation to getting some counselling,
23 that is something you may be keen to do; is that right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But I think there is a waiting list?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Have you been in contact with Future Pathways about
3 that?

4 A. That's correct, yes. They can't help because of -- the
5 type of counselling and treatment that I need is offered
6 by the NHS, but it is a three to four year waiting list.

7 Q. Okay. Is that something you feel quite frustrated
8 about?

9 A. I do, yes, mm-hm.

10 Q. Do you feel that something like that might help you be
11 able to move forward?

12 A. I think it would. I think if I could just, I suppose,
13 compartmentalise it and just deal with it. You know,
14 I just need to move on from this. I have managed, as
15 I say, to keep it from my daughter, which is -- because
16 I don't want her knowing anything about this. But
17 I haven't even been able to tell my dad, because I know
18 that he would just be totally destroyed if I told him.
19 He just could not -- my dad's 90, he just couldn't cope
20 with it.

21 Q. For you; is giving evidence here, today, quite
22 important?

23 A. Yes, I think getting this -- although I did the
24 evidence, you know, a couple of years ago online, it
25 was -- you just get to a point where you think you need

1 to -- if I could face my accuser, it would be even
2 better. But, obviously, that's not possible. I would
3 doubt he is even still with us. But I just felt if this
4 maybe stops somebody else from it happening -- you know,
5 another child from getting any sort of abuse, then it's
6 worth it.

7 Q. Yes. And do you feel that it is important for you in
8 your journey of healing and coming to terms with what's
9 happened?

10 A. I am not sure it is going to make a huge amount of
11 difference. It might make a bit of difference, but
12 until I can actually get -- I think I am dealing with it
13 okay, with the help of my wife. But there is nobody
14 else that I can really tell. And the local mental
15 health unit are just hopeless.

16 Q. Okay. And I think it is fair to say that the kind of
17 lack of support for counselling or mental health is
18 something that you have found quite frustrating; is that
19 right?

20 A. Yes, I think what's most frustrating is that the
21 organisations that have caused this are the ones putting
22 their heads in the sand and ignoring the fact that it
23 has happened, and making it so difficult to try and
24 heal. And, you know, even just getting information, it
25 is -- you would be better climbing Everest than trying

1 to get information from some of these Local Authorities,
2 because they just don't want to know. They are not
3 interested in the slightest about -- it is like: if we
4 don't answer him, he will go away.

5 And I think that's wrong.

6 Q. You have tried to get some information; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you have come up against a lot of obstacles?

9 A. I have tried for a year to get information from Glasgow
10 City Council and they are just not -- everything is
11 another hurdle and another hurdle. And you get tired
12 and frustrated with it, and you just eventually
13 say: well, there is no point.

14 Q. In relation to your hopes for the Inquiry, 'Tommy', I
15 think you tell us, at paragraph 93, that you hope by
16 giving evidence to the Inquiry it gives strength to
17 others and gives hope that they will not be alone.

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. Is that how you feel?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Yes. And I think you go on to say that you hope the
22 people giving evidence to the Inquiry get some sort of
23 closure.

24 A. Yes. I mean I think this will probably help me a little
25 bit, but not as much as I probably need. But anything,

1 any sort of closure that I get's a bonus on what I am
2 dealing with.

3 Q. Okay, well, 'Tommy', those are all of the questions
4 I have for you today, so unless there is anything that
5 you want to say that you haven't had a chance to say
6 before now, that would be all from me.

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Is there anything that you want to say?

9 A. I have to say, I think that some of these organisations
10 that I have dealt with in the past, whether it be the
11 Children's Hearings system, social work departments --
12 they need to stand up and accept some sort of
13 responsibility, because they are not at the moment. Or
14 it certainly doesn't seem so. I have been trying to get
15 my social work records from Glasgow for over a year now,
16 and it is just brick wall after brick wall, and it
17 shouldn't be like that. Somebody should be saying 'we
18 need to find this stuff for this guy, you know, this
19 isn't fair'. It is their responsibility. They caused
20 this in the first place. Okay, not them directly, but
21 their organisation caused this and they need to stand up
22 and say 'what do you need? You tell us what you need,
23 we will find it'. Because they are just not doing that.
24 Some Local Authorities are better than others. North
25 Lanarkshire Council, brilliant, but they just didn't

1 have any information, because it was Strathclyde
2 Regional Council at the time.

3 Children's Hearings system need to sit back and say
4 we need to put some sort of counselling in place, even
5 for trainees, because I can't be the only person that
6 this has happened to, and they basically just shut down
7 and ran. And to leave a trail of destruction, which is
8 what it feels like to me, as soon as that happened they
9 just, like, you know, they didn't even phone me to see
10 how I was; it was just one of the trainers phoned, or
11 emailed me to say 'Hope you are well and maybe you can
12 continue training at some other point'. It wasn't
13 a case of, you know, 'How are you getting on?' or this
14 and that. And I even tried to shame them [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] and they just didn't respond. I thought surely
16 they will respond, send a private message, something
17 like that. No, nothing. Whatever, they need to be able
18 to say, you know, if something happens, we have got this
19 in place to assist, because they will lose valuable
20 members of the organisation if they don't. And I know
21 they have it in place for members, Children's Hearings
22 members, but not for trainees. So, you know, they have
23 a duty of care to not only members, but to trainees as
24 well and if they won't bring that duty of care in, it's
25 not fair.

1 Q. And this is something that only became known to you
2 during the course of your training for the Children's
3 Hearings Service, so you feel that there should have
4 been more support there, available for you?

5 A. There should be some support. There is none.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I think there may be now, but there was never a time
8 where anybody from the Children's Hearings Service came
9 back to me and said 'look, we heard what's happened, you
10 know, obviously it has been fed back to us, what can we
11 do, is there anything we can do to help? Can we direct
12 you anywhere?' They are a Government organisation, and
13 as a Government organisation they should be able to say
14 'You can try this' or 'You can try that' or 'Can we
15 arrange for someone to speak to you?', or anything at
16 all, but to just wash their hands of the whole
17 situation, and then just leave you dumped at the side of
18 the road, which is how it felt to me, I just felt was
19 wrong.

20 MS FORBES: Well, thank you very much, 'Tommy', it has been
21 really useful, thank you.

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Tommy', let me add my thanks, as I said
24 before, I have your statement, and that's a really
25 valuable contribution, and now I have you as well in

1 person, and everything you have told me in this space we
2 have shared over the last hour or so, and that's been
3 really, really good for me. And it has enhanced my
4 education about your experience. So thank you for
5 feeling able to put yourself through that.

6 A. Okay.

7 LADY SMITH: And I hope that for the rest of the day you are
8 able to do something more restful than being here.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Well, I am going to rise now for the lunch break,
12 and we will sit again at 2 o'clock, when we will start
13 a group of some statements that will be read in, yes?

14 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 (1.06 pm)

17 (The luncheon adjournment)

18 (2.00 pm)

19 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, as I said, we will now
20 move to read-ins. Ms Forbes.

21 MS FORBES: Good afternoon, my Lady. Yes, the read-in to
22 start this afternoon is an applicant who is anonymous
23 and is known as 'Jack'.

24

25

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

'Jack' (read)

MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is
WIT-1-000000807.

My Lady, 'Jack' was born in 1946. He talks about his life before going into care between paragraphs 2 and 8. He states that he was born in Renton, near Dumbarton, and lived with his parents, two sisters and a brother. He had stayed in Renton for a number of years and then moved to Alexandria for three years, before coming back to Renton. His mum was a housewife, but died aged only 39, when he was 14. And his dad worked as a steel erector in England and he only saw him about every three months. Growing up, 'Jack' states, he didn't have much money and struggled financially, and they tended to live on tick and used the pawn shop often. He went to the primary school in Renton, then Alexandria, and then back to the original primary school, when they moved back.

When he reached the age of secondary school, he went to St Patrick's in Dumbarton, but was only there about four weeks before ending up in Remand Homes. He then tells us that, when he was about 10 or 11, he broke into a shop with his brother and they were given probation. He then broke probation and was sent to Bellfield, in Dumbarton, for 14 days. He states he ended up going

1 there twice, roughly four years apart. He also states,
2 when he broke probation, the police gave him 'a doing',
3 as he describes it. He says at paragraph 6:

4 'They knocked the hell out of me to stop me doing it
5 again and took me to court.'

6 'Jack' says that he thinks that they broke into the
7 shop to get sweets and they were taken to the Juvenile
8 Court in Dumbarton Sheriff Court, and he says that in
9 those days you got two years probation, but then sent to
10 a Remand Home if you broke it or re-offended, and then
11 got sent to an Approved School.

12 'Jack' says there was no social worker in court and
13 everything they received was an automatic sentence from
14 a Justice of the Peace. He says that he and his brother
15 were about six months in to the probation when they
16 broke it and they were sent back to the same court.
17 They were both then sent to Bellfield Remand Home in
18 Dumbarton. The police took them straight there from
19 court.

20 He then tells us about Bellfield from paragraph 9.
21 He says:

22 'Bellfield was a red sandstone building. It was
23 an old Victorian house that had been turned into
24 a Remand Home. Mr Johnstone was in charge, like
25 a headmaster, [REDACTED], LYV [REDACTED], who we had to

1 call "mum", was the matron and was like a nurse who
2 dealt with you if anything happened. You rarely saw
3 [REDACTED], except when you were sitting in the room
4 where we ate our meals and when you went to bed.

5 'I think there were five other adult members of
6 staff. Mrs LYV [REDACTED] was also the cook and sometimes
7 taught in the classrooms. The other staff members just
8 sat around making sure you didn't disappear.

9 Mr LIG [REDACTED] was a member of staff and I recall him just
10 sitting about playing his ukulele.

11 'There was somewhere between 10 and 15 boys in the
12 home and sometimes as many as 20. The numbers changed
13 every day and some were only there for a night, waiting
14 to go to court the next day. There was only one dorm
15 with about 20 single beds in it. Each of us had
16 a locker. I was 11 and ... [his brother] was 10 when we
17 first went there. I think the oldest boy would have
18 been 15.'

19 He then goes on to talk about the routine from
20 paragraph 12:

21 'We would get up in the morning and get washed and
22 dressed before getting our breakfast from Mrs LYV [REDACTED].
23 After that we would clean the place, polishing the
24 floors, though twice a week we had classes from
25 Mrs LYV [REDACTED]. Otherwise we would just be sitting in

1 a big room all day. We went to bed at about 8.00 pm and
2 lights went out at 9.00 pm. You weren't allowed to talk
3 after that.

4 'I don't recall much about the food, which,
5 I suppose, would suggest it wasn't bad.

6 'There were no baths, just frozen cold showers.
7 There were three of them, so we showered three at a time
8 in separate cubicles which had no doors. Those waiting
9 to take a shower had to stand, naked, in the corridor
10 beforehand.

11 'There was a member of staff present while we
12 showered. I don't remember his name, but he was about
13 30. He was one of the younger members of staff and used
14 to whip you with a damp, wet towel to make sure you got
15 in the shower as you stood there naked, waiting to go
16 in.

17 'We might have had carbolic soap or something like
18 that, but we didn't have shampoo. Sometimes you had to
19 wash yourself in front of the supervisor to prove you
20 were washing yourself properly.

21 'The home didn't provide us with clothes or
22 a uniform. You wore what you arrived in and if you
23 needed any more clothes then your family brought them
24 in.

25 'The only thing we did all day, unless we were at

1 class or cleaning the place, was sit around in the big
2 room and, on the odd occasion, we worked out in the
3 garden. There were books always lying around if you
4 wanted to read.

5 'We didn't go on any trips during either of the
6 times that I was in Bellfield.

7 'The only schooling we did was a couple of days
8 a week, when Mrs LYV took us for class.

9 'No doctors or nurses were ever called to Bellfield.
10 Mrs LYV was the person who looked after us if we
11 got scrapes or cuts.

12 'We would polish all the floors, peel the potatoes,
13 and sometimes work out in the garden.

14 'I wasn't in Bellfield at Christmas and have no
15 recollection of anybody having their birthday
16 celebrated.

17 'I only had what I was wearing when I arrived,
18 nothing else. We didn't get any pocket money.

19 'If a boy wet the bed he was made to just lie in it
20 and the sheets wouldn't be changed until the end of the
21 week. The staff would know that a boy had wet the bed.
22 We all did, as you could smell it. I can't remember
23 exactly what the staff would say to such a boy, but they
24 would verbally abuse them and make a fool of them in
25 front of the other boys, making them feel so low. This

1 didn't happen to me, as I didn't have a problem with bed
2 wetting.

3 'My mum wasn't fit enough to visit me and ... [his
4 brother] during our time in Bellfield and no social
5 workers ever came to see us. Some people did get
6 a visitor in the afternoon. I don't remember seeing any
7 official inspectors and there [it should say "were"] no
8 welfare officers who came to see us to review our
9 detention.

10 'If you did anything wrong you would get a punch
11 from a member of staff, but I don't think this was noted
12 down anywhere. In the big room that we would sit around
13 in, there was a belt in the middle of the table and the
14 staff would slap it off the table now and again to
15 frighten us. It was about six feet long and an inch
16 thick, much longer and thicker than your typical tawse.

17 'I never saw anybody actually get hit with the belt,
18 but Mr LIG would lash out and punch and kick you.
19 It was not unusual for him to punch you if you didn't do
20 something properly, like polish the floors. Such
21 punishments were done in front of the other boys.

22 'I didn't run away the first time I was in
23 Bellfield, but I did the second time, which was about
24 four years later. What happened was that we were in the
25 recreation room, which was next to the showers.

1 Mr LIG went into the showers and I locked him in.
2 Several of us then got out of the recreation room via
3 the window and ran off.
4 'We went to Balloch and sneaked on to a boat, but
5 I then went back to my house, where the police caught me
6 and took me back to Bellfield, about three days later.
7 When I got back I was put in an underground room and got
8 bread and water for three days. There was no window,
9 but it did have a small grating that let in light and
10 fresh air. You used a chanty for the toilet while in
11 there.
12 'When I got out and sent back to my dorm I was
13 handcuffed to the bed each night for the rest of the
14 28 days I was there. The boy who had run away with me
15 had cut his head and had to go to hospital and I didn't
16 see him again. That was the first and only occasion
17 that I had seen the underground room. Nobody asked me
18 why we had run away.'
19 'Jack' then talks about abuse from Bellfield, at
20 paragraph 32:
21 'On one occasion during my second spell in
22 Bellfield, I was in the class with Mrs LYV when
23 I pointed out to her that she had spelt something wrong.
24 She hit me with the board pointer, which broke one of my
25 fingers. I got no treatment for that and, to this day,

1 the finger is still misshapen.

2 'On another occasion I was peeling the potatoes and
3 Mr LIG told me I was peeling off too much and gave
4 me a warning to get it right. I must have kept doing it
5 because he suddenly punched me in the mouth. Because he
6 was wearing a ring he gave me a nasty cut in my mouth,
7 which Mrs LYV had to put three stitches into.
8 I still have a scar because of that assault.

9 'Getting punched, slapped on the back of the head or
10 kicked by the staff, especially by Mr LIG, was
11 a daily occurrence and you got it any time you did
12 something the staff perceived as being wrong or if you
13 spoke without being spoken to.'

14 He then talks about leaving Bellfield, at
15 paragraph 35:

16 'The first time I was there I went back home after
17 being there for 14 days. Going back to school was hard,
18 as everybody knew I had been in a Remand Home. You
19 weren't given any help or guidance; you were just let
20 out. I went back to St Martin's Primary School and then
21 on to St Patrick's Secondary School before I ended up in
22 St Joseph's, Tranent.

23 'A few weeks after getting out of Bellfield, I broke
24 into another shop and was caught and sent back to
25 Dumbarton Sheriff Court. I was sentenced to one to

1 three years at St Joseph's and taken straight there from
2 the court by a probation officer, whose name I don't
3 recall. I was 12 years old. I was sent to St Joseph's
4 because I was from a Catholic family.

5 'The second time I left Bellfield, about four years
6 later, I was again taken to court, then sent to
7 St John's, Edinburgh Road, in Glasgow.'

8 He then tells us about his time in St Joseph's.

9 Part of his statement, my Lady, was read in --

10 LADY SMITH: Yes.

11 MS FORBES: -- during the De La Salle chapter, on
12 12 January of this year, and that was Day 405. And he
13 talks about St Joseph's from paragraph 38. He does
14 outline abuse that took place there, but I won't go
15 through that, my Lady, because it has already been read
16 in.

17 He talks about the fact that he then went to
18 St John's Approved School. I am not sure if that part
19 was read in on the last occasion, my Lady, but he talks
20 about that from paragraph 69. He says:

21 'There is not much to say about St John's.'

22 He was sent there after breaking into another shop
23 and sent there by Dumbarton Sheriff Court, when he was
24 about 15. And he says it was more like prison, with
25 most of the doors being locked, but he was bigger by

1 that time and could look after himself, which he had to
2 do to survive.

3 He then talks about his life after being in care
4 from paragraph 71, and states that when it came to
5 leaving St John's, at the age of 16, they basically
6 kicked him out and he didn't receive any support from
7 the social work. He just went back home.

8 His mum had died when he was 14 and his sisters had
9 gone to America. He got married at 17, so he wasn't in
10 the house for long and he then lived in the house
11 himself, as it had been kept on by his dad.

12 Oh, sorry, he says his brother had gone to stay with
13 one of his sisters in America, but came back and got
14 married at 17. He, himself, got married at 28 and had
15 three children. He says he now has eight grandchildren.

16 He talks about the fact his working life was spent
17 running bookies for a while, and he eventually owned his
18 own bookies.

19 In relation to impact, 'Jack' talks a lot about
20 St Joseph's and his impact in relation to his time in
21 care really relates to that.

22 He has never sought any treatment or support
23 regarding his time in care and hasn't reported anything
24 to the police. And again, with lessons to be learned,
25 it really relates to St Joseph's and the De La Salle

1 Brothers, as does the other information.

2 At paragraph 79, he has given the usual declaration
3 and he has then signed his statement and it is dated
4 10 September 2021.

5 My Lady, I understand that David Sheldon now has
6 a statement to read in.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, thank you.

8 Mr Sheldon, whenever you are ready.

9 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this is the statement of
10 'Sinclair'.

11 'Sinclair' (read)

12 MR SHELDON: Sinclair was born in 1954. He talks on the
13 first page of his statement about his early life, his
14 family life, which was clearly a very difficult one. He
15 describes it at the end of the first page as 'just
16 horrendous'.

17 His mother, it seems, fairly clearly had mental
18 health issues and was violent. His father was, in his
19 words, 'semi-alcoholic', and his mother attempted to
20 kill 'Sinclair' and his sister by gassing them.

21 Reading short to paragraph 11, page 3, he says:

22 'It was a crazy first ten years or so of my life.
23 I would run away from home. I remember running away
24 when I was about seven. I was going to England to make
25 my fortune. I thought I was Dick Whittington. Obviously

1 I didn't get very far. I got back into the house. I
2 climbed in a window and hid under the bed. I have
3 an image of myself lying under the bed, behind a case,
4 and hearing people coming in and out looking for me.
5 Eventually, they found me and, of course, that just led
6 to more violence.'

7 Reading short again, to paragraph 14, page 4, he
8 says:

9 'We moved around a lot when I was at primary school,
10 but I did attend.

11 'The family moved away to try to get away from mum's
12 mental illness.'

13 And he says his dad worked on farms:

14 'Inevitably my mum would have a breakdown.'

15 And she would have to get back to their home
16 neighbourhood:

17 'That was all during my primary school education, so
18 I attended four different primary schools within
19 five years.'

20 He says he reached secondary school, but essentially
21 did what he wanted to do, sometimes he would go to
22 school and sometimes not. He says there were a few good
23 teachers. But although he didn't do the 11 Plus, he
24 could read and write and was all right with basic
25 arithmetic.

1 At paragraph 17, 'Sinclair' sums up, really, by
2 saying:

3 'It was a violent, disturbed childhood. My sister
4 and I should have been taken out of it. It just wasn't
5 right. It continued all my life. I can't remember my
6 mother or father giving me a kiss or a cuddle. They
7 never came to see me in any of the institutions that
8 I was in, apart from once, when my dad came to Mossbank
9 and got drunk. There was no love, no love whatsoever.

10 'I loved my mum and dad to bits. I thought they
11 were the greatest people on earth. I did everything
12 I could to make them love me. I just wasn't successful
13 at all. When I look back on it, I realise it was no
14 wonder I became involved in criminality.'

15 'Sinclair' goes on to talk about that. He says he
16 got involved with petty crime and initially went to the
17 juvenile court and got two years probation, aged 10.

18 Over the page, he says, paragraph 20:

19 'I completed my two years' probation when I was 12.'

20 But by that time he had, in his words 'Entered the
21 system'. He says he started breaking into shops and
22 there was a wee gang of them doing it. They mainly
23 stole clothes, sweeties and any cash that was there. He
24 says:

25 'We weren't great criminals and we got caught most

1 of the time. That led to the homes, Bellfield and,
2 ultimately, Approved School. As soon as anything
3 happened in the village, myself and another five or so
4 boys would get the tug for it. Sometimes we got charged
5 by the police and sometimes we didn't.'

6 He says in the next paragraph:

7 'Nobody really cared about us. A couple of my pals
8 had fathers who were alcoholics. There was no stability
9 in their lives either. We just did what we wanted.'

10 He goes on to talk about a family who befriended
11 him. Over the page, paragraph 25, he says when he was
12 12 he ended up again at Juvenile Court for breaking into
13 a local shop or assault. He says:

14 'I am not sure what it was for because there were
15 a few offences happening around that time; stupid, petty
16 things. I was always taken from police custody straight
17 to court. If it was a weekend, the police would take
18 you to Bellfield Remand Home. My parents must have
19 known that I was appearing in court, but they never
20 came. Occasionally, my father would write a letter.
21 I was represented by different lawyers. It was usually
22 the duty solicitor. I appeared in front of
23 Sheriff Bryson. He was an old style Sheriff. He just
24 looked at me and sent me away. Sheriff Stone took over
25 from Sheriff Bryson. He was a more modern Sheriff. He

1 would listen to you and then send you away.

2 'I was sent to Bellfield, which was me cutting my
3 teeth in the criminal world. I was taken straight from
4 Juvenile Court to Bellfield. I was remanded in custody
5 for Approved School reports.'

6 At paragraph 26, he goes on to talk about Bellfield.
7 He says:

8 'Bellfield was an intimidating place at the top of a
9 hill. It was a big Victorian house. When you walked
10 in, there was a large reception hall. To the left was
11 the dining area and to the right was the television/
12 sitting area. At the back was the kitchen, the smoking
13 area and the Digger. Halfway up the stairs was
14 an office where the administration took place. The
15 stairs turned to the right, up on to the landing where
16 dormitories were.

17 'I had three separate spells in Bellfield. Two when
18 I was about 12 and then a third spell when I was about
19 15. When I went to Bellfield the second time it was
20 much the same. The staff hadn't changed and the regime
21 hadn't changed. I think I was sent to Approved School
22 after my second spell at Bellfield. My third spell at
23 Bellfield was after I had finished at Approved School.

24 'There were between about 30 to 50 boys in
25 Bellfield, aged from 12 to about 15 or 16.'

1 I think the records, my Lady, bear out that sort of
2 estimate of the numbers:

3 'They would come and go quite a lot for remand and
4 then Approved School, so it was mainly short stay.
5 However, there were two or three boys who stayed for
6 eight or nine months. It may have been that they
7 couldn't find them a vacancy.'

8 Again, my Lady, the records bear out that around
9 that period there were boys staying for as long as
10 260 days in Bellfield.

11 'Sinclair' goes on:

12 'The headmaster was called Mr Johnstone, but we
13 never saw him. The other staff I can remember were
14 Mr KFT, who we called KFT, Mr KFN, Mr
15 LIG, Mr KFS, KFQ and AIA,
16 who arrived later on. I also remember a member of staff
17 who was a lovely man: he was going to pay my bail money
18 for me on one occasion when my father wouldn't pay it.
19 The staff wore civilian clothes; we wore uniforms. We
20 wore shorts and shorts sleeves, a bit like a scout's
21 uniform.

22 'I was taken to Bellfield in a police van. There
23 were adult prisoners in the van as well. We were all
24 just handcuffed to one another. Bellfield was the first
25 drop off, because it was only up the road.

1 'I will never forget the initial welcome into
2 Bellfield. They had a big, tall, wicker basket. It was
3 filled with a yellow-coloured liquid for delousing your
4 hair. They used to pour it all over your naked body.
5 It burnt your skin like nothing else. I can't remember
6 the name of it, but it was nippy.

7 'You knew when somebody was just in, because the
8 smell stuck to them for about four days. It was
9 a painful introduction to custody. I think it was
10 a short, sharp reminder they used to wake us up to where
11 we had landed.

12 'I was met by an officer or teacher called
13 KFO. I went in, got washed in the yellow
14 liquid and went up the stairs. I was usually in
15 dormitory one. I then went back down the stairs and
16 joined the throng.

17 'Dormitory One was a big dormitory. You stayed in
18 the same bed throughout your time there. We had
19 a bedside chair, where we could leave our clothes at
20 night time. Everything was provided and we didn't have
21 anything of our own. We weren't allowed to talk and we
22 had to face the wall. Still to this day, I have to be
23 lying on the edge of my bed, facing the wall. I can't
24 sleep on my back or on my belly. It was conditioning
25 from that time and it stuck with me.

1 'The doors were kept locked at Bellfield. If we
2 needed the toilet during the night we had two choices:
3 we could annoy Mr KFS or we could pee out of the
4 window. Most of the boys peed out of the back window.
5 Mr KFS slept on a chair outside dormitory one and
6 we didn't want to disturb him.

7 'Some boys did have problems with bed wetting. They
8 would be given clean sheets, but they were humiliated by
9 the staff and other boys. Some boys wouldn't tell the
10 staff if they had wet the bed. They would sleep in the
11 wet sheets rather than admit to it.

12 'We were always woken up by KFS at 7.00 am,
13 a bell rang first and then he would batter on the door.
14 We had to be on the floor. If we weren't by the time
15 KFS banged on the door, we were in trouble. We had
16 to make our own beds and they were changed once a week.'

17 He says he couldn't complain about the food in
18 Bellfield; it was well cooked and well done. But he
19 says if you chose a large portion, you had to eat it
20 and, if you didn't, you got put in the Digger:

21 'That was my only complaint about the food; if you
22 ordered a meal and you didn't eat it you got a wallop.'

23 On washing and bathing, 'Sinclair' says:

24 'There was no privacy at all. There was one
25 communal shower area with eight or nine showers in it.

1 If there were 12 or 13 boys in the shower area, it was
2 a rough and tough to get a shower head. The staff were
3 always looking on at shower time. It felt
4 uncomfortable. You were a boy starting to develop into
5 a young man and these old men were looking at you. It
6 was also uncomfortable having other boys looking at you.
7 We tried to laugh it off.

8 'We didn't attend school at Bellfield. When I went
9 back in 1970, they did have a school room set up at the
10 bottom of the gate. I was too old by then and I wasn't
11 going to go back to school. It was supposed to be
12 compulsory, but lots of boys didn't attend.

13 'Some boys were picked to use the buffer, which was
14 used to polish the floor, some other boys were selected
15 to work in the garden. Mr **KFQ** didn't like me, so
16 I never got picked. If you didn't get picked for those
17 things, you sat in a big room on your bum. All the
18 windows were open, winter or summer. The day was only
19 broken up by meal times.

20 'Occasionally, we would be taken for a game of
21 football. There was a very small area at the back of
22 the grounds, where we played football, but it wasn't
23 very often. Too many boys escaped over the wall.
24 I think that meant that the staff were reluctant to take
25 us outside. There was nowhere to go when we were in the

1 building because it was all locked up. Once we got out
2 onto the football field, they knew that boys would run
3 away.

4 'We were able to watch television at night time.
5 Top of the Pops was the highlight of the week. We were
6 allocated four cigarettes a day, but they weren't
7 provided for us. The staff would allow you to give
8 a cigarette to someone else if they didn't have any.'

9 He notes that there were local gangs in Bellfield
10 and names some of them. He says there was always
11 someone from his local area in and:

12 'People would step in if you were in trouble or you
13 would step in if they were in trouble. [And he says] We
14 could handle ourselves when it came to other boys.'

15 He says, again, that his parents didn't visit him in
16 Bellfield, even though the family home was [REDACTED] to
17 the establishment. And he says that visiting times on
18 a Sunday, he always waited in anticipation, looking out
19 the window. A name would be shouted and it was that
20 person's visit:

21 'I waited and waited, but I never got a visit.'

22 He says, under the heading 'Assessment process':

23 'I was at Bellfield to be assessed for Approved
24 School. As I recall, the assessment was an interview.
25 I was taken upstairs to the headmaster's office, which

1 was mid-way up the stairs. He asked what I was there
2 for, what I had done, and whether I knew that I had done
3 wrong. There wasn't any kind of psychological profiling
4 or anything like that. We were deemed to be bad boys
5 and we were heading for a life of crime. I don't think
6 the purpose was to rehabilitate you. I wasn't a brainy
7 boy, but I wasn't a dummy either. I could understand
8 what was happening around about me.'

9 He says he never saw a doctor or a nurse at
10 Bellfield, even though his head was split on two
11 occasions. All he got was a bit of a dab down and
12 a plaster. They weren't very severe injuries, but they
13 did bleed:

14 'I didn't try to run away from Bellfield.
15 I reckoned that I was there, and I wanted to get it done
16 and get out. We used to call running away "shooting".
17 I had plenty of chances to shoot because Bellfield was
18 [REDACTED] from my home. What would I have
19 been running to? If you went to a family that hid you
20 or supported you, then it might have been worth running.
21 As far as I was concerned, I was running back to
22 violence. I picked which violence I was going to get
23 and I never ran away once. There was a big wall around
24 Bellfield and all the doors were locked. I saw some
25 boys go right out through the window. They were from

1 Dunoon. They got a chair and smashed through a big bay
2 window. Off they went down the path, heading for
3 Dunoon. If you could get to dorm 6 there were slatted
4 windows. If you removed two or three of the slats, you
5 could get out. They used to put boys doing 28
6 detentions in dorm 6. There was no need for them to run
7 away because they were only doing 28 days and then they
8 were home again. It was a remand situation, so our
9 movements were restricted.

10 'We didn't attend church or anything like that.'

11 He says:

12 'If we were playing football and the ball went over
13 the wall, some boys did too.'

14 He says he saw five or six going over the wall at
15 the same time. They could be in their houses very
16 quickly and before the police could be called. They
17 were getting changed and ready to go.

18 In relation to discipline, he says:

19 'The Digger was like a wee cell at the back of
20 Bellfield. It may have been a wine cellar or something
21 like that. It had no windows. That's where the boys
22 were put if they had been a bit out of order, sneaked
23 a cigarette or if they had run away. You could be put
24 in the Digger for a couple of hours, sometimes
25 overnight, or sometimes for a couple of days. You were

1 deprived of everything in the Digger. I know a boy who
2 even had his clothes taken off him. He had a really
3 hard time in Bellfield. He had been on the run for
4 a couple of weeks and they put him in the Digger with no
5 clothes. It was freezing. He was there for three
6 days.'

7 And he names this boy.

8 Going on to talk about abuse, 'Sinclair' says:

9 'We would sit round the wall in a big television
10 room. They took the chairs away during the day. We sat
11 on the floor and we weren't allowed to talk. We had to
12 look straight ahead. If we were caught talking we were
13 beaten. We used to call it the gangster talk, because
14 we would talk out of the side of our mouths. Our heads
15 would be facing forward, but we would communicate out of
16 the side of our mouths.

17 'There was a particular member of staff called
18 [KFN], I think his first name might have been [KFN],
19 and I know he was a referee and linesman because I came
20 across him years after leaving Bellfield. We would be
21 sitting in old wooden chairs. We had to have our arms
22 folded, facing the television. Two officers would sit
23 at the door, they would pick someone out for no reason.
24 If it was [KFN], we knew what was coming. He would
25 sit you between the two chairs. You would drift away or

1 your mind moved to other things. If we moved our heads
2 in any way, shape or form he would come down on us with
3 a wooden or metal ruler. He would call you a "pest from
4 hell" or a "devil's disciple". He had a twisted face
5 and he was a bad man. He had no compulsion about
6 hitting weans and no compulsion about violently abusing
7 weans. He should have been punished for what he did.

8 'We used to call Mr KFT "KFT" because he had
9 [REDACTED]. In hindsight he might have [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED], but this member of staff also hit boys. There
11 was a comic out years ago that had a character in it who
12 was a gardener ...'.

13 And he talks about Mr KFQ, the gardener, at
14 Bellfield:

15 'He had special boys that he took out into the
16 garden every day and a boy shouted something out to him
17 and he took the towel rail off and hit me with it.
18 I didn't shout out, but he blamed me and he didn't like
19 it. He split my head. It wasn't split right open, but
20 it was painful and it bled. I never forgot that. Three
21 or four years ago, I recognised him in the doctor's
22 surgery. He said he was a bit deaf and asked me to
23 listen for his name being called. I told him he should
24 remember me because he split my head when I was a wee
25 boy. He said it couldn't have been him and it must have

1 been someone else. I told him it was him.

2 'Old Mr **LIG** split my head as well. We were
3 playing billiards. There were only three balls. The
4 spotted ball carried an extra point. I didn't know the
5 rules. I saw a ball lying over the pocket and
6 I pocketed it. Mr **LIG** hit me over the head with
7 the snooker cue by my ear. He split my head. I asked
8 him what that was for and he told me that I had potted
9 the doogie. I didn't know what the doogie was. I just
10 saw the ball and I wanted to pot the ball. I never
11 played billiards again and I was absolutely useless at
12 pool after that.

13 'He wasn't the worst of teachers. He wasn't
14 vindictive, but he was reactive. If he was in a bad
15 mood, you got it.

16 'The other violent officer in Bellfield was
17 **KFS**. I think he had been a Sergeant in the army or
18 the territorial army. He always wore a blazer and he
19 was always smart. He was always very aggressive towards
20 all the boys.

21 'There was a strap at Bellfield, but I never got it.
22 They tended to deal with you there and then with a slap,
23 a kick, or a threat. Sometimes the threats were worse
24 than the actual physical contact. I had red hair: they
25 told me that was a bad thing to have and that it meant

1 I had a short temper. That was exactly how I responded.
2 I thought that if I was a criminal, I would be the best
3 criminal. If I was a hooligan, I was going to be the
4 best hooligan and show them. I wouldn't let them break
5 me, no matter what they said. My mum and dad had tried
6 to break me and they hadn't managed it.

7 'The third time I was at Bellfield there was a man
8 there called AIA.'

9 He is described as middle aged, darkish hair,
10 balding in the middle:

11 'He was a very liberal guy. He would give us stubs
12 of cigarettes.'

13 Taking that short, he says:

14 'AIA took a bit of a shine to me. I thought he
15 was all right at first. He tried to get me to go back
16 to school. By that time they had set a school up at the
17 bottom of the gates. I was too old by then and I wasn't
18 going to go back to school.

19 'He used to take us on country walks, which were
20 a completely new experience for me. He would take me
21 out to my own village on a Saturday. People would see
22 me and they would give me cigarettes and things like
23 that.'

24 And this individual would allow it. But 'Sinclair'
25 goes on:

1 'It turns out he was a paedophile and was convicted
2 for it.'

3 'Sinclair' says:

4 'He only touched my private parts on one occasion.
5 I told him not to play those games and used some
6 expletives. I knew what was going on. I think he got
7 the message, because he never bothered me again. He
8 just ignored me. Until then I thought he was an all
9 right guy. Boys wouldn't go to the school because of
10 AIA, he was too touchy-feely. Once the word got
11 out about him, boys just wouldn't go. Attendance was
12 supposed to be compulsory, but it was mainly voluntary.
13 The authorities must have become aware of what was
14 happening, because they shut the school room down.
15 I don't know whether it was opened up again.'

16 On reporting, 'Sinclair' says:

17 'The staff would tell us that we deserved to be
18 there. There was absolutely nobody I could have told
19 about what was happening at the time. If I told anybody
20 what was happening at home, it would have brought more
21 violence upon me. My parents wouldn't have been happy
22 about that.'

23 He says:

24 'I was afraid and I was stupid. I was the daft one
25 who always stood up to my parents. If they hit my wee

1 brothers, I would stand up to them. There was nobody to
2 turn to. I couldn't turn to the police; they were
3 knocking me about from the age of 11.'

4 He says he was in Bellfield for three or four weeks
5 the first time he was there. He was pretty sure he was
6 given probation after that first remand and went back to
7 live at home. And he talks about his social workers and
8 being threatened by one of them:

9 'She would say that her father was an inspector in
10 the police and that she was going to bring her father
11 down to sort me out.'

12 He says he started drinking around the time he was
13 in and out of Bellfield.

14 Reading short paragraph 62, he says:

15 'The second time that I was at Bellfield, I went
16 back to the Juvenile Court. The reports recommended
17 a longer stay in an Approved School. I was given one to
18 three years in an Approved School. After that I had to
19 wait for a vacancy. I waited about six weeks and then a
20 Mr Marshall came in a wee, dark blue Morris 1000 car.
21 He said I was leaving that day. I didn't have much, but
22 anything I had was put into the car and I was taken up
23 to Mossbank.'

24 My Lady, he then goes on to talk about his time at
25 Mossbank Approved School, which was Millerston, in

1 Glasgow. I won't go into that. But I think it is worth
2 noting he says it had a very bad reputation for
3 violence. 'Sinclair' does report experiencing physical
4 abuse at Mossbank, perhaps notably by teachers using
5 a wooden bat or paddle, which is reminiscent, perhaps,
6 of a clacken. He says there was also bullying and
7 fighting among the boys.

8 If we can turn then to page 29, he says after he got
9 out of Bellfield for the last time, he left his home
10 area, and, putting matters short, had a fairly itinerant
11 lifestyle. He says that he started drinking heavily.

12 He did have an aunt who provided some respite and
13 some stability at that time, and notes, at
14 paragraph 112, that he joined a radical left-wing group
15 or party and he says that he worked with them as
16 a volunteer, he got on well with the leaders, aged 16.
17 And he says that although he was young, he felt safe
18 during that period.

19 Again taking short paragraph 113, he became involved
20 in an incident of violence and drink, and had a short
21 spell in Ashford Remand Centre in England. He was there
22 for about three weeks. He again fell into poverty and
23 was drinking heavily.

24 Ultimately, he was sentenced to a period of
25 imprisonment when he was 19. Again, putting matters

1 short, he served a sentence in HMP Barlinnie, but says
2 that he walked away, or tried to walk away from
3 a criminal lifestyle at that time, and that was the last
4 time he was in prison.

5 Page 31, he did find work.

6 At paragraph 117, met his wife aged 21, and he says
7 they are still together after 45 years.

8 Paragraph 118, his drinking resulted in fairly
9 serious health problems. He talks about that, but says
10 that he had treatment for alcoholism and managed to give
11 up drinking, and says that he hasn't drunk since that
12 time.

13 Paragraph 121, and again taking that short, he says
14 that he did find work in his old locality. He says that
15 he and others started a housing association and that
16 this became very successful and, indeed, won awards for
17 their efforts regenerating housing in that particular
18 area. He received [REDACTED], indeed, for services to
19 the community and, indeed, [REDACTED].

20 At paragraph 125, we see that he went on to work
21 with a well-known charitable trust, which, among other
22 things, aims to tackle poverty and housing issues, and
23 chaired another organisation which aims to promote
24 community regeneration.

25 Paragraph 127, page 34, on impact he says:

1 'I do believe that my young life led me into
2 drinking and hiding. I was a regular drinker at
3 Mossbank. I became a full blown alcoholic after I left.
4 I never drank for pleasure; I drank to get drunk. There
5 was a party in there somewhere and I was going to find
6 it. I never did find the party. I found plenty of
7 empty bottles, but never found the happiness I was
8 craving and looking for. I never found the love
9 I thought was going to be in every bottle. All I found
10 was rejection. Every time I picked a bottle up I used
11 to hide. I was running away from things. There was
12 nowhere else to go. Where could I go? There were no
13 agencies and there was nowhere to go. I couldn't go to
14 the police, because they were hitting me as well. I got
15 battered in the Young Offenders and the institutions.
16 Violence was a recurring part of it. The only place
17 I could find any relief from it was in a bottle and then
18 I became violent myself. The mental impact on my life
19 has been absolutely horrendous.

20 'My experiences in care affected me badly when I was
21 young. I am coming up for 67 and I am still plagued
22 with it. How can I be blamed for something that I had
23 no role in, no control over? It is crazy to call it
24 a care system, because they really didn't care. There
25 was no compassion in your containment. There was

1 containment and then there was prison.

2 'I was talking to a friend, yesterday, who was
3 saying that the homes didn't do us any harm. He will
4 never know and I will never know if it did us harm. For
5 me to rationalise it, I have to make it feel like it was
6 okay, otherwise I would want to hit men who did things
7 like that to kids. They shouldn't have done that. They
8 could have treated us better. It has always bothered me
9 that I had nowhere to run to. Even now that bothers me.
10 I was incarcerated in Bellfield and I had nobody to run
11 back to. I only had my aunt and she was down in
12 England. I was never going to make it that far.'

13 He says, taking matters short, life after sobriety
14 has been really good and he seems to be in a good place.

15 At paragraph 132, he says:

16 'I swore that I would never lift my hands to any of
17 my kids. No matter what they did I never disciplined
18 them in that form. I would ground them and do all
19 sorts, but I would never ever lift my hands. I wouldn't
20 let them lift their hands to their weans. At least that
21 came out of what happened to me. Violence isn't the
22 way. You can't batter people into submission and expect
23 them to be reasonable people.

24 'I've remained strict, but straight down the line.
25 I had a drug addict sitting in my house the other week.'

1 He says his wife and he gave her some financial and
2 material help. He says he would never turn away anybody
3 who is struggling:

4 'I think that comes from experiences in places like
5 Bellfield. I never want to see anybody that helpless
6 and disenfranchised that they have nowhere to run.
7 I can't change. It's who I am. It doesn't matter what
8 happens to me, I will always be involved in my community
9 at some level.

10 'I still have difficulties trusting people.
11 Sometimes it is too easy and I want to trust them so
12 much. The people I have trusted the most are the ones
13 who have let me down. I put trust and faith in
14 political leaders who have let me down, as a person and
15 an idealist. I have some good and some bad
16 relationships within my family. I think a lot of trust
17 left me because of my experiences as a child, but
18 I still have the friends I had when I was a kid. I know
19 I could go to their doors and get what I needed, and
20 they know they could come to mine, no questions asked.
21 Some people I trust and welcome openly, but others I am
22 very, very wary of.

23 'I have lucid dreams. Sometimes they are great;
24 other times they can be horrible. I will be back in bad
25 situations in my relationships with my mother and

1 father. The dreams are very real. I still sleep right
2 at the edge of the bed, facing the wall. I find it
3 difficult to cuddle my wife, because then I am away from
4 the wall and close to something. It just doesn't feel
5 right. It is because of conditioning in Bellfield and
6 Mossbank and it has stuck with me. It still bugs me
7 that I wasn't more of a support ... and I was
8 a hindrance. There are things that I reflect on.
9 I feel good about some things and I feel really bad
10 about others, but it never broke me. It never broke
11 some of my pals. We stayed firm.'

12 On reporting of abuse, he says:

13 'I reported the abuse I experienced a couple of
14 months ago to the ... police. When I was a boy, they
15 wouldn't have listened to me. It just wouldn't have
16 been relevant to them. The police were hitting us.
17 I know some of them now. I don't hold grudges. It was
18 the circumstances we were all in. There was nowhere
19 I could have turned to and felt safe. My aunt was the
20 only refuge I had in the world. I am really thankful
21 that I had her.'

22 'Sinclair' says he has never tried to access his
23 records, although would like to see them now.

24 And on hopes for the Inquiry, he says:

25 'I hope the Inquiry will unearth the truth. I know

1 that it's a big task, but I hope it exposes how harsh
2 these regimes were and brings a bit of compassion and
3 understanding to it. I still deal with weans who have
4 been in care ...'

5 Sorry, I think his sister and he were foster carers
6 for a while:

7 'Some of the children we cared for still come to us.
8 It seems to me that not a lot has changed. Maybe the
9 violence has calmed down a little bit, but the process
10 is still the process. Children go into care, they come
11 out at 15, 16, and there's no structure. A lot of them
12 are falling into drugs virtually right away.

13 'We can at least inform the policy makers that, even
14 without the violence and the degradation, it still isn't
15 right. We need to look at new and different ways of
16 keeping these weans out of care in the first place, if
17 we can. We certainly need a more positive attitude.
18 When they move on in life, they shouldn't move on with
19 this care background. Care should at least be some kind
20 of comforting experience, with people who care about
21 children.

22 'There is still a stigma. Not that long ago,
23 a woman said to me that I had been a bit off the wall.
24 She was talking about a wean, 60 years ago. That wean
25 died a long time ago. Because I still live locally and

1 families don't change that much, memories are long.

2 'If I could talk to the people running the care
3 homes, I would ask them to try and understand the weans
4 and to stop judging them. Ninety per cent of the issues
5 aren't the child's issue. They come from unstable
6 backgrounds and they have poor community links. It's
7 not the child who is at fault. Too often, I think they
8 pin too many labels on children to make it easy for
9 society to cope with. It doesn't make it easier for the
10 child. They need to try to stop judging them and start
11 to care. You never know how many weans you will help
12 that way.'

13 And 'Sinclair' has made the usual declaration and
14 signed his statement, my Lady.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 MR SHELDON: My Lady, there is another read-in which I have,
17 which should be relatively short. I am not completely
18 convinced I would finish by 3.00, but I might do.

19 LADY SMITH: Or we could take the break now and start after
20 the break.

21 MR SHELDON: I am in my Lady's hands.

22 LADY SMITH: I think we will do that and get to the
23 statement after the break. But, just to pause and
24 mention identities, at this stage we have used the names
25 Mr **LIG**, Mrs **LYV**, Mr **KFT**, Mr **KFS**,

1 KFO and AIA . These people's
2 identities are all protected by my General Restriction
3 Order and they are not to be identified outside this
4 room. Thank you.

5 (2.55 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.05 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

9 MR SHELDON: My Lady, the next read-in is a statement from
10 'Mike'.

11 'Mike' (read)

12 MR SHELDON: 'Mike' was born in 1955. His evidence in
13 relation to SPS was read in, and I will give my Lady the
14 reference for that when I come to it.

15 At page 1, 'Mike' gives some details about his early
16 life. He says that his time at primary school was good
17 and he recalls he was good at sums. His father was
18 always coming in drunk and there would be arguments. He
19 says he was about seven when things started to go wrong.
20 He says that his father died in 1961 or 1962, because of
21 lung cancer.

22 My Lady, the records suggest that was probably more
23 likely 1966.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay.

25 MR SHELDON: But it certainly bears out the rest of that

1 account. 'Mike' says that his mum struggled to cope and
2 was treated for mental health issues. Ultimately, he
3 and his sibling were taken into care. They were, first
4 of all, in two different children's homes, one in
5 Paisley, one in Largs. [Redacted]

6 [Redacted]

7 They were then in foster care for a period.

8 At paragraph 13, page 3, 'Mike' says he doesn't know
9 how it came about that he left foster care:

10 'Not sure where I went when I did leave.'

11 But thinks he was 11 or 12. When he was 12 or 13,
12 some time in [Redacted] 1968, he stole a can of spray paint
13 and he was sent to Bellfield Remand Home by Paisley
14 Juvenile Court. That was for initially seven days'
15 detention. He says the Juvenile Court gave him
16 a further 14 days in [Redacted] 1968, and then 28 days
17 in [Redacted] 1969, and he was sent to Bellfield on both
18 occasions.

19 Reading from paragraph 14:

20 'During the 14-day or maybe the 28-day remand
21 sentence, I was sent to Cardross Children's Home because
22 Bellfield was overcrowded.'

23 It is not clear, my Lady -- because there was
24 a Cardross Children's Home, but it is not clear whether
25 he means Cardross Assessment Centre or the Children's

1 Home. At all events, he says that he was only there for
2 a few days and has no real recollection of it. All the
3 rest of his statement in this regard is about Bellfield.

4 He says:

5 'Bellfield was a big mansion and had about 200 boys,
6 all aged between 11 and 15.'

7 He says he recognised some of them from his local
8 area. He says:

9 'I can't remember the governor's name, but the
10 staff, I recall, were Mr LIG [REDACTED], who was about 40,
11 SNR [REDACTED], had a finger missing and always wore
12 leather patches on the elbow of his jumpers. Mr KFT [REDACTED]
13 was in his 30s, and zKFQ [REDACTED], who was the gardener.

14 'We would get up early in the morning and get
15 washed, dressed, then go for breakfast in the big hall,
16 where some of the staff were present. After breakfast
17 we would work outside in the gardens and greenhouse,
18 weeding, planting and cutting things. It was good fun
19 and educational, and we did this instead of going to
20 classes. In the evening, we would watch television or
21 play table tennis before going to bed at about 9.00 pm,
22 when lights would be switched off.

23 'You would get cornflakes and maybe some eggs for
24 breakfast. The lunch was the main meal of the day. The
25 food was good and you could eat as much as you wanted.

1 I don't remember anybody having any problems with the
2 food.

3 'There were showers which had doors that we could
4 use. There would normally be a member of staff nearby
5 keeping an eye on things to make sure nobody was
6 carrying on.

7 'Bellfield gave us a uniform to wear, but I don't
8 remember what it consisted of.

9 'We played a lot of football and also got taken to
10 the baths in Dumbarton on a Thursday or a Friday by
11 three members of staff, but we weren't taken on any
12 other trips.

13 'There was no schooling in the way that normal
14 schools would hold classes. We spent all our time
15 working in the gardens or in the greenhouse.'

16 He doesn't remember seeing either a doctor or
17 a dentist.

18 At paragraph 23:

19 'All the work we did was in the garden. We didn't
20 clean or polish the floors or anything like that.

21 'I wasn't in Bellfield at Christmas or when it was
22 my birthday, but I don't recall anybody's birthday being
23 celebrated.

24 'Bed wetting wasn't a problem for me. Other kids
25 did wet the bed, but I don't recall them getting into

1 any trouble over it.

2 'I didn't receive any visitors when I was in
3 Bellfield and nobody from social work ever came to see
4 me.'

5 On discipline, 'Mike' says:

6 'In Bellfield you weren't given the belt or anything
7 like that. The only real punishment was being put in
8 the Digger, a cell, for a day or two, but that never
9 happened to me. I would say that Bellfield was quite
10 a fair place in general.

11 'Myself and three others ran off one time and made
12 it back to Paisley by walking. We went to my mum's, but
13 she had a new boyfriend at that time. Later that
14 evening the police came to the door and I hid in the
15 coal bunker with my mate, but the police found us. The
16 other two were caught as well and we were all taken back
17 to Bellfield. The oldest of the four of us was put in
18 the Digger for a day or two, but nothing happened to the
19 rest of us.'

20 He goes on to talk about abuse at Bellfield. He
21 says:

22 'When I was sentenced to 28 days in Bellfield, in
23 1969, Mr LIG [REDACTED] was still at Bellfield. When I got
24 back from court he escorted me to the showers, which was
25 something he never did. He was wearing a pinstripe

1 suit. While I was in the shower Mr LIG [REDACTED] put his
2 head in the shower and started performing oral sex on
3 me. He was trying to get me to have an erection, but
4 I couldn't get one. I actually told him to be careful
5 he didn't get his hair wet. This went on for what
6 seemed like a few minutes and then he just stopped and
7 left without saying anything. That was the only time it
8 happened to me. I was very young and naive and hadn't
9 a clue what was going on, but I knew that what he was
10 doing to me was wrong. I got told that a similar thing
11 happened to a boy who came from Paisley, but I don't
12 know who told me this or if it was LIG [REDACTED] who was also
13 involved in that incident.

14 'I didn't tell anybody about what had happened
15 because that would have felt like grassing, which is
16 something that you didn't do in those days. I did see
17 LIG [REDACTED] several times after that, but it was as if
18 nothing had happened. I would describe LIG [REDACTED] as
19 a strict man.'

20 He goes on to talk about leaving Bellfield and going
21 on to Thornly Park Approved School. And he talks about
22 the routine at Thornly Park. At paragraph 44, page 9,
23 he says:

24 'I had been in Thornly Park for a few months when
25 I ran away, I think maybe because I couldn't get home

1 one weekend. I went back to my mum's, but the police
2 found me after a day and took me back to Thornly Park.
3 Mr GTX gave me the cane for that in his office.
4 I don't recall exactly how many times he hit me, but it
5 was about three or four times over my bare backside.
6 I only ran away once and, when you did, you knew that if
7 you got caught you would get the cane. Running away was
8 the only thing you got the cane for.'

9 He then talks about leaving Thornly Park.

10 At paragraph 47, getting into trouble and being
11 sentenced to borstal at Paisley Sheriff Court. He was
12 then in a number of young offenders institutions and, as
13 I said to my Lady, the evidence, his evidence about SPS
14 was read in by Ms Rattray on Day 390. That's
15 TRN-12-000000022. And Ms Rattray also read in the
16 section on impact. So I can simply say that 'Mike' has
17 signed his statement and made the usual declaration, my
18 Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MR SHELDON: I think Ms Forbes has another read-in.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Whenever you are ready, Ms Forbes.

23 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
24 who is anonymous and is known as 'Alexander'.
25

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

'Alexander' (read)

MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is
WIT-1-000000665.

My Lady, 'Alexander' was born in 1957 in Paisley and he talks about his life before going into care, between paragraphs 2 and 22.

In summary, he lived with his parents initially. He had two older sisters, a younger brother and a younger sister. His father was a policeman and 'Alexander' describes him as a career policeman, who put his job before everything else. And he ended up very high ranking. He was away a lot, at Tulliallan, doing courses.

His parents didn't get on and he found out later that his mother had an affair and fell pregnant. When he was 11, his father told him his mother was gone and wasn't coming back. There was no explanation and he was just told to go off to school.

It was a few months before he was allowed to see his mother, who was then living in Glasgow, with her new partner, but his father had legal custody of all his children. He used to run away a lot from home and he would hang around with the son of another policeman who had been sacked. And he knew his father didn't like that man, but he was very friendly with his son.

1 'Alexander' says he was regularly being beaten by
2 his father and he says it was just him; he can't recall
3 his father hitting any of his sisters. Every time he
4 ran away he would be brought back by the Paisley Police,
5 which was very embarrassing for his father. His father
6 was hardly home. There was a lady who came in and
7 cooked them meals, and his older sister also helped look
8 after the children.

9 About a year after his mother left, his father
10 married another police woman, who was [REDACTED],
11 and she became his stepmother. Initially she was nice
12 to them, but things changed. He describes his mother as
13 being his protector, and he thinks that not being
14 allowed to live with her was the cause of him running
15 away, and his mother told him that he was never allowed
16 to live with her.

17 He attended Johnstone High School in Johnstone after
18 they moved to a new area, and was being bullied because
19 the other pupils knew he was the son of a policeman and
20 he spoke with a posh accent. He then went on holiday to
21 Scarborough and returned, and because he didn't like his
22 home situation, he had made some friends in Scarborough
23 and enjoyed their company, and decided to hitch-hike
24 back to Scarborough to be with his new friends. He was
25 13 at that time. He describes himself as being very

1 immature for a 13-year-old.

2 He was in Scarborough for a few days before he was
3 picked up by the police and his father had to travel to
4 Scarborough to get him. When he got home, he made him
5 strip down to his underpants. He had taken everything
6 out of his room and made it like a police cell, he then
7 locked the door. He was given food on a tray and had
8 a small bowl to use as a toilet. He thinks he was there
9 for about three days and this, he says, was the one
10 occasion when his father didn't beat him.

11 On the last day, though, of being locked in the
12 bedroom, he was brought school clothes by his father and
13 told to get dressed. He was allowed to wash and told to
14 be ready to go in half an hour. He didn't say where he
15 was going. He was then taken to the court building in
16 Paisley and he appeared before a panel of three people
17 in a small room. He didn't know who they were. He
18 remembers his father telling the Panel that he was
19 causing disruption in the family, and he says that he
20 doesn't think that he had any input at all at this
21 hearing.

22 The next thing he remembers is being in a police
23 cell in the court building and being taken by the police
24 in a police car to Bellfield in Dumbarton. He thinks he
25 would have been about 13 years old at this point.

1 In later life his sister told him that, a few weeks
2 after he had gone to Bellfield, his father had taken all
3 his clothes, including his Scouts uniform, and put them
4 out in plastic bags, out to the rubbish. And it was
5 clear that he was not going to be returning to the
6 family home.

7 Over the next five years or so, when he was in care,
8 he only saw his father on one occasion, when he came to
9 visit him at a children's home for a brief time. And
10 then didn't see him again until he was in his late 20s,
11 at a funeral.

12 He then tells us about his time in Bellfield between
13 paragraphs 23 and 52, and I will read from 23:

14 'There was a steep driveway that took you up to the
15 main building. I think there was some sort of bars on
16 the windows, but I can't be sure. The doors were all
17 locked. The main building had two storeys, but there
18 may have been an attic. There was a fenced off
19 basketball court at the back of the building, where you
20 could play different sports. The gate to the court was
21 also locked most of the time. It was always supervised
22 by staff.

23 'I would estimate that there were about 30 boys at
24 Bellfield and it was for boys only. I think that it was
25 run by the Local Authority. I cannot remember the names

1 of the staff, but the main man running the home was
2 a very small man and was known as 'The Wee Man'. His
3 wife also worked at the home. 'The Wee Man' was a very
4 nice man, but the staff ran rings round him. He must
5 have been in his 50s.

6 'I have no idea how long I spent at Bellfield. It
7 may have just been a few months, but I am unsure of the
8 times. I still, to this day, have no idea why I was
9 sent to Bellfield Remand Home, as no one took the time
10 to explain it to me.'

11 'Alexander' then talks about the routine:

12 'I was taken to Bellfield in a police car and I did
13 not know where I was going to and no one took the time
14 to tell me. I remember when I arrived there I was
15 terrified. I was a posh boy and very small and skinny,
16 and I was afraid to be there. I remember feeling that
17 I was there because I had run away and was a problem to
18 my family. And I recall feeling that I didn't want to
19 go home anyway. I didn't know what a Remand Home was.
20 I was very intimidated, speaking to the other boys.

21 'I did speak to 'The Wee Man' who was in charge and
22 he spent some time explaining to me what was going to
23 happen. I think he realised I was totally out of my
24 depth and that is why I got a job in the kitchen, which
25 kept me away from the other boys.

1 'I was one of the youngest boys, at age 13, but
2 there were no boys there who were over the age of 16.
3 As it always did, eventually it got [out] that I was the
4 son of a policeman and I would have to suffer the
5 consequences of the disclosure, which usually amounted
6 to more peer abuse. It was the staff who usually
7 informed other boys, to their amusement.

8 'All the boys slept in very small dormitories. You
9 were woken up at a certain time and most of the boys
10 made their way to the dining room while I made my way to
11 the kitchen to help prepare breakfast. Myself and
12 another boy [who he names] who also worked in the
13 kitchen would then clear up after breakfast. There were
14 two members of staff working in the kitchen who were
15 responsible for all the cooking. I ate all my meals in
16 the kitchen and it was a perk because you got extra
17 food. I didn't cook, but did the job of a kitchen
18 porter.

19 'I spent most of my day in the kitchen with [he
20 names another boy] who was an older boy, who was well
21 respected by other boys and he took me under his wing.
22 It meant that I was not subjected to any bullying. The
23 kitchen door was usually locked, but the rear door was
24 unlocked and gave access out the back. It meant that
25 I could have run away at any time, but I didn't have the

1 courage to do so. I was terrified of the consequences.
2 I met up with [he names the same boy again] in the care
3 system when we were both at Redheugh Children's Home.

4 'There was a classroom for teaching, which was in
5 a building at the bottom of the driveway. I think that
6 I only attended the classroom for a couple of days when
7 I first arrived. The classroom was manned by members of
8 staff who I don't think had any teaching qualifications.
9 It was a very strict routine.

10 'I think that we were all in bed by about 8 o'clock.
11 I do recall that you had a cup of hot chocolate before
12 you went to bed, which was served in a plastic beaker.
13 There was always things going on after lights out.
14 Nothing was ever reported to the staff. There was no
15 "grassing" to the staff and that was the culture.
16 I learned this very quickly.

17 'I was working in the kitchen, so I was never short
18 of food. Another boy [he names the same boy] and I used
19 to eat in a storeroom off the kitchen. The food was
20 very basic, but all the boys ate it. I don't recall
21 punishments for not eating the food.

22 'There was an old bathroom, with a row of sinks that
23 you washed in every morning when you got up. Every two
24 days you would be required to have a shower in the
25 showering room. All the boys had to shower at the same

1 time and it was supervised by three or four members of
2 staff. On reflection, I think that it is dodgy that the
3 staff were there. There was no privacy. I was always
4 very embarrassed being there, as I was a very small,
5 skinny boy.

6 'The staff would give you some shampoo on the end of
7 a ruler which you had to wash your hair with. I think
8 it was probably some sort of antiseptic mixture to deal
9 with head lice and other related things.

10 'I can't recall what clothes we wore at Bellfield or
11 who provided them. I had no personal possessions. My
12 sister sometimes brought me some clothing.

13 'There was a classroom in a building that was near
14 the entrance to the home. It was a very small classroom
15 and I think that I only attended there for two days when
16 I first arrived. It was members of staff who did the
17 teaching and I don't think that there was much teaching
18 done. I was not forced to go to the classroom as I was
19 no scholar. I think that the boys spent a lot of time
20 outside the classroom with the member of staff, having
21 a smoke.

22 'We were made to play five-a-side football on the
23 basketball court. We had no choice. I think that there
24 probably was a television, but I can't recall ever
25 watching it.

1 'I do not recall going on a trip when I was in
2 Bellfield. I don't think I was there at Christmas time
3 and I don't recall having a birthday at Bellfield.

4 'The only person who came to visit me at Bellfield
5 was my oldest sister [he names her]. She had to visit
6 without my father knowing. My father, stepmother and
7 mother never came the whole time I was there. I wasn't
8 aware of any official visits when I was there.

9 'As I remember, I did not have to see a doctor or
10 a dentist whilst I was at Bellfield.

11 'I recall that some boys ran away, and when they
12 were returned to the home they were placed in a locked
13 room for a period of time. I never managed to run away,
14 although on one occasion [he names the same boy from the
15 kitchen] and I made a bid for freedom. I don't know
16 why, as we were both very well looked after in the
17 kitchen. We had to take the bins to the bottom of the
18 drive, which was across the road from a small satellite
19 railway station. He said to me, 'Come on', and we
20 crossed the road and got on to the train platform.
21 I didn't want to go, but I was easily led by him and
22 I didn't want to argue with him.

23 'While we were waiting for a train we were caught by
24 the very glamorous wife of the 'Wee Man' who was much
25 younger than him. She asked us what we were doing there

1 and I left the talking to [he names the other boy]. She
2 told to us go back to Bellfield, which we did. To her
3 credit it was never mentioned by anyone and she had
4 obviously kept it to herself. There were always
5 occasions when boys were running away. When they were
6 brought back they were put into the locked room.
7 Sometimes you saw these boys again, but often they would
8 be sent to somewhere more secure. I think that boys who
9 ran away also had to sit on their own and were kept away
10 from the other boys.

11 'I think that I was a bed wetter up until the age of
12 about 13. When I left home I stopped bed wetting.
13 I don't recall boys being humiliated for bed wetting.

14 'I do recall that there was a locked room somewhere
15 in the building which had nothing in it. The windows
16 were nailed shut, and if you needed to calm down or were
17 being punished you would be placed in the locked room.
18 The boys that ran away were usually put into the room
19 when they were brought back to the home and had to sit
20 on their own.

21 'I did see and receive the odd slap round the head,
22 but it was never excessive. Some of the staff were just
23 bullies. There was an occasion when my sister visited.
24 She was a very attractive 17-year old. One of the
25 members of staff who had slapped me a few times came

1 across to the visiting table where my sister was. I had
2 intended to tell my sister about the slaps I was
3 getting, but because he was there I was not able to tell
4 her. The staff member was trying to chat her up.

5 'There were always fights going on between the boys.
6 I was in a very fortunate position because I was under
7 the protection of my co-kitchen-worker [and he names the
8 boy] and he was feared by all the boys.'

9 'Alexander' then talks about abuse at Bellfield from
10 paragraph 49:

11 'There was one occasion early on in my stay at
12 Bellfield when I was playing on the basketball court.
13 A new boy had just arrived and he was quite a bit older.
14 He was also a loud mouth. He was telling people what to
15 do. One of the staff said to me that, "someone needs to
16 have a word with him". The member of staff then shouted
17 across to this boy, telling him that I wanted to have
18 a word with him. It resulted in the boy punching me in
19 the mouth.

20 'The staff thought this was very funny and they knew
21 that I didn't stand a chance against him. I was very
22 timid and small and would run a mile to escape any
23 conflict, so it was quite a shock to me. The staff were
24 always giving you slaps round your head. It was just
25 an accepted practice amongst them. I never witnessed

1 any systematic beatings or cruelty [at] Bellfield.

2 'Some of the staff would slap the children for no
3 apparent reason. It was like a sport to them and kept
4 them amused. It became acceptable behaviour, but
5 I suppose in this day and age it would be considered to
6 be abusive. I think that some of the staff were just
7 bullies.

8 'I knew from my experience with my father that you
9 didn't tell him if you had been punished at school
10 because he would say that you deserved it and he would
11 punish you for being punished in the first place. My
12 father's punishment was always twice as hard as the
13 initial punishment.'

14 'Alexander' then talks about leaving Bellfield, at
15 paragraph 53:

16 'It all happened very quickly. Nothing really bad
17 happened to me at Bellfield and I never saw any sexual
18 abuse there. I wish I knew how long I was there, but
19 I really have no idea. It was a massive shock to me,
20 being at Bellfield, as my only experience of being with
21 other boys was being at school and you could walk away
22 from any situations at school. At Bellfield there was
23 nowhere to escape to.

24 'I think Bellfield was like a holding centre before
25 you were allocated to the institution that you would be

1 sent to. I think that you were being assessed for your
2 suitability for other places. I do recall being told
3 that I was going to Kirkmichael and I recall that I got
4 into a panic in case someone didn't tell my sister and
5 she came to visit me and I was no longer at Bellfield.
6 As it happens, my sister did come to Bellfield to visit,
7 only to learn that I had been moved to the children's
8 home [that he names] and she was unaware of the move.'

9 He then talks about the fact that he was sent to
10 this children's home. That is between paragraphs 55 and
11 66.

12 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 Secondary Institution 'Alexander' says:

20 'When you left school at 15 it meant that you had to
21 move from the children's home.'

22 When he turned 15, he then went to an adolescent
23 unit. He then talks about the adolescent unit between
24 paragraphs 67 and 94. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Secondary Institution

He talks about his time there, at the second

9

adolescent unit, between paragraphs 97 and 107.

Secondary Institutions

10

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11

12

He then moved into a bedsit, in which the landlady was an alcoholic. He started working in a butcher's and then got a job as a trainee chef, which only lasted a couple of months. He said that he was no longer under the care of the authorities and he started to run wild around the streets of Glasgow and got into a life of petty crime. He was associating with youths who were just like him and they would steal cars together. He was living on the streets, but there was never any violence. If he needed a bed for the night he would go with men who were in the area, looking for young boys to pick up.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Then he talks about ending up in the Prison Service, and that's from paragraph 114 to 117. This is him being

1 in Glenochil and also being in Polmont, Longriggend,
2 Barlinnie, Perth Prison. Then in and out of English
3 prisons.

4 My Lady, that part of his statement was read in
5 during the Scottish Prison Service Chapter, on
6 5 December of last year, and was Day 393.

7 'Alexander' then talks about his life after being in
8 care from paragraph 118. He says that Bellfield was
9 a wild place and not a pleasant experience, Secondary Institutions - t

10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11 When he was about 23, he served his last 21-month prison
12 sentence at Wormwood Scrubs and on release he met the
13 woman who became his wife. After he met her he never
14 had as much as a parking ticket. That was his first
15 proper relationship and a turning point in his life. He
16 was married to her for 15 years and they had two
17 children.

18 He worked principally as a funeral director, but
19 stopped when the business was taken over, and he did
20 a number of other jobs and retired in 2019. He is still
21 doing some part-time jobs to supplement his pension. He
22 talks about the impact of being in care from
23 paragraph 123, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

24 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

25

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
2
3

4 LADY SMITH: 'Bellfield was wild. It was worst.'

5 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
6
7
8
9
10

11 MS FORBES: 'Alexander' then states his hopes for the
12 Inquiry, at paragraph 131, and he says:

13 'It is good that someone is listening and that I am
14 being believed. It is my hope that anyone in
15 an institution in the future will not be abused. It is
16 punishment enough for children to lose their liberty.
17 How could my father have been able to manipulate me
18 being put into care and especially a Remand Home like
19 Bellfield? It doesn't feel right.

20 'I feel that the authorities should be made to
21 realise how badly affected and let down I have been by
22 the system. I feel that I have been keeping a dirty
23 secret for nearly 50 years. I do not want children to
24 miss out as I did on not having a guide through
25 formative years. The authorities need to believe what

1 children tell them.'

2 And then he has made the usual declaration at

3 paragraph 133 and he has signed that on 19 April 2021.

4 There is then a further statement I have, my Lady,

5 that I can read in.

6 LADY SMITH: Let's go on to that, then.

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, I think Mr Sheldon has the next

8 statement to read in.

9 LADY SMITH: Oh, very well. Mr Sheldon.

10 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, I realised that I think there is

11 a piece of housekeeping that I need to do as well.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MR SHELDON: I believe that I omitted to read in to the

14 record the references for the previous two statements

15 I read, so just to get that in the record.

16 LADY SMITH: Do you want to get those in? I should have

17 noticed, thank you.

18 MR SHELDON: My Lady, the reference for 'Sinclair' is

19 WIT-1-000000727.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MR SHELDON: And the reference for 'Mike' is

22 WIT-1-000000915.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this now is the statement of 'Ross'.

25

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

'Ross' (read)

MR SHELDON: The reference for that is WIT.001.001.0470.

'Ross' was born in 1960. He was brought up in the Falkirk area, until, he says, he was about 6. Initially he was with both his parents, but his father left for a while and he was brought up by his mother. He says that his mother beat him; that it wasn't a very good life and he started to get into a bit of bother, stealing.

He says that on one occasion his mother heard about this and she put his hand into the fire for stealing. He also recounts another incident where his mother behaved violently and indeed very dangerously towards him. He says he was also beaten by his mother because he couldn't spell or write properly:

'Or if I didn't do my schoolwork properly.'

He says, at paragraph 4, at school he was slow to pick things up, he just wasn't grasping anything and he was moved to another school for children who were slow or couldn't catch up or weren't grasping things. At some point he says he went to stay with his father because his mum had left, but he then beat him.

He, at that stage, seems to have gone into a children's home for a short period. He thinks between four or six weeks. He can't remember much about that.

1 But he then moved back with his father and his father
2 continued to beat him.

3 When he was 11, he says it all became too much and
4 he tried to take his own life. At that point social
5 work got even more involved, but they didn't really do
6 anything, apart from saying that he, 'Ross', was out of
7 control.

8 There was a meeting with his father, and his father
9 and stepmother said they couldn't handle him anymore and
10 it was decided he was out of control, out of parental
11 control, and he was sent to Quarriers.

12 My Lady, taking matters short, at Quarriers he
13 reports marked and persistent physical abuse in
14 cottage 17.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 MR SHELDON: Although he reported that abuse to social
17 workers, the housemother denied allegations of abuse.
18 It was she, he says, who was beating him. He says:

19 'There was no one else I could have told.'

20 And he says that although he thinks that the social
21 worker spoke to management about his complaint, nothing
22 ever happened. He says that social work -- this is at
23 paragraph 20:

24 'The Social Work couldn't fund my place any more and
25 I was moved to Bellfield Assessment Centre.'

1 And he moved there, he thinks, when he was 11 or
2 12 years old.

3 LADY SMITH: He wouldn't have been the only child who was
4 abused in cottage 17 at that time.

5 MR SHELDON: Well, indeed, my Lady.

6 So he says Bellfield Assessment Centre was
7 an all-boys school and was in Dumbarton. But he goes on
8 to say there were no school lessons at Bellfield, but
9 they had workshops and had things like mechanics,
10 painting, as in art, or gardening, or you could go and
11 play football. He says, at Bellfield:

12 'I think I saw a social worker maybe once a month if
13 I was lucky. I saw her in the dining room and got to
14 speak to her privately.'

15 And that does contrast, I think, with some other
16 applicants who said they didn't see social workers at
17 all while they were at Bellfield.

18 Paragraph 24, he says:

19 'If you were good and you behaved yourself, you were
20 allowed home at the weekend to spend time with your
21 family. But you had to be back by a certain time.
22 I used to go on the train.

23 'One time after I got out for the weekend I didn't
24 go back and the police picked me up at my friend's
25 house. When I got back to Bellfield I got put in the

1 detention cell, where I got beaten up.'

2 In relation to abuse, he says:

3 'The staff at Bellfield would sometimes randomly
4 pick out boys, maybe ten boys at a time, and they used
5 to make you smoke a full strength Capstan cigarette in
6 ten seconds and then birl you round 15 times and you
7 would try not to be sick. If you weren't sick you had
8 to smoke another cigarette. Other boys were made to
9 clean up the sick.

10 'If you were bad, the punishment was to polish the
11 floors. They would make you get on your hands and knees
12 and polish the floors. One time I was fighting and
13 I got a set of keys hit off the top of my head. The
14 time that I told you, when I didn't go back after the
15 weekend and the police took me back and I was put in the
16 detention cell, I got beaten up. I got punched and
17 kicked to my side and my back and I was left in there
18 for a couple of days on a concrete bed.

19 'When the social worker came to Bellfield, which was
20 probably once a month if you were lucky, I would get to
21 speak to her on our own in the dining room. Several
22 times I made complaints about my treatment, but no one
23 ever listened and it went unheeded.

24 'I don't really know how long I was in Bellfield,
25 but it ended up that I was moved because they said I was

1 uncontrollable.'

2 My Lady, 'Ross's' evidence about Geilsland was read
3 in by Ms MacLeod on Day 439. That's TRN-12-000000072.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR SHELDON: That included evidence about his life after
6 care and the impact that his younger life and his
7 experiences had on him. That was also read in, so
8 I won't go to that, my Lady. But it just remains to say
9 that 'Ross' made the usual declaration and signed his
10 statement.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR SHELDON: My Lady, there are obviously more read-ins to
13 do. I am not sure there is another one that would
14 neatly fit in the time.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes, I can't sit beyond 4 o'clock this
16 afternoon, so I wonder if we should stop at that point.

17 MR SHELDON: All right.

18 LADY SMITH: We have made good progress with the read-ins,
19 thank you for that. We will resume at 10 o'clock
20 tomorrow morning with a witness in person, if I have
21 that right.

22 MR SHELDON: That's right, my Lady, three live witnesses
23 tomorrow.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

25 Thank you.

1 (3.48 pm)

2 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday, 3 July

3 2024)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I N D E X

1	
2	'Glen' (Called)1
3	Questions by Mr Sheldon3
4	'Tommy' (affirmed)72
5	Questions by Ms Forbes73
6	'Jack' (read)123
7	'Sinclair' (read)133
8	'Mike' (read)159
9	'Alexander' (read)166
10	'Ross' (read)183
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

