

Wednesday, 3 July, 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

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

9 Now, today, the third day this week of the
10 presentation of evidence, we move to, I think, three
11 witnesses in person; is that right Mr Sheldon?

12 MR SHELDON: We have three live witnesses, my Lady, yes.

13 The first of them is here. He is anonymous and wishes
14 to be known as 'Joseph'.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 'Joseph' (affirmed)

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

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', the red folder has your written
21 statement in it and you may find it helpful to be able
22 to refer to that. You don't have to, but it is there if
23 you want to.

24 A. Thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: We will also use the screen to bring parts of

1 your statement up on the screen, if that's okay with
2 you. If you don't want it, just tell us and we can
3 switch it off.

4 But, other than those practicalities, 'Joseph',
5 please be assured that if at any time there is anything
6 I can do to help you give your evidence as comfortably
7 as you can, you must let me know, such as a break,
8 a pause, explaining something better than we are
9 explaining it; if we are not making sense that's our
10 fault, not yours. Or anything else. If it works for
11 you, it works for me. Because I do know that what you
12 have agreed to do today isn't easy; talking in a public
13 forum about your own life, and particularly about things
14 that can be very distressing to have to explain, is
15 a big challenge. So do let us help you with that, if
16 there is anything we can do; all right?

17 A. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: I will hand over to Mr Sheldon and he will take
19 it from there.

20 Questions by Mr Sheldon

21 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady. Good morning, 'Joseph'.

22 A. Morning.

23 Q. 'Joseph', I don't need your date of birth, but I think
24 you were born in 1964; is that right?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. I think you have your statement in front of you there.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Could you just turn briefly, please, to page 26? It is
4 just the last page in the statement. I think you say,
5 at paragraph 129:

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

10 Is that right, 'Joseph'?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. And I think you have signed it; is that your signature?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And dated it.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So thank you for confirming that. You can just go back
17 to page 1, now, the first page in the statement. We
18 will have a look through this together.

19 Now, 'Joseph', you tell us that you were born and
20 brought up in Duntocher, in Glasgow. You lived
21 initially with your parents?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you had, I think, three siblings?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You tell us that your dad worked in the shipyards all

1 his life, and your mum managed pubs and later did
2 cleaning work?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You tell us at primary school and then, later, in high
5 school, you were doing all right at school; is that
6 a fair way of putting it?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. And that you were good at sports and art, and that you
9 were enjoying school?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But you tell us then, at paragraph 4, that your mum and
12 dad were always fighting and that they split up when you
13 were about 14?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Just at the end of that paragraph, you say:
16 'That's when things started to go wrong for me.'

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you just tell us about that, please? How did things
19 start to go wrong for you?

20 A. Well, my mother moved to another area. I was sat in
21 between my mum and my dad at the time. I was sort of
22 going between -- I -- I ran away from home. That's what
23 started all the trouble; when I ran away from home, just
24 to get away from the fighting and things like that.
25 There was one night in particular that I got into

1 trouble and that's when it all started.

2 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', I am sorry to interrupt, can you move
3 a little bit closer to the microphone? You don't need
4 to be right over it, but you are a bit far away.

5 A. Sorry.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. That's helps me. I want to hear
7 everything you have to say.

8 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

9 You say, at paragraph 6, you started hanging about
10 with the wrong crowd?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What do you mean by the 'wrong crowd'? What was wrong
13 about them?

14 A. There was a few troublemakers in among it, you know?

15 I just got attached to them because they were the ones
16 that were out at the same time as me, things like that,
17 you know.

18 I never really got into trouble myself. What
19 happened is these boys, they had broke into a camper van
20 or something one night, and I was out that night as
21 well. When the police caught me the next morning, they
22 took me to the stuff that these boys had stole. They'd
23 planted it in the park and I more or less got blamed for
24 it all; do you know what I mean? I took the blame for
25 all.

1 Q. All right.

2 A. And I ended up at a Children's Panel a few days later.

3 Q. Yes, I think you tell us that you were initially taken
4 to a children's home?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Can you remember where that was?

7 A. I can't remember. I got taken to the police station and
8 taken to a children's home for -- I think it was one
9 night. I am not really sure where that was.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. It was dark. It was in a police car. I just got taken.

12 Q. Sure.

13 A. Just to spend the night.

14 Q. I think you tell us that was not a bad experience? You
15 quite liked it?

16 A. No, I liked it.

17 Q. All right. You then get to a Children's Panel. I think
18 you say you were about 15 at this stage --

19 A. Yes, 15.

20 Q. -- is that your recollection?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you just tell us about the Panel, please? How many
23 people were there? What happened? How people -- did
24 people speak to you directly?

25 A. I really -- at the time, I couldn't speak to anybody.

1 They took me to the Panel, I had my head down and
2 I really just heard -- I don't know if you know
3 Charlie Brown, bump, bump, bump, bump and that. And
4 then I was getting lifted up and taken away again, if
5 you see what I mean? I was crying, my head down.

6 My mum appeared at the Panel. She appeared at the
7 Panel and they came in and they just -- they read out
8 everything -- what I was supposed to have done.

9 I really can't remember it all. It was a list of stuff
10 and I was just agreeing: yes, yes, yes.

11 Q. Did you have an understanding of what was happening to
12 you?

13 A. No, nothing. No, not at the time. At the time I was
14 just crying, crying, just wanting to get out of there.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I had that kind of social anxiety thing when I was
17 younger and I really didn't listen to what was getting
18 said --

19 Q. Okay, so people may have spoken to you, but you --

20 A. Oh, there was people talking. But, as I say, I wasn't
21 listening, like. It was just coming at me and I just--
22 really wanted to get out of here. And then, at the end,
23 I was getting taken away and I realised I wasn't going
24 home with my mum. I was getting handcuffed into a car.

25 Q. You were handcuffed?

1 A. I think I was handcuffed that time.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Do you know, I can't remember if I was handcuffed or
4 not, coming out of the Panel. But I was put into a car
5 and taken away to Bellfield.

6 Q. Yes, you say in your statement that you were taken
7 straight to Bellfield --

8 A. Straight to Bellfield.

9 Q. -- is that right?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. Had someone told you this is where you were going; you
12 were going to straight to Bellfield?

13 A. I think maybe in the Panel they must have said it or
14 something about that, but I didn't understand it.

15 Q. You didn't take that in?

16 A. I didn't take it in, no. I just knew I was getting
17 taken into a different car and taken away.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', had you heard of Bellfield?

19 A. No, no, never.

20 LADY SMITH: Did you know where, geographically, you were
21 going?

22 A. No, no, no. At the time. But then when we got to
23 Dumbarton, I knew where Dumbarton was. I knew that was
24 where we were heading, down that way, like, you know.

25 LADY SMITH: Okay, you recognised Dumbarton, but was that

1 it?

2 A. I recognised we were going to the Dumbarton area, but

3 I had never heard of Bellfield before or anything, I

4 don't think.

5 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

6 MR SHELDON: Over the page, page 3, you talk about arriving

7 at Bellfield. You are 15. It is 1979. I think by this

8 time -- well, can I just ask you that: by this time; did

9 you understand that you were going to be there -- you

10 were meant to be there for three weeks' assessment?

11 A. Yes, I was told when I got there that I am going to be

12 here for three weeks for an assessment. See what

13 happens in three weeks.

14 Q. All right. Did you understand what they meant -- what

15 was meant by 'assessment'?

16 A. Not at the time, no, no.

17 Q. So no one explained to you what was going to happen?

18 A. See, that was -- I was -- that was the first time. The

19 first time, the three weeks actually went through --

20 there was a wee bit of violence, a couple of slaps and

21 things like that, you know? But it was different staff

22 when I went back again. It was different -- the next

23 time I went back it was different staff.

24 Q. Sure. We will come to all that, 'Joseph'.

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. I just want to ask you quickly about paragraph 10 in
2 your statement. You talk about arriving at Bellfield
3 and you say that you were terrified the first day you
4 went in?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Maybe a daft question, but: why were you terrified?

7 A. It was like going to jail, I think, right enough. For
8 me, it was just because I was getting taken away and put
9 somewhere where I didnae really want to be. It was kind
10 of scary when I went in, like, you know?

11 I thought it was going to be harder, the first three
12 weeks, when I first went there, but the first three
13 weeks seemed to pass no problem.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Then I think the assessment was that I could go home; do
16 you know what I mean? And that's what happened. I went
17 home again.

18 Q. Okay. What were your first impressions of Bellfield?

19 A. It was kind of scary, like.

20 Q. What was the building like?

21 A. It was one of these old mansion-type things; the front
22 door, the windows, two storeys high.

23 Q. Might it even have been three storeys high?

24 A. I think there was -- there were stairs up from the
25 dormitories upstairs. There was another set of stairs

1 up there into the loft, I think.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I think somebody lived up there at the time.

4 Q. Right.

5 A. There was a man. I was told he was kind of-- Head of
6 Social Work or something, you know? But there was this
7 strange character that used to come in and go up the
8 stairs at night and he would stay in the loft.

9 Q. Okay. Okay.

10 I think we will come to him a wee bit later.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think you told us that there were dormitories?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. They were on the first floor, were they?

15 A. Up the stairs, yes. Dormitories upstairs.

16 Q. How many dormitories?

17 A. I can only remember the one I was actually in. I don't
18 remember if there was one -- I think there was one next
19 door. I think there was another one, but the one I was
20 in, if I remember, you came up the stairs and it was to
21 the right.

22 Q. Okay, how many boys were in the dormitory with you?

23 A. I think ... in that room, I think there might have been
24 about maybe ten or so.

25 Q. All different ages or all roughly the same age as you?

1 A. We were all roughly about the same age, I think. But
2 maybe there were a couple of younger ones, as well.

3 Q. Okay. You tell us that the next day, the day after you
4 arrived, the staff brought some secondhand clothes and
5 put them down in a pile for all the boys to wear?

6 A. Yes. That was a weekly thing.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. That happened every week.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. You would get the new clothes come in. They'd get
11 thrown on the floor, this big bag opened and you kind of
12 grabbed what you could.

13 Q. Okay. It was a bit of a free-for-all, was it?

14 A. It was a free-for-all. It was a pair of jeans and
15 a jumper you had to grab.

16 Q. Okay. You tell us your mum came to see you the second
17 night and there was a visiting room?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us that the only staff name you remember from
20 that time was a guy called John. You say that he seemed
21 okay.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you remember his second name at all?

24 A. I can't remember his second name.

25 Q. Okay. And any other staff names from that period?

1 A. As I said before -- see, I blanked this out for years,
2 for 40 years, like, you know. But there was a guy
3 called AIB. I remember a guy called AIB; he was
4 an elderly guy.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. And there was a guy called John. He was okay.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. He seemed okay. He kept on pulling us aside and asking
9 if you were okay. So I presumed he was different from
10 the rest of them, like, you know?

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I always remember him being a wee bit more approachable
13 and things like that, you know?

14 Q. Yes, you do say in the next paragraph you saw a bit of
15 violence in the first three weeks; what sort of violence
16 did you see?

17 A. People getting slapped, slapped in the face.

18 Q. By whom?

19 A. By staff.

20 Q. All right.

21 A. There was a bigger guy. I forget the names, like, you
22 know. There was a kind of bigger guy, he was kind of
23 a bully, like, you know, and he was the one that started
24 bullying later on, like, you know. But the first three
25 weeks he never touched me, never touched me.

1 There was another guy who slapped us a couple of
2 times before that, but if you stood up for yourself you
3 were thrown into this room, this cell thing, the cooler.
4 Q. I will come to that just in a second. First of all, can
5 I ask you about the violence? You say that you received
6 a hard slap?
7 A. Yes, yes.
8 Q. This is paragraph 14.
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. And it knocked you over?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Was this a slap with an open hand, with the back of
13 a hand or ...?
14 A. A full slap. It just knocked me right over.
15 Q. Oh, right. This was-- why? What had you done, if
16 anything?
17 A. Do you know, I think that was a wee trivial thing.
18 I don't think I had done anything wrong that time, if
19 I remember right. I remember just -- oh, no, sorry,
20 there was another kid, younger than me, he came from
21 Campbeltown, this boy. I don't remember his name. He
22 seemed a wee bit disabled, this boy, a bit slow, things
23 like that. And he was getting hit and I just tried to
24 stop it and I got a slap as well.
25 Q. Okay. You tell us, also in that paragraph, that you

1 were then taken to a room called 'the cooler'.

2 A. The cooler, yes.

3 Q. Was that the same incident?

4 A. That's the cell, yes. You get put in if you are being
5 disruptive or anything.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. They put you in a cell.

8 Q. Tell us about the cell; what was it like?

9 A. If I remember right -- if I remember, it was like
10 a cell. It was like -- it had walls. I don't remember
11 what I could sit on or anything, but it had a window at
12 the back with bars and I think it kind of opened, so it
13 was kind of cold in it. That's why we called it the
14 cooler, you know. It was cool in there and it had
15 a bell. You could ring the bell to get the attention of
16 the staff. If you rang it too much, they would disable
17 the bell; do you know what I mean?

18 Q. Right. Was there a toilet of any sort in the cell?

19 A. I don't remember a toilet being in it.

20 Q. Okay. Even a bucket, anything like that?

21 A. I don't remember that.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I don't remember how I went to the toilet or anything
24 like that. Maybe they let you out or maybe there was
25 a bucket. I just don't remember.

1 Q. Sure. What about a bed or a mattress?

2 A. I think there was a bit -- I don't know if it was
3 concrete or not. But there was something shaped like
4 a bed that could you sit on.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And I think they put a mattress on that, if you were to
7 to spend any more than a night in it, like.

8 Q. You say you were left in there for a few hours?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was that overnight or not?

11 A. No, it was late at night, but it was -- they took me out
12 and let me back up to my bed.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. That night, anyway.

15 Q. Did you know other boys that were put into the cooler?

16 A. I think it happened quite regularly with people, you
17 know.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I always remember the bell getting rung. When somebody
20 was in there, they would be ringing the bell.

21 Q. Right. Do you remember how long other boys would be in
22 the cooler for?

23 A. I don't remember, no, the length of time they were
24 actually in.

25 Q. Okay. Anyway, moving on in your statement to

1 paragraph 15, you say that Bellfield did a report and:
2 'They must have said I was okay.'
3 Because you were taken back to a Panel.
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. So there was another Children's Panel, was there?
6 A. Yes, yes.
7 Q. Did you understand a bit more of what was happening this
8 time?
9 A. Well, I was told when I was leaving -- when I was going
10 to the Panel that day, I was told I was going home. So
11 I knew I was going home before I went to the Panel, but
12 I don't remember anything in the Panel being spoken
13 about like that.
14 Q. All right. You were told that you were to go home or
15 you could go home to your mum's, but you felt a bit
16 lukewarm about that; is that right?
17 A. Yes, when I came out, I went back into the same kind of
18 situation I was in before I got put in, you know. So
19 I think I was only out a couple of weeks or something
20 like that and I ran away from home again.
21 I don't think I got into trouble. I am not sure.
22 I don't think I got into trouble. I think I just got
23 caught for running away from home, like, and I wasn't
24 going to school, obviously, like.
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. So that's when I got caught again and then I got taken
2 to a Panel again.

3 Q. Okay. So you are taken back to the Panel?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I think you say that actually when the police tried
6 to take you, you tried to run away, but you were caught
7 again; is that right?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. You say:

10 'At the Panel nobody asked me why I wasn't going to
11 school.'

12 Do you remember what the Panel did say to you?

13 A. It is hard to know what these people were saying at the
14 time, just the way I was at the time. I wouldnae
15 listen; I would just sit with my head down, crying, and
16 not really taking anything in, just hoping these things
17 get over and done with, you know. Then I would get home
18 again. Obviously, that never happened. I got taken
19 away again, like, you know.

20 Q. Yes. They seem to have decided to put you in Bellfield
21 for another three-week assessment, but you said you
22 ended up being there for seven months?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. I don't know --

1 Q. Did you have any idea why that was; why it was taking
2 that long?

3 A. I was getting stories off of different staff. One was
4 telling me that I am getting assessed to -- I might be
5 going to borstal. That's where I could be going to,
6 borstal. The violent guy, he would be telling me
7 I would be going to borstal. He was going to make sure
8 I was going to borstal.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. The good guy would tell me he is going to make sure that
11 I don't go to borstal, and I was believing it all. But
12 I don't know how I ended up there for seven months. It
13 was meant to be a three-week assessment and I just kept
14 on getting told that you're staying here now and you are
15 going to be here until your birthday.

16 I think it was my birthday. And then you might be
17 able to get out. I thought that when my birthday came
18 and I was to get out, that was it, but I was getting
19 stories off these staff that I was still under their
20 supervision.

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. And I had to report back to them.

23 Q. Okay. But you were getting stories from the staff that
24 were a bit conflicting?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', sorry to take you back to before you
2 went to Bellfield again. But I see in paragraph 15 you
3 explain that you weren't going to school.

4 A. No.

5 LADY SMITH: You didn't want to go to school. You didn't
6 want to be asked questions about your home life.

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Then, when you did go to school for the odd
9 day, you got the belt at school for not having been in
10 school.

11 A. For not being in school, yes. It was a vicious circle.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, I got that. And what you would do is you
13 said you would take off and you say you would stay in
14 a tent on the hill.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Tell me about this tent.

17 A. It was just a wee two-man tent I got. It was outside.
18 It was kind of on the first row of hills, like, just
19 over the first hills. And it was a wee bit where I knew
20 I could camp out and not get caught, you know. The
21 police don't come up here, and that's where I camped out
22 for a while and stayed there, away from the town.

23 LADY SMITH: So you took a tent with you?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Where had you learnt how to put a tent up?

1 A. I had done things -- I had been camping before, things
2 like that, with my friends. So I knew how to fish and
3 camp out and do a wee bit of hunting and things like
4 that. That was what I was interested in when I was
5 younger, fishing and things like that.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 A. It was just like a weekend away, again, you know, by
8 myself.

9 LADY SMITH: Did you feel comfortable in the outdoors?

10 A. I felt safe. I just felt away from it all, you know?
11 I felt as if I was in my own wee world, you know? If
12 I got left there, I could have stayed there without
13 going through all of this; do you know what I mean?

14 LADY SMITH: But that might not have been a good idea
15 either.

16 A. I know, you don't let 15-year-olds ...

17 LADY SMITH: Thanks very much.
18 Mr Sheldon.

19 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady. Before we move on -- and
20 'Joseph', this is my fault, but I realise I have again
21 forgotten to read in the --

22 LADY SMITH: Reference.

23 MR SHELDON: -- the reference of the statement. This is
24 just to get the reference for your statement on the
25 record, 'Joseph'. So it is WIT-1-000001385.

1 LADY SMITH: You have probably spotted that's the reference
2 number for your statement, 'Joseph'.
3 A. Yes.
4 LADY SMITH: By reading it into the oral evidence it means
5 that it links the references Mr Sheldon's making to
6 different paragraphs of your statement --
7 A. Yes.
8 LADY SMITH: -- directly to that statement.
9 A. Thank you.
10 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.
11 MR SHELDON: 'Joseph', I think we were at page 5 of your
12 statement, and there is some material there where you
13 tell us about the layout of Bellfield. You have told us
14 a little bit about that already.
15 At paragraph 21, you tell us that there was a cellar
16 which was -- had the room that you called the cooler,
17 basically a cell.
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Do you remember: was it the cellar? Was it in the
20 cellar?
21 A. I think it was -- you didn't go down. I think it was on
22 the bottom floor.
23 Q. Right.
24 A. There was a corridor where you go into the kitchens and
25 I think it was -- I am trying to remember. But it was

1 down that way, I think.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. I think it was on the first floor. I don't think you
4 went down to it; it was on the bottom floor.

5 Q. Right. So towards the back of the building?

6 A. Yes, yes. Yes, it was the back of the building. The
7 window looked out onto the back.

8 Q. Right. It was this strange individual that you talked
9 about before that lived in the attic or in the loft?

10 A. Yes, there was --

11 Q. Okay. I don't want to take you there just now. We will
12 come back to that.

13 But you tell us a bit about that in paragraph 22 and
14 you say that this individual was known by the boys as
15 'The Bogeyman'?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Perhaps could you just tell us why the boys called him
18 The Bogeyman?

19 A. I don't know. I really -- when I got there I remember
20 I came in one day and there was a wee guy called
21 **KJA** -- he is the only kind of guy I remember, from
22 Paisley -- and he would tell me, 'He's The Bogeyman'.
23 I was like, 'Who's that?' and he would tell me, 'He
24 stays in the attic, he lives in the attic'. 'Okay'.
25 And he was a kind of strange-looking character.

1 Q. Paragraph 23, you talk about a path from the back of the
2 building to a red ash park.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So is that like red blaze?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Sort of hard-packed --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. And that was a place where you could play
9 football. I suppose not ideal for football in some
10 ways, because if you fell it would scrape your knees?

11 A. Yes, it had big fence around it.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. It had a big, maybe 12-foot fence around it. They would
14 open the gate, shove us in, shut the gate, lock the
15 gate, and then let us play football in it.

16 Q. Right. Over the page, you tell us about staffing. You
17 say there were four or five staff during the day; night
18 staff would sit on chairs outside the dormitories?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And how did that work? What was the purpose of them
21 being there?

22 A. I think they were just there to guard us. They sat
23 outside in chairs and you could hear them talking,
24 smoking, like, and you could smell the smoke. Just
25 outside the door there were two stools and they would

1 sit there.

2 Q. At this time, were the dormitories locked?

3 A. No.

4 Q. For example, could you go outside for the toilet?

5 A. I don't remember, actually, the big door. I remember

6 the light coming in all the time. So I think the door

7 was either missing or else it was open, you know?

8 Q. Okay. And you could get up and go to the toilet any

9 time or did have you to ask permission?

10 A. I don't remember going up during the night to the

11 toilet. I don't -- I think you would just hold it in

12 until the morning.

13 Q. Right?

14 A. Because you didn't with to meet up with these people,

15 the staff, outside.

16 Q. Why do you say that?

17 A. I think because they did shifts, the guy who done the

18 slapping, he was there sometimes, you know. So

19 you didn't want to give him any excuse to give you

20 another slap.

21 Q. You told us already about some of the staff that did

22 give you slaps and you talk in paragraph 25 about some

23 members of staff. About halfway down that paragraph,

24 you say:

25 'There was this other guy, whose name I don't

1 remember, who was physically quite abusive towards me.
2 He was in his 40s, had dark hair, sallow skin and big
3 teeth.'

4 A. Mm-hm.

5 Q. Is this the same person that had given you the hard slap
6 the first time you were in Bellfield?

7 A. I think that was him, yes.

8 Q. Okay. What sort of build was he? Was he tall, short?

9 A. He was kind of a big man, like, you know.

10 Q. Okay. And you say there was also another member of
11 staff in his 40s or 50s who was physically abusive. And
12 you also say:

13 'There was HWM, who was a nice guy when
14 I first met him.'

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you describe him. And how was he when you first met
17 him? In what way was he nice to you?

18 A. He turned out to be -- at first he was the good guy. He
19 turned up, like, he wasnae there the first time I was
20 there, so I had never met him, really, you know. And he
21 turned up and at first I thought he'd give you
22 a cigarette. And he just tried to be your friend, like.
23 I thought: oh, this is better, like. This guy's okay.

24 Until he started his carry on; you know what I mean?

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. He is the one that really gave me all the troubles,
2 like.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. He is the one that's bothered me for all these years.

5 Q. We will ask you about him in some detail, 'Joseph'.

6 Paragraph 28, you talk about the routine at
7 Bellfield. You talk about getting up and having to wax
8 and polish the floors?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was that every morning or was there a routine for that?

11 A. Every morning.

12 Q. Any other --

13 A. You buffed the floor with the wax or you were in the
14 toilets and you cleaned around the pipes and that in the
15 toilets.

16 Q. Okay. So there were different jobs and --

17 A. You got a different job, aye.

18 Q. Would you take turns doing that?

19 A. You ended up doing most of the jobs. I can't remember
20 if you did one for one week or was it a daily thing, you
21 know, but I remember the way you'd put on the wax and
22 then buff it, you know.

23 Q. How long would you be doing that?

24 A. That was for a couple of hours in the morning.

25 Q. Right. And that was before breakfast?

1 A. Yes. I think, yes, we started cleaning and then we got
2 breakfast and then went back to some cleaning again.

3 Q. Over the page, at paragraph 29, you say there were two
4 hours of school in the morning and then lunch. Then
5 an hour of school in the afternoon.

6 What sort of classes were you getting at that stage?
7 What were you being taught?

8 A. It was just a small room and a teacher would come in and
9 maybe, say, five of us would get sent up to do two hours
10 of school in the morning. I remember it being quite
11 easy, you know, the stuff that we were doing.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I found it easy, anyway, like. I don't remember any
14 educational stuff, really, like that. I think it was
15 back to primary stuff.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Things like that.

18 Q. Okay. And from your answer, you say that maybe five
19 people were taken up for the lessons?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Does that mean that you weren't taken up every day?

22 Were there turns at getting classes?

23 A. You either done the two hours of school in the morning,
24 between 10 and 12, I think it was, if I remember right,
25 and then there was an hour in the afternoon. But you

1 never done the two of them; you either were in the
2 morning or went in the afternoon.

3 Q. Okay. Was that every day you would get a lesson or did
4 you have to take turns over a number of days?

5 A. I think -- I am not really sure. I can't remember how
6 it worked out, how you done the two hours or the one
7 hour in the afternoon. I don't really remember how
8 often that was, like, how often it changed. Because
9 I remember doing the one hour in the afternoon as well,
10 sometimes, you know. So it must have changed at some
11 point, like that.

12 Q. But it certainly wasn't like a normal school day that
13 you would have been used to before?

14 A. No, no. It wasn't like school, no.

15 Q. Okay. You say, in paragraph 30, there were set times
16 for cigarette breaks and a chance to get into the TV
17 room. You say that was the highlight of your day
18 because there wasn't much else to do --

19 A. That's right, aye.

20 Q. -- can you explain to us a bit more about that, please?

21 A. The TV room?

22 Q. About not having much else to do.

23 A. There wasn't -- there was a wee snooker room, a wee
24 snooker table, but that was wrecked and you couldnae
25 really play with that, you know. There was art stuff

1 you could do, which I was interested in, but there
2 wasn't the stuff -- it was just like colouring-in stuff,
3 things like that.

4 The TV room, there was rows of chairs in front of
5 a television. You just picked a chair and sat and
6 watched television, you know. Well, you watched
7 whatever they let you watch.

8 Q. Mm-hm. You tell us that the snooker room was wrecked?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were there any other things in the home that were
11 damaged like that?

12 A. I think that was the only recreational room. It was
13 quite a mess like that.

14 I don't remember any, no.

15 Q. Okay, all right. You tell us about meal times and food;
16 was the food okay?

17 A. I think we got the lunch, soup and a dinner, at
18 lunchtime. And then at tea time, we got a meal then as
19 well. I think the food was okay.

20 Q. All right. And you say the cook was nice?

21 A. It was an old lady, yes. She -- you used to be able to
22 volunteer to kind of help them and I used to volunteer
23 to sort of help in the kitchen a wee bit, like.
24 Sometimes you'd give help and she would give you a wee
25 extra cigarette or something, at the back door. As long

1 as you promised not to run away.

2 Q. Sure, okay. Paragraph 34, you talk about washing and
3 bathing. You say that the shower room was just a room,
4 there were no partitions or cubicles?

5 A. No cubicles, no.

6 Q. Just an open room; is that right?

7 A. If I remember right. Yes, you were in -- there was
8 a wee recess before the shower and then you went in.
9 I am pretty sure it was just a square of showers.
10 I don't remember any cubicles.

11 Q. Okay. And would there be a changing area outside the
12 shower room?

13 A. That was that wee area I am telling you about; when you
14 go in --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- there was a wee area with coat hangers.

17 Q. All right. In the next sentence you say:
18 'The staff seemed to think it was okay for them to
19 hang about as you were showering.'

20 A. Oh, yes.

21 Q. What did you mean by that?

22 A. They seemed to like shower time.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Lining you up. But they lined you up naked. In the TV
25 room first. You would all line up and they would line

1 you up naked.

2 Q. So you would take your clothes off in the TV room?

3 A. I think you take your clothes off in this wee bit, but

4 then they would put you back out and you were all naked

5 and you would line up. So everybody was lined up and

6 all the staff were there.

7 Sorry, putting you into showers, like, you know.

8 Q. So was this so that -- I am putting this badly.

9 Did you have to take turns in order to get into the

10 shower room?

11 A. I don't remember that, no. I just remember lining up

12 and getting told to get into the showers, like, you

13 know.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And you would all go in. That's why I think it was just

16 one -- maybe six showers. I don't remember how many.

17 But you'd go in, get your shower, and you came back out

18 the shower room and then you would get dried in this wee

19 area before you come back into the TV room.

20 Q. How many staff would be there at that time?

21 A. See, that's when -- at first ... that was the scary

22 time, the showers. These guys were hanging about, you

23 know.

24 Q. Mm-hm.

25 A. There were a couple of incidents in the showers, as

1 well.

2 Q. We will come to those, 'Joseph'. But should we
3 understand that there was more than one member of staff
4 there?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Two? Three? Four?

7 A. I think maybe three.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Maybe four.

10 Q. You remember having smelly stuff put in your hair for
11 nits?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did they tell you that; that that's what that was for?

14 A. We got to know this stuff as -- when they could get
15 close to you, these people, you know. That's why
16 I didn't like -- well, put whatever in my hair, but they
17 got close to you then, when they were putting the stuff
18 into your hair. They got you in that wee room, next to
19 where you put your -- next to the coat hangers.

20 Q. Would you still be --

21 A. There was a corner there and you seemed to be pushed
22 into that corner for stuff like that.

23 Q. Would you still be naked at that point?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. Okay. Over the page, you talk about clothing and you

1 have told us a bit about that already. But you make the
2 point, at paragraph 38, you think it was an Assessment
3 Centre and boys would come and go so often they didn't
4 give them their own set of clothes. Is that right,
5 'Joseph', that there was really quite a high turnover of
6 boys in the place?

7 A. There was. People would come and go and stay for three
8 weeks and be going. And I seemed to be there watching
9 these people come and go and it never seemed to be my
10 turn to go, like. It was always --

11 Q. It must have been very frustrating for you --

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. -- seeing boys coming and going while you were stuck --

14 A. They'd be going to different homes. A place called 'The
15 Kibble', there was people moving to that. That's one of
16 the names I always remember, The Kibble. People would
17 get moved to The Kibble. I think it was Paisley, I'm
18 not sure, over that way somewhere.

19 Q. So they were moving on to another placement?

20 A. Another placement, yes.

21 Q. So did no one tell you about the possibility of
22 a placement for you, another placement for you?

23 A. See, this is where I started getting told I was going to
24 borstal, you know. I was going to borstal, with
25 the guy -- the kind of violent one, he would tell me

1 I was going to borstal, that I'm no good. And I really
2 didn't know what I was doing wrong to get this, like,
3 you know. But I clicked on years later. I clicked on
4 why there -- there was one good guy and one bad guy, you
5 know.

6 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', with this constantly changing
7 population of boys; does that --

8 A. I don't remember it being now -- I just remember now and
9 again people would go and come back, but I don't think
10 it was a massive, massive turnaround. But I do remember
11 new faces and old faces would go. And then the new
12 faces I'd see come, they would leave. And most of them
13 were only there for three weeks or something like that.

14 LADY SMITH: Your first time there was just three weeks?

15 A. My first time, yes, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: I am just wondering whether that made it much
17 harder to develop any sense of community or mutual
18 support from other boys?

19 A. Yes. I don't remember having friends, with the other
20 boys, like. You meet one and then he was away, like.

21 The wee **KJA** guy, I remember him, because he was
22 dead loud.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes.

24 A. He is the only one I can remember sticking out. All the
25 boys, I find it hard to remember any of their names; do

1 you know what I mean?

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 A. Or even the staff. There was one staff I remember --

4 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

5 A. -- and that's for a reason, like. I remember his name.

6 I just remember the guy called John.

7 The violent guy, I don't even remember his name,

8 because I don't think the violence done much damage to

9 me. It was the other stuff, like, you know. I don't

10 think the slaps and that did anything. I am ex-army as

11 well and I went through a lot worse than that in the

12 army and things like that, you know. It was the other

13 stuff.

14 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', this is also a long time ago.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: It is not surprising you don't remember names.

17 Don't worry about that.

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 Mr Sheldon.

21 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

22 'Joseph', you have told us a little bit about

23 leisure time already and I just want to ask you a little

24 bit about trips and holidays. You tell us, at

25 paragraph 44:

1 'A staff member, John, used to take us on days out
2 to go fishing.'

3 And that was something that you enjoyed?

4 A. Yes, that's the one day out, it never -- we went fishing
5 and that's what we done, we went fishing. Fish and
6 chips after it, in Helensburgh, I think. And then back
7 up the road. It was a good day out.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And that was when the John guy took me out, like.

10 Q. How many boys would go on trips with John?

11 A. I think it was maybe three or four of us. They would
12 pick out three or four of us, the kind of trusty ones.
13 By that time I think they realised -- I remember the
14 John one telling me that I shouldnae be there, I would
15 be going home: 'You shouldn't be here. You know, you
16 are one guy who should not be here'. He was the only
17 one that told me that.

18 Q. I think you went on trips with HWM as well?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You tell us about that at paragraphs 45 and 46. I am
21 going to ask you about that in some detail. So if we
22 can just look briefly at paragraph 46, you say that you
23 went on trips organised by HWM, there was
24 a trip to Preston, where you stayed with another man and
25 a woman.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you say:

3 'I am sure I was being drugged and abused on these

4 trips.'

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You also say that you think you were away on about ten

7 or more trips with him; was it just you and he or were

8 there other boys?

9 A. The Saltcoats one, no, that was me and maybe two or

10 three others. We were helping handicapped children in

11 wheelchairs and that. And I think we were there as

12 volunteers to help push wheelchairs and help the

13 handicapped kids along.

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. That was at an old house in Saltcoats. We stayed in our

16 own room with bunk beds and the like, away from other

17 people.

18 Q. You meaning who? You and who else?

19 A. The other boys that were with us at that time.

20 Q. Oh, right. But I think you say that on other occasions

21 you and [HWM] and another boy would share a room; is

22 that right?

23 A. Sorry-- sorry?

24 Q. I beg your pardon, no, it is my fault. [HWM] -- on the

25 other trips that you went on; should we understand that

1 it was just you and HWM ?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. And you talk about another boy that HWM

4 would take on trips?

5 A. Yes, that's wee KJA , that's wee KJA .

6 Q. All right. And should we understand that it was just

7 the two of them when they went away?

8 A. I think so. I think so.

9 Q. You also mention a trip to Rome with HWM

10 that I will ask you about a bit later on.

11 A. Yes. That was after I actually got out.

12 Q. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: We will go back to that, but how long after you

14 got out?

15 A. It wasn't long. But this HWM would tell me

16 to report back to him, because he still has the

17 authority to put me to borstal and he was the one that

18 was keeping me out of borstal. So I was very confused.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MR SHELDON: You talk about a meeting with a psychologist.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. This is at page 10, paragraph 48. What effect did that

23 meeting have you on, 'Joseph'?

24 A. She was asking me about my mum and my dad again.

25 I remember crying and that. And just -- I don't

1 remember much of anything. I just remember it might be
2 a psychologist and she started asking me about my
3 problems and so on. And I was hoping to tell her about
4 what was happening to me and I couldn't. And I remember
5 just crying and she then just calling the meeting off,
6 like, you know.

7 Q. Okay. Did she say why you were having a conversation
8 with her? Did she tell you why she wanted to speak to
9 you?

10 A. She was asking me at the time what was wrong in the
11 house, my mum and my dad, things like that. I remember
12 telling her that but-- I always remember wishing she
13 would ask me questions about what was happening here.
14 But, as far as I was concerned at the time, she was part
15 of the staff, so I really couldnae tell her the truth
16 about what was happening, because I thought that will
17 just get passed on to these guys and I will get another
18 slap, you know. I wasnae sure who she was.

19 Q. Okay. You talk a bit about religion, although you
20 mention that **HWM** told you that he had been
21 a priest years ago; is that right?

22 A. Yes, yes, yes.

23 Q. What did he say about that?

24 A. I think he said he was the same age as me, if you think
25 about it, because he had been away to priesthood for

1 ten years and missed ten years of his life. So he is
2 coming back at the same age as me. He was 16 as well.

3 Q. Is that what he said to you?

4 A. That's exactly what he said: he was my age. Never said
5 he was my age; he felt my age because he missed out
6 ten years when he was away to priesthood.

7 Q. Okay. You talk about birthdays and Christmases. You
8 think you never spent a birthday in care?

9 A. I don't think I did, no. I think this was before. And
10 then I also -- my 16th birthday, I think that was the
11 day I was to get home.

12 Q. Right. But you tell us that you spent one Christmas in
13 care; was that at Bellfield?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. What was that like?

16 A. I don't remember.

17 Q. Was there a meal? Was there a special meal? Was there
18 a Christmas tree, anything like that?

19 A. I don't remember a Christmas dinner or anything.
20 I don't think anything special happened that day.
21 I really don't remember Christmas Day or anything, no.
22 It is just one thing I don't remember.

23 Q. In relation to visits, you say that your mum would
24 sometimes visit you --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- and bring sweeties and cigarettes?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You say the staff were really nice during the visits?

4 A. Oh, yes, yes.

5 Q. Was that a change --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- from how they usually were?

8 A. We knew that. We clicked on about that, like. Because

9 visiting time was the safest time there, when there was

10 other adults there, like, you know. It felt safe for

11 a wee hour, you know. The staff were coming in, being

12 really nice to your parents, things like that. You

13 never seen any of the carry-ons and that when it was

14 visiting time, so we always knew that visiting time was

15 kinda safe.

16 Q. Paragraph 54, over the page, you say that you never got

17 a visit from a social worker while you were there; can

18 I ask you first of all: did you have a social worker?

19 Was there someone that you thought of as your

20 principal --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- your key worker, anything like that?

23 A. No, no. The man who took me in the car from the Panel

24 to the place, he was a social worker. But that's the

25 kind of only social worker I came across. When I left

1 the Panel and the social worker drove me to Bellfield.

2 Q. Okay. Did you see him again?

3 A. I didn't see him again, no.

4 Q. All right. And you tell us here that you didn't get
5 a visit from a social worker at all while you were
6 there?

7 A. See, we thought the staff were kind of social workers.
8 They were saying they were social workers as well, you
9 know what I mean. So I wasn't sure if they were social
10 workers at the time, or ...

11 Q. Okay. Were you aware of anyone else getting visits from
12 someone like a social worker or any kind of inspector,
13 anyone new coming to the home that spoke to you?

14 A. I don't remember. No, I don't remember social worker
15 meetings.

16 Q. Okay.

17 You talk about running away, that one day there was
18 what you described as a 'massive jail break'?

19 A. A jail break, yes.

20 Q. Is that how it felt?

21 A. Somebody had took the keys from the front door.
22 Somebody had left the keys in the front door, so one of
23 the boys locked the door and threw the keys into
24 a cupboard. So visitors came and they couldn't get in.
25 So what they did is they put a wee set of stepladders up

1 to the first floor window, the visiting room, and the
2 visitors climbed in the window, which left the window
3 open. And then I think five or six of the boys decided
4 it was time to go and they climbed out the window.

5 Q. They legged it?

6 A. It was funny at the time.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. It was the most exciting thing that happened that week.

9 Q. Okay, but you tell us they were all brought back fairly
10 quickly?

11 A. Yes, they were all back within days.

12 Q. Okay.

13 You tell us about the cooler, at paragraph 58.

14 At paragraph 59, you talk about a member of staff
15 who would do something with cigarettes?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Tell us about him.

18 A. When you watched the telly -- there was a red tin and
19 the red tin -- these are the wee things I remember, the
20 red tin. You had four cigarettes a day that you were
21 allowed. I just started smoking, just to get these
22 cigarettes, because it was just a wee break from the
23 monotony of the day, like. So you would look forward to
24 the cigarettes. You'd get one in the morning,
25 9 o'clock; one after your lunch; one after tea and then

1 one at night.

2 But these staff, they thought it would be amusing to
3 line them up on the television and then light them up
4 and watch them all burning away. So that happened quite
5 a lot, your cigarettes would just burn away. They would
6 just light them up and burn them, just to annoy you.

7 Q. You say:

8 'I just thought that was cruel.'

9 A. That's what I thought. It wasn't a punishment; it was
10 just a laugh for them to do it, you know.

11 Q. Okay. Turning to page 12 in your statement, you, first
12 of all, talk about some staff that you describe as being
13 crabbit; they were always angry?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Is that how it felt to you?

16 A. Yes, certain staff. I remember the one that did the
17 slapping, he was always -- he smelled of drink, as well.
18 He was an alcoholic. Always smelled of drink, because
19 he was always coming up to your face and you could smell
20 it, you know. He was always angry and violent.

21 Q. Is this the guy who would always tell you that you were
22 going to a borstal?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. Okay. Were there other staff that would get in your
25 face like that?

1 A. There was a couple of other ones, yes. But there was
2 one particular one, who was the worst one, like. But
3 there were other staff who would be with him at the same
4 time and they would either join in, hitting you or
5 whatever, like, you know.

6 Q. So there was more than one member of staff who would --

7 A. Oh, there was more than one bully, yes.

8 Q. -- give you a slap?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was there anything else they would do?

11 A. It wasn't just a slap. Sometimes it was a wee punch and
12 a kick, you know.

13 Q. A punch where? A kick where?

14 A. Punched in the side. Kicked in the backside. Just come
15 up the corridor, they would come and find you and kick
16 you like that, you know.

17 Q. For any particular reason?

18 A. No, sometimes I think just for amusement, you know. He
19 done it in the football park. He would line you up in
20 the football and would take penalty kicks against you.
21 We would all be sitting there with our shorts on, even
22 if it was a cold day, and he would line you up and just
23 take a penalty kick to see who gets hit with the ball,
24 you know.

25 Q. Okay, using you for target practice?

1 A. Aye, that was it, target practice, aye.

2 Q. Okay. You say you were thrown in the cooler a few
3 times; usually by the guy with the big teeth?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you say he was just a violent guy. I should have
6 asked you when we were talking about the cooler earlier
7 on: when you were in the cooler; was there anything to
8 do?

9 A. Nothing, nothing. Nothing, nothing.

10 Q. Did any of the staff, or anyone, come to speak to you?

11 A. Sometimes they would just ignore you. If you rang the
12 bell -- if you rang it too much to get out, they would
13 come and jam the bell, so it would stop ringing.

14 Q. Okay. What about food? Did they bring food for you?

15 A. I don't remember eating in the cooler. So I think you
16 might have missed your dinner. Or -- sorry, I remember
17 getting taken out the cooler once and dinner had been
18 finished with, so I got taken into the dining room and
19 sat there with my dinner by myself, you know.

20 LADY SMITH: How long would you be left in the cooler at any
21 one time?

22 A. I think it was a few hours at a time.

23 LADY SMITH: Did anyone come to talk to you while you were
24 there?

25 A. No. If you -- you knew once you were in there that was

1 you, you were going to miss out on a game of snooker or
2 your cigarettes, things like that. Sometimes you just
3 got thrown in and you didn't realise what for, know what
4 I mean?

5 LADY SMITH: Okay.

6 MR SHELDON: 'Joseph', you go on, at paragraph 64, to talk
7 about sexual abuse at Bellfield. You tell us that the
8 first day you arrived --

9 A. This is the second visit, yes.

10 Q. Yes, indeed. You told us that HWM [REDACTED] wasn't
11 there the first time.

12 A. He wasn't there the first time, yes.

13 Q. Okay. So it is the second time you go to Bellfield.
14 You said the first day you arrived, HWM [REDACTED]
15 looked at you and announced to all the boys it was time
16 for showers?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And the boys were wondering what was happening because
19 it wasn't the usual time for showers?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What time of day was it?

22 A. I remember it was earlier than normal for showers,
23 whatever. And this HWM [REDACTED], he just came, he
24 just looked at me and said, 'Shower time'. And I was
25 like that. And I think it was wee KJA [REDACTED] went, 'Oh,

1 'Joseph', I think he likes you'.

2 Q. So this seems to be quite an unusual time for showers --

3 you say this is an unusual time for showers.

4 A. This day, yes, yes. I remember when it happened the

5 boys were kind of: oh, this is not shower time.

6 And then **KJA** said, 'It's because of you,

7 'Joseph'.

8 Q. Right. Did he explain what he meant by that, 'It's

9 because of you'?

10 A. No, no. I soon realised, but no.

11 Q. So it is an unusual time for showers. You tell us in

12 paragraph 65 that something pretty unusual happened on

13 that occasion?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. Could you just tell us, please, what happened?

16 A. I had been in for my shower, I came out, **HWM**

17 appeared with another two staff with a pair of scissors,

18 told me that I was -- excuse me, but I was too long,

19 grabbed my penis and tried to cut me with the scissors.

20 I don't know whether he was joking, but he actually

21 grabbed me -- the other two grabbed me with their hands

22 and he grabbed my penis and was pretending he was going

23 to cut my penis with the scissors.

24 Q. How close did he get to you with the scissors?

25 A. Oh, he was holding it and the scissors were right there.

1 I was trying to squirm away, turn away, but these two
2 had a hold of my arms, you know. They were laughing, so
3 it was a joke, you know.

4 I don't remember being scared that he was actually
5 going to cut, but I think it was a joke for these guys,
6 you know. So that was the kind of first scary,
7 sexual ...

8 Q. If it was a joke; was it one you found funny?

9 A. No, no, not at all.

10 Q. And this was in front of other boys?

11 A. It was in front of everybody, yes.

12 Q. And you say that something else unusual happened that
13 day, at bedtime?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Please just tell us, in your own words, what happened?

16 A. The boys were going up to the room ...

17 Excuse me.

18 Q. It's okay. It's okay, take your time.

19 A. Everybody's gone up to the room and I got pulled back
20 and told to sit in the chair, that I have got to --
21 I think he said something about filling forms or
22 something in.

23 Q. Sorry, something about?

24 A. Filling a form out, whatever. I don't even remember.

25 He just told me I have to hang back here. I was given

1 a cup of tea. And when I started drinking the tea --
2 but I was happy to drink the tea and I started feeling
3 really, really, really tired and I think I passed out.
4 Which -- I think I was drugged or something. But
5 I remember passing out and then being carried out. But
6 I remember waking up and somebody put me over their
7 shoulder. I could see bare feet in the room I was in.

8 Q. Bare feet?

9 A. Yes, I was looking down and I could see somebody with no
10 shoes on and bare legs there. And I just closed my eyes
11 again because I heard one of them saying, 'Just get him
12 to his bed', and then I was carried up and dumped onto
13 my bed.

14 Q. Okay.

15 LADY SMITH: How many bare feet? Do you remember?

16 A. I remember there was a pair of legs there. I didn't see
17 the face. And then there was other -- there was other
18 people there, but they weren't bare. But there was
19 a set of bare legs where I was, and there was other
20 people in the room, but-- I could hear them talking.

21 And I was kind of trying to wake up, but I didn't
22 like to open my eyes. But I heard one of them saying,
23 'He is waking up, get him up to his room'.

24 Q. Did you recognise any of the voices?

25 A. I don't recognise -- I was ...

1 Q. Okay. Did you still feel a bit weird at that stage?

2 A. Yes, yes, yes.

3 Q. Did you notice anything different about your body?

4 A. I was sore.

5 Q. Where were you sore?

6 A. Abdomen.

7 Q. Your abdomen?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. In paragraph 68, you talk about the guy with the
10 big teeth who was violent to you.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You said that he would do that quite regularly and that
13 **HWM** would then have a conversation with you,
14 just shortly after these beatings.

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Why did you think he was doing that?

17 A. He was telling me everything was going to be okay, and
18 'you are never going to borstal. I am going to make
19 sure you don't go to borstal. I will keep you here and
20 we will make sure you don't go to borstal.'

21 And: 'don't listen to him.'

22 But this other guy, just -- he kept on telling you
23 that, like, you know.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I think it was good guy -- good cop, bad cop; know what

1 I mean?

2 Q. I think you tell us, this is page 14 of your statement:

3 HWM made out that he was looking out

4 for me and he was the only one keeping me in Bellfield

5 and out of borstal.'

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you go on to use the phrase you have just used about

8 'good cop/bad cop'?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say at paragraph 70, HWM made out that

11 he was a friend to you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You have already told us that he said to you, 'I feel

14 like I am the same age as you'.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Looking back; what do you think HWM was

17 doing here?

18 A. Grooming.

19 Q. What was his purpose?

20 A. Grooming. I know now, like, you know. At the time

21 I didn't. I was a confused 15-year-old. That's what

22 I was, you know. But it was years and years later, you

23 know, I clicked on exactly what was happening to me,

24 what had happened to me: I had been groomed. Slowly but

25 surely, groomed and --

1 Q. And groomed for what purpose?

2 A. Everywhere I ended up going, something strange happened;

3 I would pass out. He started giving me drink, alcohol,

4 and getting me drunk until I passed out. Then, when

5 I clicked on not to drink the alcohol, whatever soft

6 drink I drank, or tea, it would do the same; I would

7 still pass out. I don't know how. I don't know.

8 I don't know how.

9 Q. You talk about an occasion when you were on a trip to

10 Saltcoats with handicapped kids?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And it was you, another boy, HWM and the guy

13 with the big teeth who went. And at some point I think

14 you say that you woke up and HWM was in bed

15 with you; can you remember what happened on that

16 occasion?

17 A. He pulled the blankets and he was groping me. He was

18 fondling with his hands. You know, like, I was the top

19 bunk and he ran out the room when I woke up.

20 Q. You were in the top bunk?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And was he in the bunk with you?

23 A. No, he was standing by the bunk.

24 Q. And you said that he was groping you; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can I ask you where he was groping you?

2 A. On my penis.

3 Q. But you woke up and he left?

4 A. He ran out, yes.

5 Q. But you say that he apologised to you the next day?

6 A. Yes, that was the time -- the next morning we got up and

7 I was kind of wary, like, you know. And there was three

8 of us, me, KJA and [REDACTED]. We went to the shop and we

9 came back and he was standing in -- outside the

10 building, in a field across the road, like, you know.

11 And the boys said we had better go and see him, and we

12 were crossing and I had my head down, and he turned and

13 he says, 'I've got to apologise. I came into the room

14 last night, that will not happen again', and he started

15 apologising. But he knew what he had done the night

16 before, like.

17 Q. Okay. Paragraph 72, you say the abuse started happening

18 on a regular basis?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But it never happened in the Bellfield building. So how

21 did that happen? How did HWM [REDACTED] get you out of

22 Bellfield?

23 A. It was always something -- to go somewhere, like, you

24 know. It was: 'all right, you have to come with me

25 today.'

1 And instead of arguing about it and fighting about
2 it, I would have to go along with it, you know. We
3 would end up in different places. We went to a priest's
4 house, round the corner in St Pat's. There was a priest
5 there, like, and we got taken in there.

6 Q. So this was with HWM and the priest?

7 A. Yes. Well, there was one day he took me and KJA round
8 to the priest and he made us do confessions in front of
9 these other people, like.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I think he was trying to get some information.

12 Q. Yes, I am not a Catholic, 'Joseph', but that's quite
13 an unusual place to do a confession, isn't it?

14 A. Exactly, exactly. I knew that was wrong. I just think
15 he was trying to find out what we were thinking and what
16 we were saying, things like that. What we would say to
17 the police if ... looking back on it, at the time
18 I didn't think -- at the time I was so confused. I was
19 a 15-year-old and I was just going along with whatever
20 to try to get away from this place, like, you know.

21 Q. Did you feel that you had to go along with
22 HWM ?

23 A. Aye, yes. I thought I was going to borstal, any time.
24 Any time. They snap their fingers and I am away. I was
25 kind of petrified of it. I look back now and think:

1 I wish they'd just sent me to borstal on the first day
2 and then I wouldnae had to put up with all this.

3 But I was listening to them, thinking: I would get
4 killed in this borstal.

5 They were telling me what would happen to me in a
6 borstal: if you think this place is bad, wait until you
7 go to borstal.

8 So I thought I was going to borstal at one point.
9 And this guy, he was keeping me out. He was the
10 saviour, like. He was the only one keeping me out. But
11 there was a side that you had to put up with to stay, to
12 let him keep you out of borstal, like, you know.

13 Q. You thought he was --

14 A. I know at the time now, I was 15, I should have just --
15 I don't know. I should have done something about it.

16 Q. Sure. You told us, 'Joseph', that this happened
17 a number of times; that there were a number of occasions
18 when you felt you had been given an alcoholic drink or
19 a cup of tea and you then would feel --

20 A. Yes, I would feel -- I remember it was years and years
21 later when I was actually given a painkiller for the
22 first time, like a strong, strong pain killer and I felt
23 that feeling and I thought: that's that feeling I felt
24 when I drank that tea.

25 Q. On these occasions, when you felt you had been --

1 I mean, certainly later you felt you had been drugged,
2 you were feeling strange --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- were you aware of anything happening while you were
5 in that state?

6 A. I would kind of wake up and feel hands on me, things
7 like that.

8 Q. So you would wake up and feel that, well, someone was,
9 what, in bed with you? Was this always in bed or in
10 other places?

11 A. There was a wee building in front of Bellfield. I am
12 trying to remember it right. But I think there was the
13 driveway... kind of went down two driveways and in the
14 middle of the driveways, a wee bit lower down, was this
15 building. You went down these wee stairs. I woke up in
16 that once.

17 I remember, because that's when I got a meeting with
18 a psychologist, I got put in this wee room. So
19 I remember that room, because when I was getting carried
20 out it I could see the carpet, things like that, and it
21 was kind of dirty, foosty, and I thought: that's that
22 room. I was getting carried out of that, like.

23 That's outwith the Bellfield building.

24 Q. Right. Was it like a gatehouse or something like that?

25 A. Sort of a gatehouse. It wasn't at the bottom of the

1 gate, but kind of in the middle. The driveways came
2 round it, and you had to actually walk down some stairs
3 to this one. It was sat lower down.

4 Q. Okay. You tell us that **HWM** would take you
5 on trips away, overnight?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Where would you stay on trips like that?

8 A. We went to Preston. I was told I was to go with him to
9 Preston and we were going to be helping handicapped
10 people again. When we got there, we went straight into
11 a pub and he got me a pint and another man appeared.
12 And I wasn't sure. So I drank the first pint and
13 I don't know if that was spiked or not, but that was the
14 only pint I got through. I was literally -- I
15 thought -- I was the drunkest I have ever been and I was
16 passing out, and then they two were carrying me. And we
17 ended up in some house somewhere.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And I don't know who this guy was.

20 Q. You didn't recognise him?

21 A. There was a lady in the house when we got to it.
22 I remember that. There was a lady in it as well. And
23 this guy was a lot older. And then I woke up in a bed
24 in that house.

25 Q. Were you aware of anyone being with you or in the bed

1 with you on that occasion?

2 A. Yes, I remember in the bed -- and I remember trying to
3 get somebody away from me. I was trying to sleep and
4 that and I remember hands groping me, things like that.
5 Trying -- I remember I wasn't sure and then I must have
6 just passed out, because I woke up the next morning in
7 this house in Preston somewhere.

8 Q. Okay. Were you left on any of these occasions with any
9 physical signs that --

10 A. Yes, I was sore the next day.

11 Q. -- someone had sexually --

12 A. I was sore the next day.

13 Q. Right. Sore where?

14 A. On my backside.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. Sore testicles, things like that. At the time, I just
17 thought: sore.

18 I didn't realise what I probably went through. He
19 always tried to do it in a way where it was fly, you
20 know. Give him a drink of this first, whatever, you
21 know. There were times -- there were other times where,
22 I caught him out, in the room, when I was lying in my
23 bed, I could feel someone in the bed. I would wake up
24 and he would run out the room, like, you know.

25 Q. Okay.

1 You mentioned that your friend, another boy who had
2 been on trips with you, that you thought he might be
3 going through the same thing as you; why did you think
4 that?

5 A. I never thought it at the time. It was just when
6 I thought back on it, sorry.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. He took me to The Kibble one day.

9 Q. Who took you to The Kibble?

10 A. HWM ██████████ took me to The Kibble.

11 Q. Right. This is the Kibble school?

12 A. Yeah, I think it was a Remand Home or something like
13 that. Well, wee KJA ██████████, the guy I was talking about, he
14 had left and went to The Kibble. Then HWM ██████████
15 took me to The Kibble, left me outside. Wee KJA ██████████ came
16 out and HWM ██████████ took wee KJA ██████████ somewhere for
17 about an hour or something and then came back, and wee
18 KJA ██████████ came back with his face down and then got told to
19 go back into The Kibble and we went back to Bellfield.

20 Q. Were there other occasions where you thought something
21 might have happened with this boy?

22 A. The time at Saltcoats, I think. Maybe that night as
23 well. It was wee KJA ██████████ as well, like, you know.

24 Q. What makes you think that?

25 A. Because KJA ██████████ was kind of ... I think KJA ██████████'s mentioned

1 it or something the next day. That's what put it in my
2 mind that [KJA] must be going through the same. You
3 know, I think [KJA]'s said something to me the next day
4 that-- I can't remember -- but I remember it going
5 through my head that [KJA] is going through this as
6 well, you know.

7 Q. You talk about leaving Bellfield. That there was a fire
8 and you all had to be evacuated; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you ended up at another Assessment Centre called
11 Cardross Park?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How did Cardross Park compare to Bellfield?

14 A. Oh, it was a nicer building and, when we first went
15 there, it was lovely, like, you know. But the only
16 drawback with that is you got your own room.

17 Q. So you did have your own room?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Why was that a drawback?

20 A. That would have been good in any other circumstances.
21 But, when you are in your own room with this guy about,
22 then you are sort of trapped.

23 Q. Okay?

24 LADY SMITH: So he had moved to Cardross as well?

25 A. Yes.

1 MR SHELDON: Did all of the staff from Bellfield move?

2 A. Yes. I think the big guy that done the beating, I don't
3 think he came. I don't remember seeing him at Cardross,
4 so I think he must have moved somewhere else. I don't
5 remember seeing him at Cardross.

6 Q. Okay. I suppose there might have been a difficulty
7 accommodating all the staff if Cardross already had its
8 staff?

9 A. And it was mixed. Cardross was mixed. It was girls as
10 well.

11 Q. Okay. And did everybody have their own room?

12 A. I think at Cardross everyone had their own room, yes.

13 Q. You mentioned it being a drawback, having your own room.
14 Perhaps you can just explain what you mean by that, in
15 the context that you found yourself in?

16 A. Well, it means when they want to get you yourself, it's
17 easy for them to get you yourself in the room. Rather
18 than -- in the dormitories, they couldn't do anything
19 because there were other people watching, like. But
20 once you got your own room, things happen.

21 Q. And did things happen?

22 A. Aye, I don't know how many times this HWM
23 was in my room, checking things, 'Oh, I have to check
24 you. You have to strip off to be checked'.

25 Q. He told you you had to strip off to be checked?

1 A. Yes. I don't even know if I told you. I remember he
2 checked me for -- I think it was measles or something
3 that was going about and I had to strip off to check for
4 measles, like.

5 Q. And did anything happen? Did he do anything while you
6 were in that stripped state?

7 A. He would try to grab you. He would: 'Oh, what's this?'
8 I don't know what he was saying. But I remember -- and
9 he was making fun and as if this is a laugh. But you
10 are standing there kind of naked and awkward and wanted
11 him to leave. But whatever opportunity he would get, he
12 would get you naked, like that.

13 Q. Okay. You told us before about occasions when you felt
14 you had been drugged --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- possibly. You certainly feel now that's what had
17 happened to you.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And that things had been done to you while you were in
20 that state.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did anything like that happen when you were at
23 Cardross Park?

24 A. I can't remember it happening at Cardross. Oh ...
25 I don't remember it happening in Cardross. I do

1 remember we still had, like, days out, from Cardross.
2 He would take us places, like, you know.
3 Q. All right.
4 A. There was a priest place in the back of Cardross.
5 I don't remember what it was. I think it was a place
6 for monks or priests, or --
7 Q. A seminary?
8 A. Something like that. I remember that was at the back of
9 Cardross. We got took to that once, me and KJA.
10 Q. And did anything happen on those occasions?
11 A. I think ... I don't remember. I don't remember, sorry.
12 Q. Okay.
13 A. I remember being up there a couple of times and it is so
14 long ago, like. I don't remember how long we were there
15 for or did we stay there, or what, you know.
16 I just remember that place we went to. I think
17 something might have happened there, because I have
18 always remembered that place, like, you know. And
19 I don't know why I would remember it. Because I have
20 a funny feeling something did happen there, but I just
21 don't remember the ins and outs of that place.
22 Q. Okay.
23 A. But I remember going to it.
24 Q. One last thing about Cardross, 'Joseph'. You tell us,
25 at paragraph 88 -- this is page 18 of your statement:

1 'There were a couple of times in Cardross where
2 I felt like I had been drugged after I woke up because
3 I felt all fuzzy-headed.'

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. 'But I can't connect it to any other incidents.'

6 What do you mean by that, 'Joseph'?

7 A. Yes. Because usually when I got a drink, or I got
8 something else to drink, then I would remember the
9 drink. I would remember what I took and then I fell
10 asleep. There were times there where they must have
11 sneaked it into something, because I remember the same
12 feeling and passing -- that's why I think stuff happened
13 in Cardross, as well.

14 But I remember ... I think I missed a day.
15 I remember in Cardross I was confused one day, because
16 it was -- I think it was maybe, like, Sunday, but this
17 was Monday, and I remember thinking: what happened to
18 Sunday?

19 I remember that. So that's one of the times when
20 I felt I had been drugged.

21 Q. Okay, it was the same feeling you'd had --

22 A. The same feeling, yes.

23 Q. -- on previous occasions?

24 Were you aware of anything physically --

25 A. That time, I don't remember. But -- oh, sorry, I think

1 I was sore. I think I was sore again. I think -- I am
2 trying to separate them, all the incidents, like, you
3 know. But I remember being sore.

4 Q. Mm-hm.

5 LADY SMITH: Can you tell me, 'Joseph', where you were sore
6 again?

7 A. Yes, my backside.

8 LADY SMITH: Same place?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MR SHELDON: Thank you, 'Joseph'.

12 You tell us, from paragraph 91 onwards, about
13 leaving Cardross. You tell us you got out, I think just
14 before your 16th birthday. But HWM told you
15 that you were still under supervision?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you remember what he said to you about that?

18 A. I can't remember. He was still in charge of me. He was
19 still with me, but I am getting out. But I have to be
20 on supervision with him until I would have left school.
21 Whatever time -- whatever age I would have left school,
22 that he has to keep -- he is in charge of me until then.

23 Q. Were you still going to school at that point?

24 A. No, I was actually given permission not to go to school,
25 but I was still to report every week to HWM.

1 Q. Okay, he told you you had to do that?

2 A. Aye, sometimes in a pub in Dumbarton, 'Just come down to
3 the pub in Dumbarton', know what I mean? I would meet
4 him there to do -- and he would pretend -- I was to do
5 a check up thing, like, you know.

6 Q. Okay. Did it strike you as odd that he would be
7 supervising you in a pub?

8 A. Very odd, very odd. And still under the threat that
9 I was going to borstal. Still under this threat that
10 somebody snaps their fingers and my life could be --
11 I could be away somewhere else, again. I was always
12 under that fear. I was always worried and scared, like,
13 you know.

14 Q. You mention an occasion when you were in the pub with
15 him at this time and you recognised some staff members
16 from Bellfield and Cardross?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did they recognise you? Did they know who you were?

19 A. Yes, yes, yes.

20 Q. And did they say anything about your being there?

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. And --

23 A. That's what I found strange. When I got older, I start
24 realising: these staff, how did they not question me
25 being there? Why was I there? You know, why wouldn't

1 they question him about why I was there? You know, it
2 just seemed to be they knew I was -- they acted as if
3 I was meant to be there.

4 Q. Okay. And after this occasion; did HWM [REDACTED]
5 continue to tell you to come and see him?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. And you did?

8 A. Yes. Oh, sometimes he would give you a fiver and things
9 like that, and act like the good guy. At the back of my
10 mind, I always knew: just as soon as I get away from
11 this threat of borstal, I am away, like, you know.
12 Just ... it went on for months, you know.

13 Q. Roughly how long did this all go on for?

14 A. I think maybe three, four months.

15 Q. Okay. You tell us about a trip to Rome?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. 'Joseph', first of all, can I just ask you how that
18 came about?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did you come to go on a trip with HWM [REDACTED] to
21 Rome?

22 A. Yes, he said to me, 'Listen'-- and just like the other
23 trips with the handicapped people, we were taking
24 handicapped children and that. We were going to be
25 helping them and we were going to go on to Rome and we

1 were going to do that. And I didn't want to go. But he
2 was like, 'You have to go', because if I don't go then
3 he cannae -- something might happen to me when he was
4 away and the other guy, whatever, gets their way, and
5 I go to borstal. He told my mother something which --
6 I don't know, I never asked what he told my mother.

7 Q. He spoke to your mother before you --

8 A. He spoke to my mother before and he told her whatever.
9 Because my grandfather had just died, his funeral was
10 that week. And, for some reason, my mum accepted that
11 I was to go. I think back now... I don't know what he
12 told my mum.

13 Q. All right. Are you clear in your mind, 'Joseph', that
14 HWM [REDACTED] was the one who suggested this trip?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And not you?

17 A. I wouldn't have known. He was the one who wanted to
18 take me to Rome, one way or another. Why would I --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I don't know why I would even suggest going to Rome; do
21 you know what I mean?

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. No, he was to go. And then I says: I cannae go there,
24 because it's my granddad's funeral.

25 So I thought I had a good excuse not to go, my

1 granddad's funeral and that. But, for some reason, he
2 went and spoke to my mum. And he said, 'No, it is all
3 right, you have to miss your granddad's funeral, but we
4 will get the Pope to write -- do a mass for your
5 grandfather'.

6 I still thought I was going to get out of it.
7 I don't know how I ended up going. I don't know how
8 I ended up going, right enough. I was promised this and
9 promised it was going to be a good time and everything,
10 you know. But it was a nightmare.

11 Q. And did any of what ^{HWM} [REDACTED] told you was going
12 to happen, actually happen?

13 A. No, there was no handicapped people or nothing. It was
14 me, him and a hotel room.

15 Q. And did anything happen while you were on that trip?

16 A. Yes, I was waking up during the night, with him groping
17 again, and a couple of times I was sort of unconscious
18 as well, you know, drunk. I took a couple of drinks,
19 and passed out, like, you know. I don't know what
20 happened to me when I was passed out.

21 Q. Okay. You tell us, in paragraph 101, that you would
22 pass out, you would wake up, not sure what was happening
23 and a bit sore again?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is that what happened?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You say that you would, on some occasions, try not to
3 have a drink?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You would refuse to drink; how did he react to that?

6 A. He always -- 'Just have a drink, like', and I would say,
7 'No, no, no', and I didn't want to say to him, 'I don't
8 want to drink because I think you are ...', know what
9 I mean? Which I should have done, but I never. I was
10 too young, immature. Too stupid.

11 LADY SMITH: But 'Joseph', what difference would it have
12 made?

13 A. I don't know. I don't know, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: He was hardly going to trot you to the police
15 and say, 'You had better tell them what you just told
16 me', was he?

17 A. When I think back, my Lady, I don't know what I was
18 thinking.

19 LADY SMITH: You were a child.

20 A. Yes, I know. I do now -- when I look back now I can
21 understand it all, know what I mean, and I can see it.
22 I have read it, grooming and things like that, and
23 I know that's what I went through, you know.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes.

25 A. And when I see it on television and people ... I know

1 why these kids don't say anything about it, because
2 I went through it myself now and I realised I never said
3 anything about it, you know what I mean?

4 And then it is shame after that. After that it is
5 a kind of shame where you cannae say anything for
6 45 years; you know what I mean?

7 MR SHELDON: It is a very difficult thing to talk about.

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 MR SHELDON: Just finally, 'Joseph', on that chapter, as it
11 were, you tell us that when you came back from Rome you
12 decided that you'd had enough.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What happened?

15 A. I just walked away. Walked away. And I fully expected
16 the police to be coming for me and things like that. It
17 never, ever happened.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. When I got older, I kind of realised it was all lies.

20 It was all lies, like, you know. I have a funny --
21 I used to think when I was younger: I have a funny
22 feeling that was all lies. But, as I got older and
23 older, I look back and go like that... I fell hook,
24 line and sinker for everything, everything. Being
25 scared, being scared, going to borstal and things like

1 that. I wasn't a criminal. I have never been in
2 trouble with the police in my life, apart from this
3 time, that time, you know.

4 Q. So you managed to get away from him, at least
5 physically, as it were.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You tell us that you came back home... You got a job as
8 an electrician?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then joined the army?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you were in the Scots Guards?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How long did you serve in the Scots Guards?

15 A. I done four years in the Scots Guards and a couple
16 of years in the transport.

17 Q. And it sounds as though you had some particularly
18 interesting duties in the Scots Guards; you were doing
19 public duties in London at Windsor; is that right?

20 A. Yes, I used to do the royal palaces. My first posting
21 was Hong Kong. We done Hong Kong, over a year in Hong
22 Kong. And then we come back and then we done Buckingham
23 Palace and the rest of the palaces, in London.

24 Q. Sure. And you tell us a bit about the other jobs you
25 did. You did security after leaving the army?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And I think you are now still in business; you have your
3 own business?

4 A. Since the army, I was a park ranger. I was a park
5 ranger for 15 years, and then I went out on my own for
6 landscaping. And now I am a self-employed contractor,
7 now, solar stuff, with the roofs.

8 Q. Sure. You told us already a bit about the impact that
9 all this had on you.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 110, that you felt stupid and
12 gullible when you think back now.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. But I think it is clear to you now that HWM
15 was just lying to you?

16 A. Yes, yes, definitely. Oh, it is clear to me who -- what
17 HWM is, you know. Exactly what he was.

18 Q. You say that you recently had a job in the same area as
19 Bellfield?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How did that make you feel?

22 A. That is how this all came about.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. Just one day. It has always been there, like. I have
25 never spoken about this until I spoke to [REDACTED] about

1 this, you know. I had never spoken to anybody about,
2 like, until -- I was working with my son on a roof
3 and -- it was in Dumbarton. And I was working away and
4 I just turned round and I seen the red ash pitch we used
5 to work on. I think the building was gone, but the
6 pitch was there. And it just hit me that day. And
7 that's when I decided to pick the phone up and talk
8 about it, tell people about it.

9 Q. Have you been able to talk to anyone else about it?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I told my wife and my son that I had been in this place,
13 you know, but I made it out as if it was kind of funny.
14 I told them about the people escaping and the football.
15 I made out -- because I didn't want them to hear from
16 anybody else that, 'Your dad was ...' so I thought I'll
17 get ahead of that and let them know that I was in this
18 place, but I never told them anything. I made it out as
19 if it was quite funny and a good time in my life. They
20 always thought it never bothered me. I never told them
21 the truth of it all.

22 Q. You tell us that you'd suffered from depression?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that your doctor, I think, thought you needed some
25 help and you saw a counsellor for some sessions; did

1 that help?

2 A. See, I was wanting help for this, but I didn't want to
3 talk about this, if you know what I mean? So the other
4 things that happened in my life since then, which can be
5 traumatic for other people, like, you know... And it is
6 traumatic, but I used that to get counselling, thinking
7 that if I can get counselling I can get rid of this once
8 and for all, try and live a better, normal life. And
9 I was telling them all the other stuff that happened in
10 life, like.

11 Q. Sure.

12 A. And then --

13 Q. Sorry, go ahead.

14 A. He said to me at the end of the counselling: right, we
15 are going to get back to the real problem, because there
16 was a kind of hypnosis type thing. And he said: do you
17 want to get back to the real problem?

18 I found bodies. It was part of my job to find
19 bodies as a park ranger, going to the park in the
20 morning, dealing with suicide [REDACTED]
21 and all that. I'd been dealing with that and I thought
22 I'll get counselled for that and use that counselling to
23 try and fix me, about this, like, you know? It wasn't
24 until after the counselling, the counsellor said to me,
25 'When are we going to talk about your real problem? Is

1 it Bellfield?' he said. And I just upped and walked
2 out. I thought: I can't talk to anybody about that.

3 You know? And when I seen the football park,
4 I thought I had better talk to somebody about the real
5 problems I have got, you know.

6 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 123 of your statement, you
7 feel like a lid is opening now?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What do you mean by that?

10 A. I hadn't thought about it for 48 years now and I feel as
11 if I need to get it all out, let you guys know about it.

12 I still can't tell anybody else about it, like, you
13 know. But ... it was good to talk to [REDACTED] you know.
14 And I felt better when I got it -- actually, to tell the
15 truth for the first time in all the years, actually tell
16 somebody what really happened; you know what I mean?

17 Q. Okay. Just really, finally, 'Joseph', you tell us, at
18 paragraph 127, about lessons to be learned, lessons that
19 you think should be learned. Perhaps you can just tell
20 us about what lessons we can draw from your experiences?

21 A. I am hoping it has changed now. I am hoping children
22 can talk to people now, like, you know, or whatever,
23 report things. I think they can. I think children are
24 a bit more wiser nowadays, they would go and speak to
25 somebody. I just think that you have to listen to

1 people and contact them in the first place. We never
2 spoke. It was just the time, the days, you know, you
3 never, you never reported this, and especially the shame
4 side of things, you know.

5 Q. These are, we understand, very difficult things to speak
6 about.

7 'Joseph', that's all I have to ask you or say to
8 you; is there anything else would you like to add that
9 I haven't given you the chance to say?

10 A. Oh, no, no. Just thank you. Thank you for listening to
11 me.

12 LADY SMITH: 'Joseph', thank you for deciding to get in
13 touch with us and share all the evidence you have
14 provided about what it was like for you in Bellfield and
15 Cardross. And after, as a result of having been in
16 Bellfield and Cardross. It has increased my knowledge
17 and understanding enormously and I am really grateful to
18 you for that.

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: I can see that the impact on you of what you
21 have been talking about has been enormous and I hope you
22 are able to carry on finding the support you need.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: I am now able to let you go. I hope you are
25 not going to work the rest of today.

1 A. No, no.

2 LADY SMITH: Give yourself the rest of the day off. Thank
3 you.

4 Just before I rise for the break, I want to alert
5 everybody to the fact that HWM's name has
6 been used, but his identity is protected by my
7 General Restriction Order and he can't be identified as
8 the person referred to in our evidence outside this
9 room. Thank you.

10 (11.37 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.56 am)

13 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

14 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who is
15 anonymous and known as 'Janet'.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Janet' (affirmed)

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

19 'Janet'. The red folder on the desk has your written
20 statement in it. Thank you for providing that; it has
21 been very helpful to have it in advance. It is evidence
22 to the Inquiry and, as has probably been explained to
23 you, what we want to do today is identify particular
24 parts of it that we would find it helpful to discuss
25 a bit further with you.

1 'Janet', those mechanics apart, it is really
2 important that you appreciate I want to do anything
3 I can to help you give your evidence as comfortably as
4 possible. I know it is not easy to do what you are
5 about to do. You are being asked to speak in a public
6 forum about private matters and some of them are likely
7 to be distressing, and your own emotions may take you by
8 surprise. That's not a problem. If anything would help
9 and it will work for you, it will work for me: a break;
10 pausing; anything else. Just say, will you?

11 A. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will pass over to Ms Forbes
13 and she will take it from there.

14 Ms Forbes.

15 Questions by Ms Forbes

16 MS FORBES: My Lady.

17 Good morning, 'Janet'. It is still good morning.

18 A. Morning.

19 Q. In front of you, you have your statement. If I could
20 ask you to have a look at your statement, there should
21 be a paragraph right at the end, which is paragraph 105.
22 That's on the very last page.

23 A. Oh, the last page.

24 Q. Have you managed to find that? Now, the last paragraph
25 there, 105, says:

1 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
3 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
4 true.'

5 And that's something that you have signed and it is
6 dated 21 February 2017; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that's the position, is it?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. If you could just go back to the beginning of your
11 statement, or put it to one side, it is up to you. Now,
12 'Janet', the reference for that statement, we use that
13 for our records, so I am just going to read that out now
14 so we have a record of it. It's WIT.001.001.0536.

15 LADY SMITH: 'Janet', just before we get into the subject
16 matter of your statement; we have just brought it up,
17 you signed that statement in 2017. Please don't think
18 the fact that it is not until now that we have invited
19 you to give oral evidence means that it is any less
20 important than other work.

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: It is just the scheduling of the work that we
23 have been doing here.

24 A. Aye, I do understand.

25 LADY SMITH: I do appreciate you have had a long time to

1 wait for this.

2 A. Yes, no problems.

3 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

4 MS FORBES: My Lady.

5 'Janet', I am just going to go through some early

6 parts of your life that led up to you going into care,

7 first of all. I think you tell us you were born in

8 1965; is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. We are not going to worry about the dates, but it is [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] 1965; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I think you initially lived with both your parents?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I think you tell us that there were seven children all

16 together. So you were one of seven; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So there were, I think, five girls and two boys?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In the sort of line up; is it the case that you were the

21 third youngest in the line of children?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So you had two younger sisters?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. But everyone else was older than you?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And I think you stayed with your parents and your
3 brothers and sisters; was that in Glasgow?

4 A. Clydebank.

5 Q. Clydebank. I think there came a time when sadly, due to
6 a condition, a heart condition, your father passed away;
7 is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How old were you? Do you remember when that happened?

10 A. I think it was, maybe, nine or ten.

11 Q. Okay. Is it at that time, after that, that really your
12 mum started to go downhill?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. She started drinking?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And there were money problems in the house; is that
17 right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. I think then it meant that you and your brothers and
20 sisters weren't being looked after as you had been
21 before?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. I think you tell us that you were looking unkempt and
24 mostly looked after yourselves?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. With the older children looking after the younger
2 children, really?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But I think, by a certain point, some of your older
5 brothers and sisters had moved out of the family home;
6 is that right? And they were --

7 A. One went to the army. The older sister had a boyfriend,
8 so she stayed with him.

9 Q. And I think you tell us, at paragraph 6 of your
10 statement, that there were parties in the house, there
11 was drinking. It wasn't really an appropriate place for
12 you and your brothers and sisters to be; is that right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. I think then concerns were raised with the social work
15 about what was happening at the house and about your mum
16 drinking; is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think there were times that sometimes your mum wasn't
19 there overnight and you were having to look after
20 yourselves?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. And I think when the social work finally came to the
23 house to take you and some of your sisters away, you got
24 wind of that beforehand and ran away; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you tell us then that you and two of your
2 sisters ran away and hid, and the social work could only
3 then take your youngest sister away; is that right?
4 A. That's correct.
5 Q. But it didn't last long, because the next day you were
6 taken?
7 A. Yes, they got us at school, correct.
8 Q. And this was a children's home they took you to, right?
9 A. That's correct.
10 Q. In Cardross?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. And 'Janet', you tell us in your statement about
13 Cardross, at paragraph 7, and another children's home,
14 on to paragraph 42. That part of your statement -- you
15 will see it on the screen and in the folder -- is
16 blacked out or greyed out in the document that you have.
17 So I am not going to take you through everything that
18 happened there. But I will go through some things, so
19 that we can get to understand how you came to be in
20 Cardross later on; okay?
21 A. Yes.
22 LADY SMITH: Can I just check, 'Janet': do you understand
23 why we are not going into the detail of that part of
24 your statement at the moment?
25 A. Not really.

1 LADY SMITH: Right, let me just explain because it may look
2 a bit odd. It doesn't mean that evidence doesn't matter
3 to me or it is not important for the work we are doing
4 here; it is just that in this section of our oral
5 hearings we are specifically focusing on Bellfield,
6 Cardross, and Calder House.

7 A. Okay.

8 LADY SMITH: That's why.

9 A. Right.

10 LADY SMITH: It is that type of care, in those places. So,
11 as Ms Forbes has just explained, she is going to ask you
12 a bit about it to explain how it was you ended up where
13 you ended up.

14 A. Aye.

15 LADY SMITH: But it doesn't mean it doesn't matter; okay?

16 A. Right.

17 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

18 Ms Forbes.

19 MS FORBES: My Lady.

20 I think at the time you gave your statement to the
21 Inquiry you hadn't seen your records from the Social
22 Work Department; is that right?

23 A. Sorry, could you say that again?

24 Q. At the time you gave your statement to us, back in 2017,
25 you, at that time, didn't have your social work records?

1 A. I asked for them, but I backed out. They had them in
2 the Clydebank Social Work Department, but I couldn't
3 bring myself to see them, because I thought it would --
4 I would maybe hit the bottle, drink or something, and
5 that's why I stayed and I just focused on getting a job,
6 you know, rather... because I wanted to blank that out.

7 Q. So I think when you were talking about your time in
8 care, you were really just going from memory; you didn't
9 have records to refer to for dates or anything like
10 that?

11 A. No.

12 Q. But now I think you have had -- you have seen some
13 records and, in fact, I think you know that we have some
14 records.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Because of that, we are able to check the dates, so we
17 know more accurately --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- where you were at given times. I think the dates we
20 have for you and your sisters going into the children's
21 home in Cardross are... ██████████ 1978, and that was when
22 you were aged 12 years still.

23 A. Oh, yes, that's right.

24 Q. And I think we know from that that you were in that
25 children's home for a period of about four months, until

1 I think about [REDACTED] 1978, before you were moved.

2 I don't know if you recall or not, 'Janet', but,
3 from those records, you were placed on a non-residential
4 supervision requirement before you were taken into the
5 children's home for not going to school; do you recall
6 that at all?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So it was just shortly before the social work really
9 came and took you and your sisters away; there was
10 a period where you were under supervision because you
11 hadn't been going to school?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you remember that? That was high school. Was it
14 called Braidfield High School?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But then other things happened, the social work got
17 involved, then you and your sisters ended up in the
18 children's home. [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20

21

22

23

24

25 A. Mm-hm. That was at Bloomhill Children's Home.

1 Q. The first one, in Cardross. Sorry, I said Cardross,
2 I don't mean Cardross Park. I will just call it
3 Bloomhill.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. At Bloomhill, the first children's home, Secondary Institutions - to

6 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

7

8

9 A.

10 Q.

11

12 A.

13 Q.

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17 A.

18 Q.

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24 A.

25 Q. There then came a time when you were moved along with

1 your sisters to Hill Park Children's Home?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Is that right? And the dates, again from the records we
4 have for that, are [REDACTED] 1978, and you were there
5 until [REDACTED] 1979. So that's a period of about eight
6 months.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. At that time you would have been aged 12, but then you
9 turned 13 during the course of the time that you were
10 there?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think, even though it is redacted out, you do tell us
13 in your statement that you think you were about 13 when
14 you were in that home.

15 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16

17

18

19 A.

20 Q.

21

22

23 A.

24

25 Q.

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4

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Now, I think in your statement, when you gave it, you
7 weren't sure, 'Janet', about how it had come to be that
8 you were then moved from Hill Park to Cardross Park
9 Assessment Centre. But I think from your records we can
10 see that there was some truanting, I think, from school
11 for a few weeks. And it was felt that perhaps your
12 behaviour had deteriorated and you maybe needed to be
13 seen by someone and assessed, and you ended up being
14 suspended from school at that point; do you remember
15 that?

16 A. No, I wasn't truanting from school.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I was helping a wee girl in the afternoon with my
19 friend. She had cerebral palsy -- I was doing the
20 part-- they needed five people to do this, to get her
21 lungs to open up or fluid to come out. I understood
22 this years later. I didn't know what I was doing.
23 I thought I was teaching the girl how to swim or
24 something, and that's how all the absences occurred, but
25 I never told anybody about it. It would be reported...

1 it would have been seen differently on me if I told the
2 truth as to where I was going. But I did tell my
3 registration teacher and things like that, you know.

4 Q. So because of your absences from school, and I think
5 because you went back to Hill Park -- sorry, you went to
6 Hill Park, you were at Braidfield at that time, is that
7 right, Braidfield High School?

8 A. No, it was Clydebank High.

9 Q. Clydebank High, sorry, apologies. I think at that time,
10 because of the concern about you not attending school,
11 it was decided that there would be a review of your
12 supervision requirement and there was then a hearing on
13 ██████████ 1979, and it was at that hearing that it was
14 decided you would go to Cardross Park Assessment Centre
15 for a period of assessment?

16 A. (Nods).

17 Q. You tell us about Cardross from paragraph 43. Now, we
18 will come to this later, 'Janet', but you were in
19 Cardross Park on two occasions. I think this first
20 occasion you were there, and it was the old building;
21 but the second time you go it had actually been
22 renovated, there was a new building; is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So this first time you are there it is in the original
25 old building?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And again from your records, we know you were there
3 between [REDACTED] 1979 and [REDACTED] 1979, which is a period
4 of three weeks when you were 13. Again, we have spoken
5 about this, so you are aware of the dates now, but
6 I think your recollection of it is that you were there
7 for far longer?

8 A. I thought I was there for a few years.

9 Q. So it felt a lot longer to you?

10 A. Yes, it did.

11 Q. But in relation to this first building, then, at
12 Cardross Park, you tell us, 'Janet', that there was
13 a big house, is that right, with a big dayroom inside?

14 A. Er, sorry?

15 Q. So this is the first time you were at Cardross Park and
16 it is the old building. I think you tell us, at
17 paragraph 43, that it was a big house; is that right?

18 A. It was a big... yes.

19 Q. And you talk about there being a day room and a big
20 chill out room?

21 A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.

22 Q. And you mention a spiral staircase that led up to the
23 bedrooms?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And there were boys and girls at Cardross Park at this

1 time?

2 A. Mm-hm.

3 Q. And you describe it as being a secure home?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And it being like a jail?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did that mean that the front door was locked?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What about the windows, as well?

10 A. I never really went to that. But I think they were.

11 There was no access to open a window... I never remember

12 opening a window.

13 Q. And you mention, 'Janet', there was a room that you were

14 shown; was that by a member of staff?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Could you just tell us a little bit about that room?

17 A. There was just, like, a door, blue walls, and two

18 benches, and then another door to take you into the

19 dining room. You had to walk through that to get to the

20 dining room, so it was like -- they called it the blue

21 room. It was kind of scary, quite scary.

22 Q. So it was a door that led into the dining room, but

23 where did it lead from? How did you get into it?

24 A. The chill out room was there, and if you walked by, you

25 walked by where they had the school, inside this big

1 room and you just cut through the door and it was the
2 blue room with the benches, and then through -- when you
3 get to, you know, to go out the other door, that was the
4 dining room.

5 Q. And I think you say that there were no windows in that
6 room?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Now, you describe your time at Cardross in that
9 paragraph as being the worst time of your life?

10 A. (Nods). Aye.

11 Q. This is something you felt was a lot longer period --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- that you were there for.

14 Why do you say that it was the worst time of your
15 life, 'Janet'?

16 A. Well, first of all, we were taken in a car, not told
17 where we were going, not told what to expect, away from
18 my siblings, and then just told to get in a room and
19 wait there: you will be going to school in the morning
20 and things like that. And then all of these girls
21 coming in, screaming, running away. They only got to
22 the bottom of the... because it was so long, the big
23 driveway, they only got to the bottom and the police
24 brought them back. And the way they were handled, you
25 know.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. To get brought back in by the staff.

3 Q. How would you describe the way they were handled?

4 A. Rough. Bad. I saw one, when I were up the stair, I saw
5 one tied to a bed.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And I went, 'I'm not running away. I think I will just
8 stay'. The only thing that kept me going was the bird.
9 They had a miner bird and I would just sit all day with
10 that at the front door.

11 Q. Is that a pet they had?

12 A. It was a pet called Mini Miner, and I just sat with that
13 all day, when I could, just get out the road of things,
14 you know.

15 Q. 'Janet', you mentioned a girl tied to the bed. We might
16 come to that a little bit later in your statement and
17 talk a little bit more about it.

18 You said there was a man SNR at Cardross that
19 you remember, and you have named him in that paragraph
20 there as being zIBD ?

21 A. I remember that name very well, yes.

22 Q. So that was SNR when you were there, you
23 recall?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you also say that there were probably about 15 or 16

1 children there, whilst you were there?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And the ages were between about 12 and 16?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you tell us that there were maybe about eight
6 members of staff in total?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So we can get an idea of the number of children compared
9 to the numbers of staff?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And in particular you mention an older man who was nice?

12 A. Oh, yes, Owen Lilley, yes, I remember the name because
13 he was from Clydebank and when I saw his face in the
14 paper he was the biggest campaigner for asbestos.
15 I think they won the case because he had campaigned
16 for years and that's what he had, but he was the only
17 nice one there.

18 Q. Now, this time when you go to Cardross Park, you
19 mentioned, 'Janet', that you didn't know where you were
20 going before you went there; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did nobody explain to you after the decision at the
23 children's hearing what was going to happen?

24 A. No, they just said I would be in there for 21 days. And
25 then they just -- they never spoke to me in the car,

1 because I remember looking out the window on the way
2 there, thinking: where am I going?

3 It felt to me -- when you were a kid, it felt as if
4 I was halfway to England; you know what I mean? I never
5 knew -- I never knew about the place.

6 Q. And up until this point, you had been with your sisters
7 in the children's homes; is that right?

8 A. Yes, that's right.

9 Q. So this is the first time you are separated from them?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How did you feel about that?

12 A. I felt bad. I felt like it was because I was the
13 speaker of the family, and I was always the speaker.
14 Like, to move us from Bloomhill, I demanded the social
15 worker moved us, because I saw a family moving, and
16 I thought: well, could we get back to Clydebank nearer
17 our mother?

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 I spoke about that, I spoke
21 about a lot. I think I was a threat and that's why they
22 wanted me out.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Nothing to do with being plonked in school, because
25 I liked school. School was an escape for me, away from

1 these places, you know?

2 Q. And I think, 'Janet', you go on to tell us a little bit
3 more about Cardross Park. You say that the food was all
4 right there and you tell us a little bit about that.
5 And you say that even though there were boys and girls
6 in Cardross Park, they had different rooms?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Were they dormitories?

9 A. Dormitories. There was a girls' dormitory and a boys',
10 yes.

11 Q. And were they on the same level as each other?

12 A. Yes. What I can remember, yes, up at the top of the
13 stairs. I can see my room just now, the big wooden
14 doors.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. The boys--

17 Q. I think you said there was a big door between the rooms,
18 but it didn't lock?

19 A. Yes, it didn't lock.

20 Q. And that's between the boys' and girls' dormitories or
21 rooms?

22 A. If I can remember that, I think that's correct. I am
23 not too -- 100 per cent sure about that.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. There was a place in Bloomhill like that, as well. Like

1 the doors never locked, the adjoining, you know.

2 Q. Going on then to look a little bit more about what you
3 say about Cardross Park, I think you tell us at
4 paragraph 47, 'Janet', there was a big wall around the
5 house and you were allowed out to play football
6 sometimes?

7 A. Mm-hm, that's right. That's where I was constantly;
8 playing football.

9 Q. So while it was secure when you were in there, you were
10 sometimes allowed out into the grounds?

11 A. Yes, with a member of staff.

12 Q. Were you ever allowed outwith the grounds on your own?

13 A. No, we walked with staff around the village, but we
14 never wanted to go back again, because the children in
15 the community shouted things to us, horrible things.

16 Q. I think you said that when you were out you had to wear
17 black plimsoll shoes?

18 A. Yes, like gym shoes. I think they made fun of that as
19 well, our dress sense, you know.

20 LADY SMITH: Are those the ones that had some rubber on the
21 bottom and they had some stretchy elastic on the top?

22 A. Yes, that's the ones.

23 LADY SMITH: I know exactly what you mean.

24 A. Penny blacks, I think you used to call them.

25 MS FORBES: I think you said, 'Janet', people would shout at

1 you from the local area when you were out with a member
2 of staff, and I think you say they said something
3 particular?
4 A. They said we were 'murderers', and I don't understand
5 that.
6 Q. How did that make you feel, when they were shouting
7 things like that?
8 A. I never, ever wanted to go out again. Never. I got
9 a fear as soon as -- I think I only ever asked to go to
10 the shop -- and back in again --
11 Q. And I think you tell us that it made you feel as if you
12 had done something really, really bad?
13 A. I felt as if I had done something --
14 Q. Yes.
15 A. -- the worst ever.
16 Q. Yes. But you weren't sent there for committing any
17 offences or anything like that?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Or accused of any offences?
20 A. Nothing.
21 Q. And we've heard what you said about maybe reasons why
22 you ended up in Cardross but, if anything, at most you
23 were not going to school, and that is the reason why you
24 were put there?
25 A. Some boys in the community were doing stuff and I got

1 the blame for that as well. I see that boy to this day,
2 and he said they done it, and I said well, why didn't
3 you speak up, because I got the blame for it.

4 Q. Are you referring to before you went to Cardross Park or
5 while you were there?

6 A. Before I went in to Cardross Park. But the things being
7 done in the community were done by the actual -- some of
8 the staff's sons, and they were, 'Oh no, my son would
9 not do that', and I got the blame for that and it came
10 up in one of the meetings for being taken in to
11 Cardross Park, and I said 'I never done that', and they
12 more or less put it on my record that I did do it, and
13 I never.

14 Q. 'Janet', I think you go on to tell us that there was
15 an occasion where there were boys from Bellfield who
16 came up for a disco, but I think you wanted to clarify
17 that; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Is that something you have remembered from being in the
20 children's home?

21 A. That was Bloomhill.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. I thought I was actually in Cardross Park when the boys
24 from Bellfield came. But when I was in Bloomhill-- Seconda
25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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and then the next night we were taken to Cardross Park Assessment Centre which I had never been in before obviously, because I was in Bloomhill. Cardross Park, so over there, the next minute a bus of boys came from Bellfield and it was like: 'dance, get up and dance', and we didn't know what was happening. We were just sitting on chairs and they were sitting on chairs -- and I don't know what I'm allowed to say here. How do I put it...?

- Q. Well, you can try and describe --
- A. A dark man.
- Q. Okay.
- A. A dark man. I didn't know what to say there. Sorry, I dunnae want to put myself into trouble, all the political correctness. I don't know.
- LADY SMITH: Look 'Janet', you are not going to get into trouble here for describing things the way they seemed to you.
- A. He was chasing me around a pole, and I was asking the staff to get him away from me, and he was big, he was massive, and he was sweating, and he was chasing me, and I'm thinking God knows how I can get away from this guy,

1 but this other guy, he came back up, he was wanting to
2 dance with me, he had a cowboy hat on, but he was scary,
3 and, you know -- I'm sorry.

4 Q. So this is a time that you remember now being at
5 Bloomfield Children's Home, sorry, Bloomhill, and you
6 are taken on a bus up to Cardross Park, and there are
7 then boys and girls from different places that were also
8 there at this dance?

9 A. Yes, I didn't know how many belonged into Cardross Park,
10 the girls, was there girls brought from other places,
11 maybe other homes, I wasn't sure, but me and [REDACTED] were
12 there, my sister.

13 Q. And the person, the boy you are describing, that was
14 a boy, he wasn't an adult, is that right, it was a boy?

15 A. It was a boy. Big.

16 Q. But I think you said he was a big boy?

17 A. Oh, aye.

18 Q. Now, you go on, 'Janet', to tell us about Christmas, and
19 remembering a Christmas tree, and presents, but I think
20 what we know from your record is you weren't in
21 Cardross Park over a Christmas period, although the next
22 time you were there, you were there during your
23 birthday. So it might be that that memory relates to
24 a time in the children's home?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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7 A.

8 Q. But again I think we know that this doesn't relate to
9 your time in Cardross Park, is that right?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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13 A.

14 Q. Yes. So that's fine, we know then that that part of
15 your statement actually relates to when you were at the
16 children's home before.

17 You then go on, 'Janet', to tell us about schooling
18 in Cardross Park, and you say that there was a classroom
19 there, where you would get some education, is that
20 right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And we do see from your records that there is some --
23 there is a school teacher report on some of the progress
24 you are making there, and I think they referred to you
25 as being an intelligent girl, so at that time I think

1 you mentioned just in your evidence that you enjoyed
2 school, so certainly that's something that came across
3 when they were assessing you when you were at
4 Cardross Park?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay.

7 But I think you say in that paragraph there, at 52,
8 that teachers told you that you were thick and useless,
9 and you wouldn't achieve anything?

10 A. That was just one member of staff that said that.

11 Q. Right, okay.

12 A. There wasn't a lot of them like that. I think it is
13 because he asked me to get something from the shelf, and
14 I told him no, and he was shouting at me and I said I am
15 not getting it, and he went 'You will never get a job
16 and you will never ... you are thick' and I said 'Well,
17 that's up to you, to say that'. I think that's why he
18 was just peeved off, because I wouldn't get something
19 for him.

20 Q. How did that make you feel when that was said to you?

21 A. It just makes you feel, you are in a place like that,
22 and then you are not getting any visits, you are not
23 getting any calls, it makes you feel like a piece of --
24 sorry, low, it makes you feel low.

25 Q. Yes. And you mentioned visits there, 'Janet'. You say

1 that -- we know that your sisters stayed behind at
2 Hill Park and you didn't get to see them. Does that
3 mean that at the time you were at Cardross you didn't
4 get any visits from your sisters, or go to --
5 A. I don't even know if they were allowed to come to the
6 places, you know.
7 Q. I think in your mind, as well, you thought you were
8 there a lot longer.
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. But you do go on to mention in that paragraph, it is
11 redacted out, Hill Park Children's Home and not getting
12 to see them while you were there, I think. Is this your
13 sisters that weren't with you?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. In the children's home?
16 A. Aye, like the three of them, yes.
17 Q. So whilst the younger of you were in the children's
18 home, you had older sisters who weren't, is that right?
19 A. Yes, I had an older sister, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], but the
20 older sister [REDACTED] never, ever came and visited anyway.
21 Since we got put into the home she was old enough to
22 fend for herself, you know.
23 Q. I am just going to go to the section in your statement,
24 'Janet', where you talk about abuse, it is under this
25 heading 'Abuse at Cardross Park' and this is at

1 paragraph 54. Now, you did refer to this in your
2 evidence earlier about seeing a girl tied up, and that
3 was in relation to girls trying to run away. So what do
4 you remember about that occasion when you saw what
5 happened to the girl who ran away, or tried to run away?

6 A. Sometimes I feel as if I was in a dream; is this a dream
7 that I had? But all the horrible things through these
8 places stuck in my head. Nine out of ten times I was
9 wrong. But I went up the stairs, and I remember the
10 girl, she asked me to run away, and I said we'll get to
11 the end of that gate, and we'll get caught, get to the
12 train station, it's opened up, we'll get caught. I said
13 I am not interested. But I remember the place was,
14 there was voices, there was something happening, but
15 I was going up the stairs, up to the toilet, and there
16 was a room here, I don't know why that room was there,
17 but I remember them seeing me, and slamming the door
18 shut, and she was tied, she had nothing on, and she was
19 tied to the bed and they were hitting her. I went like
20 that, if I go in there, I am getting hit and all. So
21 I just gone off, you know, I went back to where I was.

22 Q. And in your statement, 'Janet', you say that you walked
23 past that door and you heard this girl screaming and
24 shouting and there was two female members of staff
25 pulling her clothes off?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And she was naked?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And this is when you say she was getting tied to the
5 bed?

6 A. Yes, she was already tied to the bed when I went by.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And I went, like a flash, turned round to look and they
9 went and slammed the door shut. And I went, you know
10 that way, did I see what I seen there? But then you
11 don't speak about it for all your life. I have spoke
12 about it a couple of times, but it's like, you know, did
13 that really happen?

14 Q. It is something that sticks in your mind about
15 Cardross Park specifically?

16 A. Sorry?

17 Q. It is something that you recall about Cardross Park?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. As having happened when you were there?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. 'Janet', you go on to also talk about the fact that you
22 developed a bit of a stutter whilst you were there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Had you had that before?

25 A. I never had a stutter until I went in there.

1 Q. And were you aware of what was causing that?

2 A. No. It wasn't until I started doing the bingo numbers,
3 and then I looked and there was all of these lasses,
4 I don't know if they came in from the homes as well, but
5 it didn't last long, the stutter, but when I started
6 reading the numbers out, they all started getting
7 frustrated and annoyed, and one I remember, her name was
8 [REDACTED] she had tight curly hair, and she said something to
9 me, and I said something back, and that was it, a full
10 riot started. And I can remember getting put in that
11 room for a while. I don't know what happened to her,
12 I don't know where she was, but ...

13 Q. When you say a full riot, did you end up fighting with
14 the other girl --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- at that time? And that's because she was commenting
17 on you calling out the bingo numbers?

18 A. Yes, she said: 'she has a stutter, get her off, she's
19 rubbish'.

20 Q. And you say because of that incident you got put into
21 this blue room that you have described before?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that was as a punishment?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you described that to us earlier, but you say you

1 think you were in there for three hours?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You say it felt a lot longer?

4 A. Yes it did, yes.

5 Q. And you tell us that you didn't see anyone else being
6 put in there whilst you were in Cardross Park, is that
7 right?

8 A. I didn't see anybody else?

9 Q. You didn't see anyone else getting put in there whilst
10 you were there?

11 A. Not really, because I would have been in the other
12 areas, you know. I don't remember. I would do anything
13 to get outside that building to play football in the
14 fresh air, because that was my life before then. I am
15 an outtie, I don't like being in places, you know.

16 Q. Can you remember who it was who put you in that room?

17 A. Just one of the members of staff. You see, Owen sticks
18 out to me, and the rest are all like, I can see them,
19 I know zIBD had a daughter called [REDACTED]
20 but I don't know if she came round sometimes from
21 Bloomhill to help out. The rest of them have just blank
22 faces.

23 LADY SMITH: Is this Owen who is the campaigner for
24 asbestos?

25 A. Owen Lilley, yes, he was an artist, I never saw

1 paintings and drawings like that in my life, and he drew
2 us a painting, or a drawing.

3 MS FORBES: Just to be clear, 'Janet', you don't recall it
4 being Owen, do you, that put you in the room?

5 A. Sorry?

6 Q. You don't remember it being Owen?

7 A. No, it wasn't Owen, no.

8 Q. Just to clarify.

9 A. It was a member of staff I can see, but I just see
10 a blank.

11 Q. Do you remember if it was male or female?

12 A. I think it was female.

13 Q. This incident that you were talking about, we do
14 actually have, perhaps, a record that corresponds with
15 what you remember, and if we can go to the reference,
16 I am going to read it out just so we can bring it up on
17 the screen, it is GLA-000003349. And if we can go to
18 page 6 of that?

19 LADY SMITH: Can I just check, 'Janet', are you okay with
20 looking at this?

21 A. Yes, yes, fine.

22 LADY SMITH: Some people find it overwhelming, I just wanted
23 to check. Thank you.

24 MS FORBES: Page six at the top says 'Cardross Park
25 Assessment Centre Record of Conduct and Progress' and

1 there is a bit blanked out at the top beside 'Name', but
2 that relates to you. If we can go to the next page,
3 page 7, and on to the next page there are two entries
4 with dates on the left-hand side, and if we look at the
5 last one, which is dated 3 May, 1979, it says:

6 'Blouse with about three buttons missing was first
7 sign this morning that there had been trouble last
8 night. Turns out [the first name is yours] and [and
9 then a girl's name is mentioned] had a fight after
10 playing bingo. Office staff had to be brought out to
11 bring it under control.'

12 And then there is a staff name beside it. But
13 that's obviously a record, perhaps, of the incident that
14 you are describing in relation to the bingo. But
15 obviously it doesn't record what the punishment was that
16 you have told us about, which was you being put in that
17 room?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Well, we can just take that off the screen and we can go
20 back to your statement now. That was just shortly
21 before you left Cardross Park, and as we have talked
22 about from your records, it looks as though you were
23 then moved on [REDACTED] 1979, [REDACTED] really,
24 that entry, that we have looked at about the bingo. You
25 were moved then to, is it Craigellachie, is that how --

1 A. Craigellachie.

2 Q. Craigellachie. I knew I would pronounce it wrongly.

3 You tell us about that, 'Janet', from page 57 of your

4 statement. Again that is blacked out. From your

5 records we know you were in there the first time for

6 a period, and then you went back to Cardross Park, and

7 then you went back to Craigellachie?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The time in Cardross Park, the second time, was only

10 three weeks, so the whole period apart from that you

11 were in Craigellachie, is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you stayed there, apart from that three weeks that

14 you go to Cardross Park for the second time, you stay

15 there from [REDACTED] 1979 right through, and I think you

16 weren't sure about when you left, but it was actually

17 not until [REDACTED] 1983, so you'd actually turned 18 by

18 the time you left Craigellachie for a good?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Does that seem right to you, date wise?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And I think you left Craigellachie at that time to go

23 into a flat that you had been given?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that was [REDACTED] Road?


1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So you tell us about this first initial period in
3 Craigellachie, at this point of your statement. So the
4 first time is really a year and five months, and you are
5 aged between 13 and 14 at that time, because we have
6 your birthday?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you do tell us a bit about that, and as your
9 Ladyship has said, 'Janet', we have all of that evidence
10 there, and even though it is blacked out on the
11 statements for today's purposes, it is evidence for us
12 and we have all of the detail; we know what happened.

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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17 A.

18 Q.

19

20

21 A.

22 Q.

23

24

25 A.

1 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2 A.

3 Q.

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6 A.

7 Q.

8 A.

9 Q.

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12 A.

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14 Q.

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16

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18 A.

19 Q.

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23 A.

24 Q. I think from your statement, 'Janet', you seem to

25 correlate that Secondary Insti with you going back to

1 Cardross Park?

2 A. I go back to the new building.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Because there is no longer --

5 Q. The old building had gone by that point.

6 A. The dates would be, you know.

7 Q. Yes. I think at the time you gave your statement you

8 thought that was why you were moved to Cardross Park,

9 but I think we know from your records that after **Secondary Insti**

10 **Secondary Insti** you went to stay with your sister for a couple

11 of days until there was a meeting, and then you went

12 back to stay at Craigellachie, and you were there for

13 a little bit of time before you actually went to

14 Cardross Park, and you actually didn't go to

15 Cardross Park until , 1980. So it was later on

16 that year.

17 A. Oh, right.

18 Q. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

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23 A. Aye.

24 Q. But I don't think that's something at the time that you

25 could fit together, because you didn't have your

1 records, is that right?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. You hadn't seen that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And this second time you were at Cardross, again it was
6 for three weeks, and it was between [REDACTED], 1980 and
7 [REDACTED], 1980. By this time, 'Janet', would you have
8 been 14, and had your birthday in there in [REDACTED], and
9 turned 15?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. As you said, that was the new building, the new
12 Cardross Park Assessment Centre, which was sort of a
13 purpose built building, is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And I think you tell us about that at paragraph 71, the
16 kind of set-up of it. You said this place had a pool
17 table, a tennis table, and again it was for both boys
18 and girls?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you each this time had your own rooms, is that
21 right, so there weren't dormitories any more?

22 A. Yes, we had our room.

23 Q. Own rooms?

24 A. But the windows were locked.

25 Q. The windows were locked so you couldn't get out, so it

1 was still secure, is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think you say all that was in your room apart from the
4 bed was a chest of drawers and a table?

5 A. That was it.

6 Q. And you tell us about something that happened when you
7 were in there, at paragraph 71, and you say that you
8 tried to speak to a girl in the room next to you, is
9 that right?

10 A. Yes, that was my friend.

11 Q. And you tried to open the window?

12 A. Yes, the glass went through my arm. I had to go to the
13 hospital. We were trying to break the window to get
14 freedom.

15 Q. So this is a secure window that you couldn't open, is
16 it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you tried to break it?

19 A. The two of us pushed the glass, and the glass broke, and
20 it scarred me, and I had to go to the Vale of Leven
21 Hospital.

22 Q. And you are indicating there, 'Janet', the right
23 forearm, is that where it happened?

24 A. Yes, you can see the scar there.

25 Q. And you do go on to tell us a little bit more, saying

1 you can't really remember much about showers and things,
2 and there was a television in the hall, so you had to go
3 in there if you wanted to watch it. But as we have
4 discovered from your records, you actually were only
5 there that second time for another period of three
6 weeks, so it wasn't a long time overall.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But I think in your mind when you gave the statement you
9 thought you were there for a lot longer?

10 A. Yes, definitely.

11 Q. And I think you thought you were there for about nine
12 months?

13 A. Yes, it felt that way.

14 Q. But this was another place just in between you going
15 back to Craigellachie, well, back to a children's home?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. As you say, you can't remember much about this second
18 time being there. The incident with the glass is what
19 you remember?

20 A. Yes, but on my statement it does say 'what are we going
21 to do with her?' before they put me in the second time.

22 Q. Mm-hm.

23 A. Oh no, sorry, I am getting mixed up.

24 Q. Don't worry, 'Janet'.

25 A. I don't know why -- sorry.

1 Q. You were in a number of places from a younger age, you
2 know, so don't worry at all if you can't remember the
3 order of things.

4 A. Yes, aye.

5 Q. I think, you know, what you have told us about
6 Cardross Park Assessment Centre now is what you can
7 recall actually happened when you were there, is that
8 right?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. And do you think you have now got it clearer in your
11 mind about things like the dance, that that was actually
12 at the children's home?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. From the children's home, yes.

15 And then after this three week period, 'Janet', you
16 go back to Craigellachie, and that was on [REDACTED]
17 and, as we have said you stayed there
18 until [REDACTED] 1983, when you got your own flat, and
19 I think we know from your records as well that your
20 supervision requirement was actually terminated on
21 [REDACTED] 1982, but you stayed at Craigellachie for
22 another year and a half, really, until you were able to
23 get your own place to stay?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And I think you do talk a little bit in your statement

1 at different parts about when you were in these places,
2 getting to go and help at a nursery, is that right, with
3 children?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

6

7 A.

8 Q.

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10 A.

11 Q.

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13 A.

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21 Q.

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24 A.

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1 Q.

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5 A.

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12 Q. Just before I leave the issue of Cardross Park, 'Janet',
13 when you think back about your two times there, you
14 know, how did you feel when you were there, did you feel
15 safe?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Why not?

18 A. The dormitory, the lady sitting there at night, talked
19 about mad stories, you know, like crazy, crazy stories,
20 and I felt I don't want to listen to you. Just to go
21 out and go to the toilet was like the big doors and, you
22 know, and the walls, and the people standing, just
23 weird. No, I didn't feel safe at all.

24 Q. And comparing that to the experience you had in the
25 children's homes, was it a lot different?

1 A. Oh, a lot different, yes, yes.

2 Q. And do you say that because it was more intimidating,
3 the building itself?

4 A. Yes, yes, and the staff, the members of staff.

5 Q. And when we are saying about the building, is that the
6 first building, the old building, or does that apply to
7 the second, the new?

8 A. No, Cardross Park. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
12 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

13 Q. And you mention there in your evidence, 'Janet', staff.
14 What was it about the staff at Cardross Park that you
15 recall?

16 A. I don't know. It is just, like, if you have ever seen
17 a Pink Floyd video, you know, people marching about with
18 no faces, I don't know. How can I remember people?
19 I can see the old lady, I can see the matron, I can see
20 this, I can see the wee boy, I can see one of the kids
21 doing great, lives in Thailand, he has a big business,
22 but these members of staff, some of them in the old
23 Cardross Park, I can't put a face to them, if you know
24 what I mean. It is just weird. It is like ... I don't
25 know.

1 Q. Now, 'Janet', you say that in relation to reporting
2 abuse, that you have told your own children about some
3 of what happened to you while you were in care, but
4 I think until you gave a statement you hadn't told
5 everything to anybody, is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is it four children that you have, of your own?

8 A. Four, yes.

9 Q. And you also have kinship of your grandchildren, is that
10 right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Is that two of them?

13 A. Two great grandchildren.

14 Q. Okay. And I think you tell us that you don't feel that
15 there was anybody in any of the places that you were in
16 that you felt you could have talked to about anything?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. And you comment, 'Janet', about your social
19 worker, that you didn't see him that often whilst you
20 were in care?

21 A. Well, I was unfortunate. All of the other children had
22 Lamborghinis, social workers with Lamborghinis, you name
23 it, the fastest cars. Mine had a bike, he was a bit
24 away, and he stayed a bit away, as well, and he never
25 drove, so I got the short straw, that one.

1 Q. And I think you comment, it is the same social worker
2 you had the whole time, is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And we can see that from your records, he was involved
5 right up until you left and got the flat in Glasgow
6 Road?

7 A. That's right, yes.

8 Q. Looking to your life after care, 'Janet', you tell us
9 that when you left Craigellachie you went to stay in the
10 flat that you were given. You got a job at an old
11 people's home, is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I think you say one of your sisters came to live
14 with you for a while?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. But you did experience some difficulties trying to cope
17 outside of care, is that right?

18 A. Yes, I did express that to them. There was a meeting,
19 I said to them they could have set up a room and cooking
20 in it, a washing machine, something, you know, day to
21 day living with your money to go and spend, like, you
22 know, in a shop, and get some (indistinct) that would
23 make a dinner to last you, whatever. They never did
24 anything like that. So it was quite hard. And then
25 everybody knows you have got a flat, so all the friends

1 from the community that you have made, they all come
2 round and then it just became, you know, drink and
3 party.

4 Q. Yes. So from what you are saying, 'Janet', do you feel
5 that when you left care you hadn't been taught, really,
6 life skills, basic life skills?

7 A. Yes, nothing at all.

8 Q. Okay, so how to look after a house, how to feed
9 yourself, how to go to the shops and buy anything?

10 A. Yes, because it was all done for you in the homes, you
11 know, your dinner was laid, your breakfast was there,
12 your supper, you never had to do anything. Being
13 a teenager, you are lazy, if it is on a plate you are
14 going to take it. There was no cooking, you know, come
15 and bake a cake or something, there was nothing like
16 that.

17 Q. And as you have said about the parties and things,
18 I think you had some issues with alcohol sometimes?

19 A. Yes, I did. I had a bad -- I think what happened was I,
20 what year was that -- that was when I was 18.

21 LADY SMITH: That would be 1983. 1983, when you were 18.

22 A. Aye, I think because there was nobody there to tell me
23 no. But it didn't last long, I got a job, you know, and
24 I was determined that the ones wanting to pull ... you
25 know, you go the other way, so I went the better road

1 than they ended up.

2 Q. And I think you tell us later in your statement,
3 'Janet', that you had your first child at 19, is that
4 right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you went to college, and because you had been
7 involved in the voluntary childcare before, you also
8 continued with that type of thing and you did a Physical
9 Development Award, is that right?

10 A. Yes, 25 years later.

11 Q. And I think until you had responsibility for your -- is
12 it great grandchildren, or grandchildren?

13 A. Yes, great grandchildren.

14 Q. Great grandchildren. That you were still involved in
15 being a part time assistant, and things like that, at
16 school, is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that something when you did it you enjoyed?

19 A. Oh, aye. I love children, because I can sit in here and
20 there could be a table, three of these tables together,
21 and because I am used to sitting with about 10, 15
22 children at a table, that's the way my house is now, if
23 you come up and see it this morning you would be like,
24 who's who? All of the grandchildren come and stay with
25 me constantly, I think it's because I have grown up in

1 such a noisy environment, I like that, I like it being
2 noisy, and kids being in, you know.

3 Q. And there were a lot of you, initially there was seven
4 of you, before you went into the children's home?

5 A. Aye, growing up, always been there.

6 Q. But I think from what you have said, 'Janet', that the
7 time you get to spend with your great grandchildren is
8 something that means a lot to you, is that right?

9 A. Something what?

10 Q. That means a lot to you?

11 A. Oh, yes, yes.

12 Q. You take a lot of joy from that?

13 A. Oh yes.

14 Q. And I think you say that they have really brought you
15 out of your shell when it comes to showing affection,
16 and things like that, because you struggled with that
17 when you came out of care?

18 A. That's true, definitely.

19 Q. And although you didn't stay together with the partner
20 that you had your four children with, I think you tell
21 us at the time of your statement that you have
22 a partner, is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what you tell us at paragraph 92, 'Janet', is since
25 you became a grandmother, and obviously now you have

1 great grandchildren, that you have been able to kiss and
2 cuddle your grandchildren more than you were ever able
3 to do with your own children?

4 A. Yes, yes. I think if you weren't shown love or
5 affection, how can you show it back? You know, it is
6 kind of ... you just have to nip it in the bud haven't
7 you, so it doesn't continue with the grandchildren, on
8 to the others, you have to ...

9 Q. Do you feel that's something you have been able to do
10 from your grandchildren coming along, you have been able
11 to show that affection?

12 A. Yes, a lot, yes.

13 Q. At the time you gave the statement, 'Janet', I think you
14 were still working, and you were talking about the fact,
15 this is at paragraph 96, that the school that you had
16 worked at for about 11 years, there were children who
17 weren't fitting in, or had nothing, and they were the
18 ones you were really looking out for, is that right?

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. Does that relate to your time in care?

21 A. Yes, it does, it does, definitely. It takes me back
22 from when we were growing up, you know. It was first
23 up, best dressed to get out for school, you know. If
24 there was holes in the tights, you know, the one who
25 would get them was [REDACTED] because she was the softest

1 one. Sorry.

2 I would say, like I was in charge of the cupboard,
3 and the staff knew, with the jumpers that were handed
4 in, some of them were brand new, the ties, and if the
5 wee kids' t-shirts were all dirty and torn, I would say
6 you left your shirt here last night. So I would go in,
7 and a jumper with holes, I would get them a brand new
8 one. But I was risking it, because the parents could
9 complain. But they never would, I never got
10 a complaint. But that's the way. I just felt sorry for
11 the ones that were in my shoes when I was younger, you
12 know.

13 Q. And in relation to hopes for the Inquiry, 'Janet', you
14 tell us, this is paragraph 103 in your statement, you
15 hope that by coming forward and telling what happened,
16 that nothing like what happened to you would happen
17 again?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. And you make the point that children in care are not
20 necessarily bad children, they didn't choose to be in
21 there?

22 A. Yes. True.

23 Q. And an interesting thing you say, 'Janet', at
24 paragraph 104 is you would like to see seminars or
25 conferences take place where people who are responsible

1 for the running of these places get to hear what people
2 like you have said so they can see it from your side,
3 and learn from the previous poor treatment of children?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Yes.

6 Now, 'Janet', that's all the questions I have to ask
7 you, but is there anything that you want to say that you
8 haven't had a chance to say?

9 A. No, not really, everything's fine.

10 MS FORBES: That's it from me, thank you very much.

11 A. Thank you.

12 LADY SMITH: 'Janet', I want to say thank you as well.

13 Thank you, as I have said already, for that written
14 statement that's rich in detail, and for being so
15 prepared to talk to us, as openly as you have done
16 today.

17 A. Aye, that's fine.

18 LADY SMITH: I really appreciate that.

19 A. Thanks.

20 LADY SMITH: You are now able to go, and hopefully enjoy the
21 rest of your day rather better than you have enjoyed the
22 first part.

23 A. Aye, thanks.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 I will rise now for the lunch break and we will sit

1 again at 2 clock.

2 (1.04 pm)

3 (The luncheon adjournment)

4 (2.00 pm)

5 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

6 MR SHELDON: My Lady, the next witness is another witness in
7 person. He is anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym
8 'Paul'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 'Paul' (affirmed)

11 LADY SMITH: 'Paul', do sit down and make yourself
12 comfortable.

13 'Paul', a couple of things before we begin. You
14 have found your statement; it is in that red folder.
15 First of all, I want to thank you for providing that.
16 It has been really helpful to have it in advance. I say
17 that knowing that it is now some years since you
18 provided your written statement to us. You have been
19 very patient in waiting to get to this stage. It
20 doesn't mean that we give your statement any less value
21 than other evidence that we have had at hearings
22 already; it is just all to do with the way we organise
23 the scheduling, so that we try to bring cases that have
24 a relationship with each other together at the same
25 time.

1 A. Right.

2 LADY SMITH: It has not been until now that we have been
3 able to get to the stage we are at in this phase, which
4 is a long phase, we started it in September and it will
5 take a while yet. So I am really glad to be able to
6 welcome you today, but I start with my apologies for you
7 having had to wait.

8 Separately from that, 'Paul', I do understand that
9 what you have agreed to do today is difficult. You have
10 agreed to come into public and talk about things that
11 are very private to you that happened to you a long time
12 ago, and things that, as you described them in your
13 written statement, were very distressing at the time and
14 may well trip you up emotionally as you try to talk
15 about them to us -- we are strangers, I get that -- and
16 that's not easy.

17 But I hope it helps you to know I do understand
18 that. If there is anything we can do, I can do, to help
19 you give your evidence more comfortably, you mustn't
20 hesitate to speak up, whether it is as simple as
21 a break, a pause where you are sitting, or something
22 else that I haven't thought of, just tell me.

23 A. Right.

24 LADY SMITH: As far as planning of the way things will go is
25 concerned, if we are still taking evidence from you at

1 3 o'clock, I would normally have a brief break at that
2 point anyway. So, if you are looking for some
3 forthcoming respite and you think we still have a little
4 way to go, at that point in the clock we will let you
5 off for a short bit. But, otherwise, I hope that it is
6 much less stressful than you think it is going to be.
7 We will do our best to make it like that for you; all
8 right?

9 A. Cheers, thanks.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Mr Sheldon.

12 Questions by Mr Sheldon

13 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

14 'Paul', I think you have your statement in front of
15 you just there. You don't need to worry about this
16 but, just for our records, the reference for the
17 statement is WIT.001.001.5973. 'Paul' I don't need your
18 date of birth, but I think you were born in 1973; is
19 that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now, if I could just ask you to turn to the last page in
22 your statement, it is page 20 -- sorry, these are all
23 our housekeeping jobs that we need to do.

24 So it is page 20. I think we see at paragraph 100
25 you say:

1 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
3 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
4 true.'

5 Is that correct, 'Paul'?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And is that your signature?

8 A. It is, yes.

9 Q. All right. Thank you.

10 Well, you can turn back to the start of the
11 statement again. On the first page, you tell us
12 something about your young life. You grew up in
13 Clydebank. You had three siblings. And your mum and
14 dad brought you up together during that time; is that
15 right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say, at paragraph 4:

18 'The only reason I can think of for being put into
19 care was because I was not attending school.'

20 I will ask you a bit about that in a moment or two.

21 But, over the page, you note that your mum was
22 a very loving person; that your father was a hard
23 worker. You say, at paragraph 6, your real problems
24 started when you were at the local primary and you got
25 knocked down. There was a road accident; what happened,

1 'Paul'? And what effect did that have on you?

2 A. Um, I had a head injury. I was off school. I wanted to
3 go back and, when I went back -- and what I was led to
4 believe, I don't know if it was my Ma or the school,
5 they said they thought I had gone back too early, just
6 because it was a head injury, so I had more time off.
7 And then I think my Ma didn't really encourage me to go
8 back --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- if you know what I mean. She got used to having us
11 in the house.

12 Q. Right. And you say that when you did go back, I think,
13 that you were put into a different class?

14 A. Um, there were times where if there were day trips and
15 things like that, then I was getting put in with the,
16 like, lower class. And I felt as if I was being
17 punished because I had been off. And I didn't like
18 that. So I wouldn't say that was the beginning of me
19 constantly playing truant, but there were days when
20 I wouldn't go.

21 Q. Okay. Did that become a regular thing?

22 A. Aye. I met an older guy, I think he might have actually
23 already been at high school, or Primary 7 or whatever,
24 and he asked me if I wanted to play truant, and I am
25 like, 'Aye, all right then'. And it sort of just grew

1 from there.

2 Q. I think you say that your sister also was missing school
3 at this time?

4 A. Aye. She had a bit of an accident as well and she
5 wasn't at school, and I think it was more or less the
6 same. My Ma was used to us being in the house and
7 didn't encourage us to go. And then I think it was just
8 a case of they've just tagged her as the same as me.
9 And -- but when she had her accident, she was only off
10 school, as far as I remember, for the time it took for
11 her to get better. It wasn't like she was off all the
12 time, like me.

13 Q. But you felt your mum wanted to keep her back and
14 perhaps you as well?

15 A. Aye, I think my Ma just got used to us being there. She
16 had no company and she struggled a bit and ...

17 Aye, she didn't really force us out the door, if you
18 know what I mean, to go to school.

19 Q. Sure.

20 You tell us -- and this is paragraph 8 -- that you
21 were sent to secondary school and, again, you were
22 playing truant; was it at that stage that the social
23 services became involved, that you started having social
24 work involvement?

25 A. Um, there might have been social work involved when

1 I was in primary school. I can't really remember. But
2 definitely when I was in high school, aye.

3 Q. Okay. And you tell us that at some point you had to go
4 to a Children's Panel?

5 A. Aye, I went to quite a few.

6 Q. You tell us it was quite daunting. And this may be
7 a silly question, 'Paul', but: what was daunting about
8 it?

9 A. Just that many people -- that people there sitting, that
10 can determine whether you are going to be living with
11 your Ma and Da or not. I didn't really understand.

12 Q. Do you remember them speaking to you? Did they talk to
13 you about what was going to happen?

14 A. It was more or less either my Da or Ma, but I think she
15 only attended one, maybe, or two. It was mainly my Da
16 that was speaking or whatever, or the social worker.

17 Q. Okay. Did you get an understanding of what was
18 happening and what was going to happen?

19 A. I knew eventually something would happen, but I just --
20 you just never think anybody's going to take you away
21 from your Ma and Da, I suppose.

22 Q. You talk about your social worker in paragraph 9, and
23 again you say that she was speaking mainly to your
24 parents and not to you; is that right?

25 A. Aye, that's the way it seemed, aye. It was mainly my

1 Ma, because my Da would be at work.

2 Q. And over the page, at paragraph 10, you tell us about
3 the occasion that you had to go into care, and that you
4 were playing football, that your brother came out and
5 told you that someone wanted to see you, and the social
6 work van was there, the social workers were there, and
7 that you had to go with them. So was that really the
8 first you knew about having to go with the social
9 workers?

10 A. Aye. Whether my Ma or Da knew, I don't know. But
11 I wasn't aware that they were coming to take me away,
12 no.

13 Q. Okay. And you tell us that it was agreed that you would
14 go the next day to Cardross Assessment Centre with the
15 social worker; did you know then anything about Cardross
16 Assessment Centre?

17 A. No, never heard of it, didn't know anything about it
18 really at all, no.

19 Q. Did anybody tell you what sort of place it was?

20 A. No. And even if they did, I probably wouldn't have
21 understood, really.

22 Q. So you didn't know what would expect when you got there?

23 A. No.

24 LADY SMITH: You would be what, about 11 years old at that
25 time? 12?

1 A. I think I was 12.

2 LADY SMITH: 12.

3 A. The social worker -- I think it was the Friday, she took
4 me and my Ma and my sister down for a pre-visit. We got
5 shown around and things like that. And then she just
6 disappeared and left us down there. And my Ma was
7 severely agoraphobic and didn't have a clue where she
8 was or nothing. We had to make our own way home, which
9 wasn't very nice, no.

10 Q. Yes, I think you tell us that I think your mum may have
11 got lost and you ended up on the wrong train?

12 A. Aye, instead of getting off at, like, Clydebank, or
13 Dalmuir, or whatever, we ended up in Highland because we
14 didn't have a clue.

15 Q. You tell us, paragraph 14, that you did have a look
16 around Cardross Assessment Centre, but you don't
17 remember meeting any of the other children; what were
18 your impressions of Cardross when you first got there,
19 when you did have a look around?

20 A. It probably was different compared to what it was
21 actually like being in it. As soon as you got there,
22 there is a big dinner hall and things like that, and
23 I saw the pool table and ...

24 Q. Was it a modern building or an old fashioned one?

25 A. Cardross was more modern, like the actual Assessment

1 Centre, but the school, to the right, was like an old
2 building.

3 Q. Okay. So there were two parts to it?

4 A. Aye. I think the old building was used for a school.
5 Because as strange as it is, I think it used to be
6 an adoption centre or a foster centre, or whatever, and
7 that's where my oldest brother was adopted through.

8 Q. Okay. You say you went upstairs and there were
9 different sections, and that you were to go to the
10 Lomond section; what do you mean by the 'sections' in
11 the centre?

12 A. There was four different blocks: Lomond; Fruin, Carman
13 and Endrick. And I didn't get to pick; I was just
14 told: you will be in Lomond Unit.

15 Q. Would that have been to do with your age? Were the
16 children in your wing around about the same age or was
17 it a mixture?

18 A. I think there was always a mixture, anyway. Because
19 when I was in Lomond I was probably the youngest one in
20 it, so everybody else was older than me.

21 Q. Right. And all boys or were there girls, too?

22 A. A mixture.

23 Q. In your wing or around the whole centre?

24 A. Aye, in the same dorm, in the same unit.

25 Q. Okay.

1 So you get shown around and you were able to go home
2 after that first visit; is that right? But told you had
3 to come back?

4 A. Aye, I think it was either that Friday or the following
5 Monday that I had to actually go in.

6 Q. How did you feel during that few days?

7 A. Fear. Worry. Upset. Everything, really. You still
8 didn't think it was going to happen.

9 Q. Well, you say that -- and this is paragraph 18 -- the
10 social worker did come to pick you up. This is you and
11 your sister at this time, or just you?

12 A. The two of us would have probably went together, as far
13 as I am remembering, aye.

14 Q. Okay. And she, your sister, was in Cardross at the same
15 time as you?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. You then go on to talk about your time at Cardross. You
18 say that when you arrived, it was very quiet. This is
19 paragraph 19, sorry. And you were shown your room. So
20 do we understand that you had a room on your own? It
21 was a single room?

22 A. Aye, single room. Everybody had a single room.

23 Q. Okay. What was the room like? How was it furnished and
24 so on?

25 A. It was very small. In the room all you had was a single

1 bed and a wee tiny bedside cabinet and a chair, and that
2 was it.

3 Q. Okay. Was there anywhere to store clothes, a wardrobe
4 or a chest of drawers or anything?

5 A. I don't recall seeing any wardrobes in the rooms, no.

6 Q. Okay. Did you have your own clothes or did you have
7 clothes given to you?

8 A. I had my own clothes when I went in and then a lot of
9 the other stuff, like when you needed new things and
10 that, it was more or less issued by them.

11 Q. Okay. Was there a uniform of any sort or were there
12 just all sorts of different types of clothing?

13 A. Just, you wore whatever you wanted.

14 Q. You go on to talk about what was there, in Cardross.
15 You say there was a pool table, but with no cues or
16 balls?

17 A. Aye. Usually, if you went down for a game of pool, you
18 could go down and you might find four or five of the
19 balls are missing. And the next time you would go down
20 and all the balls would be there, but there would be no
21 cues and that, and you just couldn't play.

22 Q. Okay, and the same problem, really, with the gym; there
23 was nothing to play with?

24 A. Aye, there was a gym hall and you always wanted to go
25 down and play a game of football or whatever. And

1 sometimes they would have a badminton net, but then you
2 wouldn't have a shuttlecock or there would be a bat
3 missing, so you couldn't -- do you know what I mean,
4 there was nobody to play with or -- do you know what
5 I mean?

6 Q. So, in practical terms, you couldn't do anything?

7 A. Aye, it was quite poor, aye.

8 Q. Over the page, page 5, you have told us already about
9 the four wings in the home, the four sections. And you
10 think that if the home was full, then there would be
11 between 50 and 60 children. So somewhere between 10 and
12 15 children in each section; would that be right?

13 A. Aye. I'd probably say closer to 50, maybe, aye.

14 Q. I am just thinking about the individual sections now;
15 that there would be 10 or 15 in each section?

16 A. Oh, right, aye. I would say 10.

17 Q. Okay. Okay.

18 You say there were regular staff -- we will come in
19 a few minutes to some particular members of staff -- and
20 you have told us about the room that you had. Can you
21 tell us about the shower block? What was the shower
22 block like inside?

23 A. You went in and there was a sink, the urinals, then a
24 shower and an actual toilet.

25 Q. At this time; were there separate shower cubicles or was

1 it an open area with lots of showers there?

2 A. No, it was only like one shower.

3 Q. Okay. And that was a cubicle, was it?

4 A. Aye, with a curtain on it.

5 Q. Okay. So that was one shower for the whole block or the

6 whole wing?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Okay. You go on to talk about the routine at Cardross,

9 about getting up in the morning, getting breakfast, and

10 getting ready for school; should we understand that you

11 went out of the Centre to go to --

12 A. Aye, I continued at my normal school.

13 Q. Okay, this is the school you had been going to before?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. And you name the school. Get your lunch at school, then

16 come back and have dinner at Cardross.

17 What was the food like? Was it bad, good,

18 indifferent?

19 A. It wasn't the best, no. You would probably get --

20 I don't know, like maybe fish and chips or whatever, or

21 potatoes and mince or whatever. But it was, like,

22 repetitive. So you kind of got sick of looking at the

23 same stuff all the time.

24 Q. Like school dinners sort of food?

25 A. Aye, you didn't really -- but then they would say to

1 you, 'If you don't eat it you won't be getting anything,
2 because there is nothing else'.
3 Q. Okay.
4 A. So you kind of felt you had to eat it.
5 Q. Sure. There was no choice about what you got?
6 A. Aye, you might have had a choice of two things and you
7 obviously had to have one or the other.
8 Q. What happened if you left your food?
9 A. Well, you wouldn't get anything else.
10 Q. Okay, you would just go hungry?
11 A. More or less, until supper time.
12 Q. Okay. You talk about bedtime, going to bed and so on.
13 The night staff would come on duty. You say all the
14 room doors were shut; were they locked or were they
15 closed on you, as it were?
16 A. No, the two main doors at each end of the corridor,
17 I imagine they would be locked. The bedroom doors would
18 be opened, obviously in case you needed the toilet or
19 whatever. Aye, I can imagine the other two would be
20 locked.
21 Q. Okay, but you could get up if you needed to go to the
22 toilet --
23 A. Aye.
24 Q. -- and just go out of your room and down to the toilet
25 block?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Okay.

3 In the next paragraph, paragraph 28, you say there
4 was a TV room. There were hard chairs. But you say
5 there was very little to do; can you just explain that?
6 Can you tell us about that, please?

7 A. Well, you would go in, it was like kind of a big square
8 and it had, like, two kind of higher tables. And then
9 right around three of the sides there was, like, just
10 old kind of style chairs, like plastic.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. There would be a couple of old bust material chairs or
13 whatever. There was a TV above the fire place and that
14 was it.

15 Q. Okay. You say the only games you remember being played
16 was when one of the staff members produced a set of
17 dominoes; so were there no board games or anything like
18 that?

19 A. No, I don't recall ever playing anything.

20 Q. What about books?

21 A. Erm, there might have been two or three books on a wee
22 shelf or whatever, but there was never anything, if you
23 wanted -- like, I don't know, there was no library or
24 anything like that.

25 Q. Okay. You told us you were going out to school, to your

1 old school, in fact; did all of the children, all the
2 young people, go out to school or was there schooling in
3 Cardross Park?

4 A. No, I think most of them in my bit were always going to
5 normal school.

6 Q. Okay. I think you mentioned earlier that there was
7 a school wing or the old part of the Centre was --

8 A. Aye. That might have been for people that had been
9 expelled or whatever. I don't know.

10 Q. Okay. But you didn't have any dealings with that part
11 of it?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. Okay.

14 You tell us about your sister having some books and
15 you say that she would tie them onto a bit of cloth and
16 swing them out of her window?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. So you could get them. How did that work?

19 A. The two of us were in the next bedroom to each other.
20 There was bars on the windows, so you couldn't open them
21 and just lean out and hand them to each other.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. It was more or less tie the book onto a school tie or
24 whatever.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. And just swing it.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I mean, there wasn't much of a gap between the rooms.

4 Q. Sure.

5 A. You could catch it; do you know what I mean?

6 Q. Sure, you could just grab it.

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So that was about the only time you ever read anything,
10 like, book-wise or ...

11 Q. I mean, can I just ask you, then: in the evenings after
12 school and so on, or at weekends; what did everyone do?

13 A. Nothing, really. There wasn't a lot to do. I mean,
14 they had a minibus, but I don't think I ever went
15 anywhere in it, like. I never went on any day trips,
16 nothing.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I don't recall it, anyway.

19 Q. Do you recall whether anyone went on day trips?

20 A. Aye, I reckon my sister was on one. But whether that
21 was -- I had ran away or I wasn't allowed to go or
22 whatever, but I wasn't there.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Paul', you say in your statement, on this
24 matter of getting books to read, that you were only
25 supposed to read for about ten minutes; did somebody say

1 that to you?

2 A. Erm, I think you would go to your bed, say, 9.20, and
3 I think it was lights out at 9.30.

4 LADY SMITH: Oh, right. You are thinking about bedtime
5 reading; you wouldn't have very long to do that?

6 A. Aye, because if you had children with lights on or
7 whatever, then they are always doing night patrols, so
8 somebody would always come up.

9 LADY SMITH: But if you wanted to read at a different time
10 of the day and you had a book; were you allowed to?

11 A. I would say so, aye.

12 LADY SMITH: And there was no time limit on that?

13 A. No.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR SHELDON: 'Paul', you go on to talk about some of the
16 staff. You say the staff you had most dealings with
17 were your key worker, Mr Curran. Someone called
18 HWS [REDACTED] and someone called HWM [REDACTED], who had been
19 given the nickname 'HWM [REDACTED]', but you can't recall
20 his surname.

21 I am going to come back to ask you a bit more about
22 HWS [REDACTED] and HWM [REDACTED] a little bit later.

23 But, over the page, you have told us about the food.
24 You told us a little bit about clothing. And you tell
25 us, at paragraph 33, about getting pocket money. If you

1 feel you want to or you can; can you tell us about what
2 you would do with the pocket money that you got?

3 A. Um, there wasn't, like, a shop or anything, like, not
4 that I recall, anyway. But, when anybody got their
5 pocket money they just went to the petrol station.
6 Rather than buy sweeties I would just buy petrol and
7 just sniff petrol.

8 Q. Okay. I think you tell us you graduated on to sniffing
9 gas and glue; was that something that was quite common
10 at that time? Were other children doing that, too?

11 A. No, I (indistinct), no. And it was an older guy from
12 the scheme, he had asked me about glue, and I said,
13 'I have never done it before', and he says, 'Well,
14 I have got some', and it went from the petrol to glue to
15 the whole lot, really, so ...

16 LADY SMITH: So that's a guy from home, where you lived at
17 home?

18 A. Aye, where I lived, aye.

19 Q. You said the staff at Cardross must have known what was
20 going on; why do you say that, 'Paul'?

21 A. I don't know. I mean, I would never -- I don't know.
22 They must have been able to have smelt something.
23 I don't know how they never.

24 LADY SMITH: Well, they would have surely seen you were
25 high, didn't they?

1 A. They must have saw something, because there was a few
2 times I wouldn't go back looking like the other ones who
3 had went to the petrol station, so ...

4 Q. And none of the staff ever said to you either, 'What are
5 you doing?' or 'This is not a good idea'?

6 A. No, because when I was younger I did look a bit older
7 than I was. When I would go into the petrol station
8 I was never asked any questions. What I would do is,
9 I would get my petrol. There was, like, a lane that
10 took you up the back of the old school adoption centre,
11 foster, whatever it was then, and then that led you back
12 into the Assessment Centre. So I would just walk up and
13 I would be buzzing the petrol with my bag, for, say, ten
14 minutes and then I would hide the can or whatever it was
15 in. And then I would just go back to it the next time
16 I was -- I had a wee while to -- do you know what
17 I mean?

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. It wasn't like I would be sitting there sniffing it for
20 an hour, because you only got a certain amount of time
21 to go to the petrol station.

22 Q. Sure.

23 LADY SMITH: Have you any idea, 'Paul', whether at the time
24 the Children's Hearing was made, and the Panel were
25 making their decisions about you, they had wind of you

1 having this habit? Is it possible? No?

2 A. No.

3 LADY SMITH: And your parents didn't know?

4 A. No.

5 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

6 MR SHELDON: You tell us that you were back at your high

7 school in Clydebank. You say there was a problem with

8 one of the teachers and that he took exception to

9 something that you were wearing.

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. How did that come about?

12 A. Um, because everybody was just lining up outside their

13 class and I had, like, a wee black Harrington-type

14 jacket on, and it had, like, tartan, red tartan or

15 whatever, inside it.

16 Q. Is that like a sort of bomber jacket type thing?

17 A. Aye. But he referred to it as a leather jacket or

18 whatever it was.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And I am like that: but it isn't a leather jacket.

21 Or whatever he was trying to say it was. He told

22 everybody to go in the class and there was, like,

23 a strip of windows, let's say about that length at the

24 top of it, and the door, and you could hear -- everybody

25 in the class could hear there was an argument taking

1 place.

2 Q. This was with you and the teacher?

3 A. Aye, and he was calling me an F-ing spastic, and he spat
4 on me, and I think I hit him, pushed him. We got into
5 a scuffle.

6 Q. And what was the outcome of that?

7 A. I was suspended from school.

8 Q. Okay. Did you tell anyone what the reason for the
9 scuffle was?

10 A. Probably. But nobody would have believed you anyway,
11 but... It was my word against a teacher and I heard --
12 whether that's true or not -- that he had been kicked
13 out of a previous school for similar behaviour.

14 Q. Why did you think this teacher was behaving towards you
15 in that way?

16 A. I think he just singled me out because he probably knew
17 I was in a care home or ... different from one or two.

18 LADY SMITH: So at this time; were you going back to
19 Cardross at the end of the school day?

20 A. Every day, aye.

21 LADY SMITH: But still you were going to the high school in
22 Clydebank, I think you said, was it?

23 A. Aye.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

25 MR SHELDON: But you tell us, in paragraph 37, that although

1 you were going to school first thing, you ended up,
2 I think, being bullied and that you did report that.
3 Again, what was the bullying about? Did you get
4 an understanding of that?

5 A. I think a lot of it was to do with people who were just
6 trying to see -- I don't know -- what kind of -- I don't
7 know. Because you are in a care home and they probably
8 think people in care homes must think they are wee hard
9 men. So it was pretty much to do with that, I would
10 imagine.

11 Q. Did you think of yourself as a wee hard man?

12 A. No.

13 Q. All you knew is you were being picked on, perhaps
14 because of where you were living?

15 A. Aye. And some of them -- I didn't know their names and
16 things like that -- one of the teachers had said they
17 would gather people up in assembly and I was to pick the
18 ones who -- do you know what I mean? There was no
19 chance that's happening.

20 Q. Do we understand that this was going to be in front of
21 everyone?

22 A. More or less, aye.

23 Q. And you make the point quite fairly, I think, that there
24 was no way could you have done that in front of all the
25 other boys?

1 A. No, I wouldn't have. I don't mean they were going to
2 get the whole school and things like that. It was just
3 certain ones; do you know what I mean?

4 Q. So you didn't report this to the staff at Cardross; why
5 was that?

6 A. I don't think much difference would have been made.
7 I would still have had to have went to school. I would
8 still have had to face them eventually, so ...

9 Q. You do recall that there was a meeting between
10 **HWS** from the Cardross staff and the --

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. -- the headmaster at your school?

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. Do you recall any of the -- do you recall what that was
15 about? Did anyone tell you what that was about?

16 A. I think it was about my behaviour. And non-attendance.

17 Q. Might it have been about a complaint that you had made
18 about the teacher who you had had the altercation with?

19 A. I don't know. I can't recall. I don't know.

20 Q. Okay.

21 You say that after that meeting -- and I should have
22 asked you: were you at that meeting?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. Or was it just **HWS** and the headmaster?

25 A. No, I think the three of us would have been there.

1 Q. Okay. But you don't remember any of what was said at
2 the meeting?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. Was it a long meeting? Was it short?

5 A. I don't think it would have lasted much longer than
6 an hour, maybe. I don't know.

7 Q. Okay. Did anyone, either the headmaster or
8 HWS, ask you questions, ask you about what
9 was going on with you?

10 A. I can imagine they must have done. But whether I would
11 tell them or not, I don't know. I can't remember.

12 Q. Okay. You talk about an incident after the meeting
13 where HWS said he wanted to change and that
14 you went back to his house, but that nothing
15 inappropriate happened at that time; is that right?

16 A. Well, it was quite warm that day. And he lived just
17 outside the train station, so, in his mind: I will jump
18 in the house and get changed or whatever.

19 He goes into the house and he told me to sit down on
20 his couch, and I sat down on his couch. I think it was
21 a pair of jeans he had on, and he came out of his room
22 and took his jeans off in front of me and then he went
23 back into his room and then came back out with a pair of
24 shorts on or different style of trousers, or whatever.

25 Q. Sure. But there was nothing about that that made you

1 uncomfortable, or was there?

2 A. Aye, because it shouldn't have happened. I shouldn't

3 have been going back to his house, whether something

4 happened or not isn't the issue; he shouldn't have done

5 that.

6 Q. Was there anybody else at the house at the time?

7 A. No.

8 Q. This is page 9 of your statement, you talk about school.

9 You say you are still playing truant a bit. And there

10 was a review every three weeks?

11 A. There was a review, aye. But I am not sure it was every

12 three weeks.

13 Q. Okay. And you tell us, at paragraph 43, that your

14 attendance record at school wasn't good?

15 A. No.

16 Q. The teachers just saw you as a naughty guy. But, when

17 you got to the end of your schooling, you realised that

18 you had had, really, no education and you asked to go

19 back to school to learn; did you in fact go back to

20 school?

21 A. No, the exact words spoke to me were: what do you mean

22 come back? You were never here in the first place.

23 Q. So can we take it that you weren't allowed to come back?

24 A. Well, when he said that, that's what I was believing.

25 Q. Okay. How old would you have been at that point?

1 A. 15, I think, because I think I left ... 15, probably.

2 Q. Okay. Yes, you say at that time you weren't at
3 Cardross, but were living at another home, called
4 Ramsay House?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. You say you ran away from Cardross at every opportunity,
7 but the police would come to get you; did that happen
8 often?

9 A. Aye, quite a lot.

10 Q. Okay. But no one ever spoke to you about why you were
11 running away?

12 A. I was never asked really, no.

13 Q. Okay. Why were you running away?

14 A. Because I hated it and the things that were happening.
15 I just didn't like it. It was the last place I wanted
16 to be.

17 Q. Well, I will ask you a bit more about that in a moment
18 or two.

19 You do talk about some visits -- this is page 10 --
20 from your father and your uncle. You say there were
21 a few times when your father called to see you, but they
22 wouldn't let him in?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. Do you understand why not?

25 A. As far as we were led to believe, he would have had to

1 have phoned up and arranged to come down or whatever.

2 Q. Right. They wouldn't allow people to just turn up

3 unannounced?

4 A. Well, they didn't let him in.

5 Q. Okay. Were you aware of other children getting visits

6 that were unexpected or unannounced?

7 A. I don't really recall anything like that.

8 Q. But you were able to see your mum at lunchtimes; is that

9 when you were at school or, indeed, playing truant from

10 school?

11 A. Aye. I would go home at lunchtime to see my Ma.

12 Q. You say you don't remember any assessment being made of

13 you when you were at Cardross, and of course Cardross

14 was meant to be an Assessment Centre. So was there

15 never any interview process or psychological assessment,

16 anything like that?

17 A. I think I remember going to somewhere in Clydebank,

18 I don't know if it was a child psychologist, or

19 something, but I don't know if that was before I was in

20 Cardross or while I was in it, or whatever.

21 Q. Okay, was that just on one occasion or several?

22 A. Just the once, aye.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. When you done your review in Cardross, it would just be

25 like: what's happened in the previous three weeks?

1 And then they would go: Right, well, she was
2 behaving. She was at school. She can go home an extra
3 night. He wasn't. He wasn't at school, so he's not
4 going anywhere.

5 That's basically how it worked.

6 Q. You go on then to talk about abuse at Cardross. You say
7 there was one member of staff in particular who would
8 hang about the shower area when you came out of the
9 shower. This member of staff would point out you hadn't
10 washed your ankles and he would go back into the shower
11 room with you and make sure you washed to his
12 satisfaction.

13 Now, you told us a bit about the showers earlier on,
14 so was he coming into the cubicle with you to get you to
15 wash your ankles?

16 A. No, he is standing right outside it, watching you.

17 Q. He was watching you?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. Why do you think he was concerned about your ankles?

20 A. I think that was just an excuse.

21 Q. An excuse for what?

22 A. So he could watch you in the shower.

23 Q. Mm-hm. I suppose if you were washing your ankles; would
24 you have to bend down to do that?

25 A. Probably, aye.

1 Q. Was there anything in the shower cubicle that you could
2 put your foot on to raise the level of your ankles? Was
3 there a stool or anything like that?

4 A. Not that I recall, no.

5 Q. You say you remember your sister saying he had
6 a reputation for being a 'perv'; did she say anything
7 else about that? Did she explain why he had that
8 reputation?

9 A. I think it is just what other ones that had ... either,
10 I don't know, heard things through the grapevine, maybe,
11 or something had happened to somebody that somebody
12 knew. I don't know. But that was ... I'd never exactly
13 heard that he had done something, for like -- from
14 someone, so ...

15 Q. You say his nickname was HWM ; was that
16 a nickname that all the children used, all the young
17 people? Was it something you heard regularly, anyway.

18 A. Once I had heard that's what people were calling him,
19 I suppose that's what he was known as.

20 Q. Okay. You say you think his name was HWM ?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. What sort of age was HWM ? Do you remember?

23 A. I would say he would have been in his late 30s, maybe.
24 Something like that.

25 Q. What sort of hair did he have? Do you remember what

1 hair colour he had?

2 A. Aye, it was kind of brown, short, kind of cropped in.

3 Q. Okay. Can you remember what his second name was?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Might it have been HWM ?

6 A. I wouldn't have a clue.

7 Q. All right. I think you certainly made a complaint at

8 one point about a HWM, about something that

9 he had done; do you recall that?

10 A. Um, a complaint to the staff or what? I don't know.

11 Q. To your social worker.

12 A. Oh, I don't know. I can't remember.

13 Q. Okay. Well, we will come back to that, perhaps, because

14 you talk about an occasion when HWM told you that you

15 hadn't washed properly. This is paragraph 52. And you

16 say that one of the other boys was sent in with you,

17 when you went back into the shower, and you think that

18 he had been sent by the staff 'to give me a doing'.

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Why do you think they did that? Why do you think they

21 would have done that?

22 A. I think to send the guy in to beat me up, to try ...

23 I don't know.

24 Just because he could, to make a man of me or

25 whatever. I don't know.

1 Q. Anyway, you say it backfired because you managed to get
2 the boy down. So do we take it from that the boy did
3 actually attack you? I think you say to ensure he
4 didn't attack you again?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. Did he attack on you that occasion?

7 A. He did, aye.

8 Q. Did he say why he was doing that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. You say, at paragraph 54, that the staff
11 definitely had a problem with you, as you wouldn't do
12 what you were told. You spent a lot of time in your
13 room crying.

14 Then, at paragraph 55, you say that they used to
15 take you into your room and give you a bit of a hiding;
16 could you just tell us about that, please, in your own
17 way, in your own words?

18 A. Some of the times it was mainly just verbal, like: your
19 Ma and Da didn't make a good job of looking after you,
20 so it was F-ing up to them.

21 We were to just imagine they were dead, they didn't
22 exist. They were your new Ma and Da, things like that.

23 There would be times when you would get pushed
24 against one of the doors or a wall or something. And
25 the other time was probably, I would say, the worst

1 time.

2 Q. What happened then?

3 A. I had already been in my room and I was already
4 greeting. The two of them came in. I was on my bed.
5 I think at first I was under the cover and HWS came
6 up --

7 Q. This is HWS, is it?

8 A. Aye. He got on top of the bed and he grabbed a pillow,
9 and he was pressing into me, like ... the pillow would
10 go over your face and things like that, and then it
11 would be pressed in to your neck, and he was just doing
12 each motion and there would be times when he would be
13 punching it. And he took off his watch, and it was
14 a silver, old style, the big, thick buckle, and he would
15 just be punching into it.

16 Q. So you could feel him punching the pillow. The pillow
17 was on your face and he was punching the pillow; is that
18 right?

19 A. Punching the pillow. (Overspeaking) and the other hand
20 to my neck and he was just punching into it.

21 Q. So do we understand he was using the watch strap as
22 a kind of knuckleduster?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. How long did that go on for?

25 A. I have not got a clue. But there were different motions

1 of where the pillow was and what he was doing. It was
2 getting pressed into my neck, pressed down on my mouth,
3 just held over my face and he was punching it. So
4 I don't know how long it went on.

5 Q. Okay. You mention in that paragraph of your statement
6 that [HWM] was there as well; this is the same [HWM]
7 you were talking about before, is it?

8 A. (Nods).

9 Q. What was [HWM] doing?

10 A. He was standing at the inside of the door.

11 Q. At the inside of the door? So could he see what was
12 going on?

13 A. Aye, he was watching it.

14 LADY SMITH: Was the door open?

15 A. No.

16 LADY SMITH: So how could he see?

17 A. He was in the room.

18 LADY SMITH: Oh, he was in the room. Thank you.

19 A. Aye.

20 MR SHELTON: And you say, at paragraph 56:
21 'The first time the staff set about me ...'.
22 So, first of all, did this happen on more than one
23 occasion?

24 A. Not as severe as that, no.

25 Q. Sorry?

1 A. Not as severe as -- him like that, no. But there was
2 the threat of it and things like that. He would put his
3 hand up, or pushed into the wall or something, but there
4 wasn't -- that didn't happen again.

5 Q. Okay, so that was the only incident that happened like
6 that?

7 A. Aye.

8 Q. But there were other violent incidents that you have
9 described?

10 A. Aye, but much -- on a less scale.

11 Q. You say, at paragraph 56, that your sister actually came
12 into the room the first time this happened, because she
13 could hear something was going on; what happened then?

14 A. He took the pillow off and he sort of stopped what he
15 was doing. I don't know what one it was, but they said
16 to my sister if she F-ing, like, said anything, then she
17 would get the same. More or less the same thing, aye.
18 She would get the same.

19 Q. And did they in fact do anything to your sister or --

20 A. No, she wasn't having anything like that, no.

21 Q. Okay. Certainly you say in paragraph 59 that they
22 ripped up your sister's books?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. Was this after this incident? Was it in response to
25 this incident?

1 A. I can't remember. But my sister had the books and my
2 uncle had gave me the football memorabilia, quite a lot
3 of it, and some of it was signed. So, to me, that was
4 like a big thing; do you know what I mean?

5 There was, like, a picture board, I would say it was
6 half the size of this table, and it was screwed on to
7 the wall. And that was supposed to be the only part you
8 could put, like, pictures, or things like that. Because
9 I had quite a lot of stuff, I had put some stuff, like,
10 beside it, on the actual wall. Then one of the days --
11 I take it we were coming back from school or whatever,
12 everything was all torn to shreds, my sister's books and
13 the stuff that my uncle had gave me.

14 Q. So did you see this happening?

15 A. No.

16 Q. All you know is you came back to your room and this had
17 happened?

18 A. Aye.

19 Q. What makes you think it was members of staff that did
20 it?

21 A. Well, I don't imagine there would have been anybody
22 about during the day, apart from the staff, if
23 everybody's at school.

24 Q. Okay. You also talk about a time that HWM gave you
25 5,000 lines?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. This was about trespassing.

3 What happened on that occasion?

4 A. Um, because me and my sister, I think, were supposed to
5 go home. It was either for a night or the weekend, or
6 whatever it was. And back in them days, I think there
7 was only one an hour or whatever it was, the train
8 times. And they would ask you -- it wasn't like you
9 knew you were going to be going home, and of course you
10 are going to say aye, aren't you?

11 There was a field, like, where I used to go and do
12 the petrol sniffing and then you had the entrance to
13 come in. In the middle of the two of them there is
14 a field and we used to run through the field or
15 whatever, and that would get you to the train station
16 quicker. So you would cut through the field thinking
17 you were going to get to the station quicker and he had
18 made a point of saying, 'Do you want to go home?', and
19 we were like that, 'Aye'. So we are running through the
20 field and he shouts us back. And you go back and he
21 tells you that you have to do all the lines because you
22 are trespassing through the field.

23 Q. And by the time you had done the lines you had missed
24 the train; is that right?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Okay. My Lady, I probably have ten minutes --

2 LADY SMITH: I think --

3 MR SHELDON: -- to go.

4 LADY SMITH: I did promise 'Paul' a break at this time.

5 A. I am actually all right.

6 LADY SMITH: Ten minutes. If you are okay to keep going for

7 ten minutes, we will do that. If you change your mind,

8 just say.

9 A. Aye.

10 LADY SMITH: Very well. Mr Sheldon.

11 MR SHELDON: Page 13 of your statement, you talk about

12 reporting. You think you would have told your mum and

13 dad about the beating that you took, but don't think you

14 reported it to anyone else?

15 A. Um, I don't I think did, no.

16 Q. I think I can tell you there is a record of a report

17 that you made to the Social Work Department about

18 a possible assault by someone called HWS and

19 HWM; do you remember making that report?

20 A. (Shakes head).

21 Q. Okay. It is not clear, I should say, from the record,

22 what happened about that, but the report's there.

23 Then you talk, in the next paragraph, about

24 reporting to the police. And you say you didn't do

25 anything formal at that time, so there was no formal

1 complaint to the police; is that right?

2 A. I don't know. I don't remember complaining about it.

3 Whether I did or not, I mean, I don't know.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I don't think I said that in my statement, did I? I am

6 not sure.

7 Q. The time came for you to leave Cardross. You had been

8 there about a year; would that be right?

9 LADY SMITH: Just going back to this matter of reporting,

10 I don't know if you were following what Mr Sheldon was

11 explaining. It is not just what you say in your

12 statement about thinking you told the social worker; we

13 have found in the records that there was a report to the

14 Social Work Department.

15 A. Right.

16 LADY SMITH: From 'Paul'.

17 A. I wasn't aware about that, no.

18 MR SHELDON: Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: It is there and it is recorded at that time

20 that you told them.

21 A. Right.

22 LADY SMITH: Maybe that's reassuring for you?

23 A. Aye, you see, I was never aware of it. I mean, I don't

24 even remember telling my social worker, never mind

25 anything else.

1 LADY SMITH: No, I can well understand that. But it does
2 look as though it was written down. Now, whether
3 anything was done about it is another matter, but it was
4 written down at the time.

5 MR SHELDON: Well, thank you, my Lady. And I should have
6 spelled that out, 'Paul', but just, you know, to assure
7 you, it is evidence available to us and we can consider
8 that, so ... anyway.

9 Thinking then about leaving Cardross, you were then
10 placed at, I think, a children's home called
11 Ramsay House. I am not going to go into any detail
12 about that, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14 A.

15 Q.

16 A.

17 Q. You then talk, at page 15, about life after care and you
18 tell us about some of the jobs that you had. You
19 drifted from job to job, in your words, and you started
20 drinking quite a lot of alcohol.

21 Can you just tell us, please, about that period and
22 how you were feeling at that time in the wake of your
23 time in care?

24 A. Well, I was in the second one, it was about leaving
25 time, they were going to support me to get a house and

1 they asked me about how I felt about being independent.
2 And I am like, 'What do you mean?' And they were like
3 'Well, we will help you with a house and things like
4 that'. And I am like, 'Independent?' I said, 'Aye,
5 that will be right, I am going back home to my Ma and
6 Da'. That was the only thing I wanted to do. But
7 I went back to my Ma and Da and I more or less just
8 started rebelling against quite a lot of things.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Getting myself into trouble.

11 Q. You certainly say later in your statement, 'Paul', that
12 really at this phase of your life you were really being
13 self-destructive?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. Does that sound right?

16 A. Aye.

17 Q. But you tell us that although now you are not married,
18 you do have a partner, you have two children, and you do
19 some volunteering and mentoring. So is your life on
20 a bit more of an even keel now, would you say?

21 A. Um, I do have my struggles. But, aye, I'm a lot more
22 settled than I was even in 2010.

23 Q. Yes, you tell us that your son tragically died as well,
24 and that of course couldn't have helped your frame of
25 mind at all.

1 A. No. No.

2 Q. You tell us, as well -- this is paragraph 87, 'Paul' --
3 that you still have a feeling of dread when you go
4 anywhere near **Secondary Institutions** - Cardross, and you have been
5 diagnosed with depression and anxiety disorder; how is
6 that? Are you getting treatment for that?

7 A. I have had treatment on and off over the years. I am
8 currently seeing a psychologist. About three weeks ago
9 she diagnosed me with PTSD.

10 Q. Okay. Is that going to be part of a programme of
11 treatment? Are you going to see her again?

12 A. Aye, I have been seeing her every two weeks since April
13 or something.

14 Q. Okay. Is this through the organisation Open Secret or
15 is this a separate thing?

16 A. Um, no, I think I just -- I can't remember.

17 Q. All right. Perhaps through your GP?

18 A. Aye, because I had went a couple of years ago, but it
19 was like CBT treatment I was doing. But he recommended
20 the psychology, and it took quite a few months before
21 I actually got --

22 Q. Yes, there is often a long waiting period --

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. -- for these forms of treatment, unfortunately.

25 Page 19 of your statement, you say something about

1 lessons to be learned. We are very interested to know
2 what lessons you feel we can take from your experiences
3 to try to improve things for the next generation and
4 generations of children coming through. So would you
5 tell us a little bit about that, please?

6 A. Um, just when I -- obviously, when I am in the care home
7 or whatever, there isn't anybody you can tell if things
8 aren't the way they should be or you feel you haven't
9 got anybody. Maybe there should be some sort of network
10 when people are in care. If ex-care people that have
11 been in the system, that can understand the issues
12 that -- do you know what I mean? There is something
13 there that can relate to it; do you know what I mean?

14 Q. Sure, somebody with experience of the system?

15 A. Aye.

16 Q. And of course it is particularly difficult to tell
17 anyone, 'Paul', if, in the care home, people are abusing
18 you there.

19 A. Aye. I don't -- there was another thing that happened
20 in the care home and that was recorded in the -- police,
21 as well. It was part of my statement. Because there
22 was nothing to do one night, the guy that beat me up or
23 tried, or thought he was -- I don't know if this was
24 before it or after it.

25 Q. This was the incident in the showers or the incident in

1 your bedroom?

2 A. No, see the incident I had in the shower? Right, that
3 guy -- I can't remember if this episode was before or
4 after, but there was an old barn that was next to
5 Cardross golf course and because there was nowhere to go
6 or anything, to me -- I don't know how this might sound,
7 right -- but he is like, 'Come on, we will go to this
8 barn'. So we went out to the barn and he didn't go in,
9 but I went in. And as soon as I opened the door there
10 was a guy sitting, like, on an oil drum and he was just
11 standing there, with a kind of Michael Caine-type jacket
12 on and then he just went like that, and he took it off,
13 and I am like that: woah!

14 I have obviously ran. And I said to the guy, 'There
15 is an F-ing, whatever', and the two of us ran up into
16 the Assessment Centre. And the police came out and that
17 must have been on a statement.

18 Q. So this, the man in the barn, he was wearing a -- you
19 described it as a Michael Caine-type jacket; do you mean
20 a trench coat, a long coat?

21 A. Aye, and he had nothing on underneath it and I had it in
22 my mind: did he lead me there?

23 I don't know.

24 Q. Okay. And this man in the barn, you motioned that he
25 opened the coat --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- so you could see that he had nothing on?

3 A. Aye.

4 Q. Did he do anything else?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did he say anything?

7 A. No.

8 Q. What was your fear at that point?

9 A. I don't know. Like, if he would have been able to have
10 caught me, he would have done something; do you know
11 what I mean?

12 Q. Sure. But in fact that didn't happen and you were able
13 to get away?

14 A. Aye, but it did enter my mind.

15 Q. And that scared you, did it?

16 A. Aye. Was I led in there? I don't know.

17 Q. I think you say in your statement, actually, in fairness
18 I should have taken you to it, you say you felt that you
19 had been set up.

20 A. That's the way it felt.

21 Q. And this is the same person that attacked you in the
22 showers?

23 A. Aye.

24 MR SHELDON: Okay. Well, 'Paul', thank you very much.
25 I have nothing else that I want to ask you. My Lady?

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. 'Paul', let me add my thanks.
2 Thanks to you for taking the trouble and effort to come
3 here today to explain things to us in a way that's
4 really helpful and I now have that in addition to your
5 written statement. Thank you.
6 A. Thank you.
7 LADY SMITH: I am now able to let you go and I hope you have
8 a safe and relaxing journey home.
9 A. Thank you.
10 LADY SMITH: We will take a short break, just now. But,
11 before I rise, I mentioned HWM's identity
12 this morning. He can't be identified outside this room.
13 Nor can HWS, who was mentioned this
14 afternoon. There was also -- I think it was in
15 'Joseph's' evidence briefly -- a mention of a boy called
16 KJA who was in residential care with him, and of
17 course, as a child in care, he also has the protection
18 of my General Restriction Order and can't be identified,
19 even if somebody thinks they know who KJA was. So we
20 will take a short break now and then a read-in?
21 MR SHELDON: Read-ins, my Lady, yes.
22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
23 (3.12 pm)
24 (A short break)
25 (3.21 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

2 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is
3 an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Thomas'.
4 The reference for his statement is WIT.001.002.6691.

5 'Thomas' (read)

6 MS FORBES: 'Thomas' was born in 1957 in Lennox Castle and
7 brought up in Kirkintilloch. He talks about his life
8 before going into care between paragraphs 2 and 8.
9 'Thomas' says it wasn't a happy childhood and his dad
10 was an alcoholic. He sometimes went without food. He
11 has two younger sisters and a younger brother and, later
12 on, he had stepbrothers.

13 When he was eight, his parents divorced and he and
14 his brother moved in with his maternal grandparents and
15 he stayed with them until he was twelve. His mum moved
16 somewhere else with another man and his sisters went
17 with her. It seems his dad's family cut his mother off
18 completely.

19 He went to primary school at St Flannan's and then
20 St Ninian's secondary, both in Kirkintilloch, but was
21 playing truant a lot and stealing. The decision was
22 made that he needed care and protection. One day, when
23 he was returning from primary school, two policemen drew
24 up in a car and took him to the Children's Panel.

25 He had already been to a couple of Children's Panels

1 by that time, and in those days he says it was 'three
2 strikes and you're out'. He was put on probation and he
3 had a probation officer who was his social worker based
4 in Kirkintilloch. He says he was stealing, but was
5 doing that to survive because he was hungry.

6 His grandad died and his gran was also dying, so he
7 was just left with an alcoholic father. He broke his
8 probation and he was told he was going to a Remand Home.
9 At this time he was about 13 years old. He says he was
10 sent to Bellfield for about three weeks and another
11 Panel sent him back for another three weeks until
12 a place became available at St Joseph's, Tranent. He
13 tells us about his time in Bellfield between paragraphs
14 10 and 28 of his statement.

15 I am going to read from paragraph 10.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS FORBES: 'I was taken to Bellfield by my probation
18 officer, David Hunter. It was a big mansion with
19 a recreation area that was about the size of a tennis
20 court and there were about thirty boys there. I don't
21 know who was responsible for the place, but about ten
22 male staff ran it and one name I recall is Mr AIA
23 and another is Mr GVZ, who I remember was
24 ex-military.

25 'Mr AIA ran the strip down electric shop that

1 was on site and was some sort of teacher. I liked him,
2 though that was mainly because you could get a cigarette
3 off him. We called all the staff 'Mister' while they
4 called us by our second names.

5 'We slept in dorms and there was about five of us in
6 each room. I hated being there because I just wanted to
7 be with my family.'

8 And then he mentions the name of a boy that he
9 recalls being there at the same time:

10 'I have no recollection of my first day at
11 Bellfield. The usual routine was that we got up at
12 about 7.30/8.00 am being woken by the night watchman.
13 We then got washed, dressed, and made our bed before
14 waiting to be shouted down for breakfast.

15 'There was no schooling, so after breakfast we would
16 go up to the park at the back of the mansion and play
17 football or do whatever you liked. We were always
18 supervised when we were doing this.

19 'The second time I was in Bellfield I was working in
20 the kitchen making food for the others, which is what
21 I would be doing while the others were out playing
22 football or whatever.

23 'If it was raining we were put into our dorms as
24 there was no playroom. In the evening we would do the
25 same things we had been doing in the morning, before

1 going to our beds at about 9.00 pm. There was no
2 talking allowed after lights out.

3 'At about 11.00 am we would help clean up the home,
4 the showers, the dorms, and the living room. There
5 weren't any other chores that we did. I worked in the
6 kitchen during my second time there and was the only boy
7 who did. It was considered a privilege as you could
8 more or less eat what you wanted.

9 'The food was all right, especially the potatoes,
10 pie and beans. I don't recall anybody not liking the
11 food and I don't know what would have happened to any of
12 the boys who either didn't like the food or didn't eat
13 it. If anything did happen, I doubt if it would have
14 been done in front of others.

15 'In the morning we washed in sinks. There were
16 showers which we got once a week. You would get your
17 shower by one dorm going at a time and this was
18 supervised by a member of staff who would be standing in
19 the general vicinity of the showers.

20 'We never went on any trips and I think the main
21 reason for that was that they probably didn't have
22 sufficient funds to finance such things.

23 'Mr Daniel Traynor, a teacher from St Ninian's in
24 secondary school in Kirkintilloch, visited me every week
25 and brought me sweets. He was a lovely man who has

1 since died. He was the only person who ever visited me.
2 I don't think anybody was allowed to visit. I would
3 talk to Mr Traynor in the dinner hall.

4 'No social worker ever visited me and if Bellfield
5 was ever visited by official inspectors or anything like
6 that then I wasn't aware of it.

7 'If you ran away you got put in the cooler, which
8 was a room at the back of the mansion. The boys who ran
9 away were also given a beating by staff. It never
10 happened to me, but when I was working in the kitchen
11 I could see this happening to other boys.

12 'As a result of being forced to stand at an open
13 window all night on one occasion, I started to wet the
14 bed. If you did wet the bed, you got a slap and the
15 staff called you "stinky" and made you wash the sheets
16 yourself.'

17 'Thomas' then talks about abuse at Bellfield from
18 paragraph 25:

19 'I didn't receive any abuse in Bellfield, but I did
20 witness it. However, there was one occasion that I was
21 caught talking in the dorm and I was told by the night
22 watchman to stand at the open window for hours with my
23 top off. It was winter. I'm sure that's what led to me
24 wetting the bed.

25 'If you did anything untoward you got a slap, but

1 that was about it. As I said earlier, those that ran
2 away got a beating and put in the cooler. I had to feed
3 the boys that were put there, but I wasn't allowed to
4 speak to them. They could be in there for days and
5 would only have a mattress to sleep on.

6 'I don't recall the names of any of the boys put in
7 there. The cell was right next to the kitchen, which is
8 why I was able to see the boys being dragged in there.
9 They were stripped naked before being beaten by the
10 staff, who were mainly ex-army and one of those was
11 Mr **GVZ**.

12 'I didn't actually see any of the boys being beaten,
13 but I saw the boys when I brought their food to them and
14 I saw their injuries, especially the black eyes. I felt
15 so sorry for those boys and thought it was terrible the
16 way they were treated.

17 'I was taken to a Children's Panel after three weeks
18 in Bellfield and they sent me back there. After another
19 three weeks I went back to the Children's Panel and they
20 said they had found a place for me, which was at
21 St Joseph's in Tranent.'

22 He was then sent to St Joseph's, in Tranent, and
23 talks about that between the paragraphs 30 and 67. He
24 says he was 13 when he went there and was there for just
25 over a year. His evidence in relation to St Joseph's

1 was read in to the Inquiry during the De La Salle
2 chapter, on 22 January 2024, and that was Day 410.

3 That part of his statement talks about physical and
4 emotional abuse by the Brothers and that life there was
5 horrible.

6 He is one of the individuals that talks about
7 Brother Benedict and his electrocution machine, and he
8 says then that there was only one Brother there he
9 describes as showing empathy and kindness.

10 After about a year there he was told they had found
11 his mother and that he would be going home the next day.
12 'Thomas' says his mother had never been told he was in
13 St Joseph's and so he then went to live with his mother
14 and stepdad and that was the first time he had seen his
15 mother for about five years.

16 At that time he worked in a shop called [REDACTED]
17 and part of his job involved opening boxes with
18 a Stanley knife, and one night he was heading home and
19 still had the knife in his pocket. He didn't know at
20 the time, but the local police had an ongoing feud with
21 his stepfather and he got off the bus and was grabbed by
22 two police officers, who searched him and found the
23 knife. So he was arrested for possession of
24 an offensive weapon and taken to Dumbarton Sheriff Court
25 and, despite his boss appearing as a witness and

1 explaining why he would have had the knife on him, he
2 was convicted and given three months and sent to
3 Glenochil.

4 He talks about Glenochil between paragraphs 74 and
5 86. That evidence from 'Thomas' was read in during the
6 Scottish Prison Service chapter on 17 November 2023, and
7 that was Day 392, and he talks about physical assault by
8 prison officers.

9 He then talks about life after care from
10 paragraph 87. He says that after St Joseph's he had
11 gone to high school in Cumbernauld, but wasn't
12 interested in education. He left school at 16 and
13 stayed with his mum until he was 23 when he moved to
14 Kirkintilloch. But, by that time, 'Thomas' says he was
15 an alcoholic and getting into a lot of trouble, being
16 drunk and getting into gang fights and he ended up in
17 and out of borstal and jail.

18 He has done various things in his life, mainly
19 worked as a labourer, and he says he has two daughters
20 from relationships with two women, but he says that he
21 doesn't keep in contact with either of them.

22 He talks about the impact from paragraph 90, but
23 this is mostly about St Joseph's and his time there.

24 At paragraph 91, 'Thomas' says he did help out on
25 Children's Panels for three years, but had to give it up

1 because he couldn't be part of anything that was
2 involved in putting children into the sort of place he
3 had been in.

4 He says he is actually a qualified care worker, but
5 at the time of this statement he hadn't yet put that
6 qualification to use.

7 At paragraph 96, he makes the usual declaration and
8 'Thomas' has signed that statement and it is dated
9 13 June 2019.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Mr Sheldon.

12 MS FORBES: Mr Sheldon has a statement.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this is the statement of
15 'William'.

16 'William' (read)

17 MR SHELDON: The statement reference is WIT-1-000001032.

18 'William' was born in 1961. He was brought up
19 initially in Dumbarton and says that he had a happy
20 childhood. His father worked on boats and they would
21 spend weekends and summer holidays on the boat.

22 The family moved to England when he was aged about
23 10 and things in his life deteriorated for him at that
24 point. He was abused by a family member and, later, his
25 father died. He was sent back to Scotland and just

1 stayed with his grandfather. In 'William's' own words
2 he rather 'went off the rails'. He got to secondary
3 school, but by that time there was social work
4 involvement and he went to a Children's Panel in
5 Dumbarton.

6 He says, at paragraph 7, that he was in Bellfield
7 twice. This would have been around 1973/74. In
8 relation to Bellfield Remand Home, as he calls it, he
9 says that [REDACTED] his granny's house [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] the boat as

11 well. He says -- I am reading now. Paragraph 8:

12 'Bellfield was horrible. It was like an old mansion
13 house. I don't know how many boys were in there, but
14 I think it must have been over a hundred boys from the
15 west of Scotland. I was the youngest there. The boys
16 would go from 12 up to 16 years of age. I don't know
17 who was in charge. I can't remember the names of the
18 staff. There was an old fella who stayed there and
19 there was another guy who fancied himself. He was the
20 one for slapping you about and all that. He's dead
21 now.'

22 He says that upstairs there were about five
23 dormitories. There were two floors to the building. On
24 the ground floor was the sitting room, TV room and
25 dining room. He describes a wee building at the bottom

1 of the driveway, and:

2 'That was a classroom kind of thing. There was only
3 one teacher.'

4 -- who he says was one of his ex-primary teachers,
5 and he walked in and she asked what was he doing there,
6 but he can't remember her name.

7 He says the social worker took him from the Panel --
8 the Panel hearing, to Bellfield in a car. He didn't get
9 to go home first and he broke down 'greeting':

10 'I tried to run away, but I couldn't get out. No
11 one tried to comfort me.'

12 He says, reading short, you were locked in at
13 Bellfield and you couldn't get out.

14 He then goes on to talk about the routine at
15 Bellfield. At paragraph 16, page 4, he says:

16 'There were showers and we got one every day in the
17 morning. If you had been playing football you would get
18 a shower afterwards. There was no privacy. There were
19 communal showers. I always remember what the staff
20 member did [and he names him], he was from Dumbarton.
21 He used to show off and make you stand in front of him
22 and soap all your body and he would stand and watch you.
23 It was always him who was there. I don't remember his
24 name. He was a big skinny fella. You could tell he was
25 an ex-army guy. I think he was in his sixties then.'

1 He says:

2 'We wore our own clothes. They washed the clothes
3 for us. You had a change of clothes and you had your
4 own wardrobe. My granny brought in clothes for me.'

5 He says there was no schooling. They went into the
6 one room they had and:

7 'We would muck about at things. Before I left, they
8 brought a teacher in. Even she wasn't there long. We
9 got no education at all.'

10 He says Bellfield wasn't in any way religious and:

11 'We didn't attend any church services. As soon as
12 you were up you were cleaning and buffing the floors.'

13 LADY SMITH: I think it's 'bumping' and that would be
14 a reference to the tool, the bumper, which I first heard
15 about in relation to Smyllum.

16 MR SHELDON: I assumed it was 'buffing', but I may have been
17 wrong in that assumption in that case.

18 LADY SMITH: I think there may even be a picture of a bumper
19 in the Daughters of Charity findings. It's a big, heavy
20 tool with soft cloths, or the like --

21 MR SHELDON: Oh, right.

22 LADY SMITH: -- on the bottom of a big square.

23 MR SHELDON: I can picture it.

24 LADY SMITH: The children had to push it up and down and up
25 and down the floor.

1 MR SHELDON: I can picture exactly the thing, my Lady.
2 I didn't realise that was what it was called.
3 LADY SMITH: I think it bumped on the floors as you were
4 going.
5 MR SHELDON: So cleaning and bumping the floors:
6 'Then you were polishing brasses and the radiators
7 and stuff. Then you got put out to tend the garden.
8 There was a bit up the back that was fenced off with a
9 cage and you could sit about there. That was it. Later
10 on you would be outside in the garden cutting grass.
11 I would be standing there, cutting grass, and my mates
12 would be walking by laughing at me. I think these
13 chores were just something to make your day go by. They
14 grew their own veg and stuff. I enjoyed that.
15 'We never went on any trips. It was a proper
16 Approved School and we never went anywhere. All you did
17 was work in the garden or play football, and that was
18 it. There was no games room and no pool table. There
19 was books to read, but I couldn't read. There were
20 comics you could take. All you did was sit in a chair
21 and watch the telly. No, radio or record player. There
22 was nothing to do in leisure time. You'd sit and watch
23 the telly or you sat at the bench seats in the football
24 park in the grounds. All you got was a ball in that big
25 cage and that was it.

1 'I had nothing with me. I just had some clothes.

2 I had no toys or access to any toys.

3 'I wasn't in Bellfield at Christmas or for my
4 birthday. I didn't see birthdays being celebrated.

5 'I didn't get to go home at weekends. The only
6 visit I got was from my grandad. He came down nearly
7 every day to see me. My cousin was in at the same time.
8 That was my grandad's brother's boy. He was four years
9 older. When I was younger I went everywhere with my
10 grandad.

11 'No social worker ever came to see me. No-one took
12 me aside to explain what was happening to me. There
13 wasn't a time when they were reviewing my detention and
14 no-one told me how long I would be in for. I was always
15 going to be in until I was sixteen and I was told that.

16 'A male psychiatrist came in to see me at Bellfield.
17 I saw him about four times. He asked me daft questions
18 and had drawings to show me. I couldn't open up to this
19 man at all. I didn't trust anyone. I wasn't even
20 allowed to have my grandad with me in these meetings and
21 he was angry about them. I didn't see any inspections
22 taking place.

23 'They had a nurse in there. She was all right. The
24 nurse was married to the guy who ran the place. They
25 stayed in the house next to Bellfield. I can't remember

1 their names. For more serious illness or injury you
2 would get taken to hospital.

3 'When I was there I saw two boys get onto a chair
4 and jump out through the top window and right through
5 the glass. The bottom windows had wires and bars across
6 them. That's how bad it was.

7 'I ran away once from Bellfield. The ball went over
8 the fence and the boys had to lift me over to get it.
9 I didn't go back over the fence. I got caught later
10 that day and brought back. I had a pair of shorts and
11 a T-shirt on that Bellfield had given me and that was
12 it. I went straight to the house and my grandad just
13 took me back to Bellfield. When I went back to
14 Bellfield, nothing happened. They just wouldn't let me
15 out again for a couple of days '

16 Reading short, at paragraph 33:

17 'There was a problem with bed wetting, as you were
18 scared to get up in the night. I was all right as
19 I knew all the guards. I would get up and they would be
20 saying, "You, get to bed". They were all right about
21 bed wetting in there. They might have taken their
22 mattress outside. No one got slapped about in there,
23 not that I saw anyway. The boys put their bedding in
24 the laundry. Some of the older ones would bully them
25 for it.

1 'They didn't use the belt in Bellfield. If you got
2 out of hand you went in the room called the cooler. You
3 could be in there for two or three days.'

4 Page 8:

5 'There was a lot of bullying going on by the older
6 ones. My older cousin who was in with me told me not to
7 let anyone bully me and, if they did, I was to tell him.
8 One day I was buffing the floor with the big bumper.
9 A boy tried to trip me up and I just turned round and
10 split him wide open with the bumper. They had a cooler
11 with no windows. It was just a cell. I was put in
12 there for two days. That was my punishment. That
13 happened to me quite a few times and I felt like I was
14 never out of it. I wasn't taking the bullying. If you
15 answered back to some of the staff, they would give you
16 a slap on the back of the head. I used to go mad and I
17 used to throw chairs and I would be put in the cooler.
18 There was just one cooler. I would be in it on my own.
19 The other boys didn't like going in it. It was cold.
20 It was just a stone floor. The first time I was in
21 Bellfield was a couple of months and I think I was in
22 the cooler three times.

23 'There was one staff member who always took you to
24 the showers. He was a big, skinny fella. He used to
25 drink in the Lennox pub. And the wee guy who stayed

1 there, he's dead now. He was a good age and around
2 retirement age. He was a wee shite. He used to slap us
3 about for no reason and call us "You little bastard".
4 He used to hit us with his bunch of keys. We were just
5 being a bit cheeky and answering back. I can't remember
6 his name. This behaviour was going on all the time in
7 there. It happened to me and I saw it happening to
8 other boys. These two staff members must have been
9 ex-army. You could just tell.

10 'Some of them were all right. I didn't smoke and
11 [a particular member of staff] used to say to go round
12 the back of the building and have a fag to smoke.
13 I think the staff were better to me because most of them
14 knew some of my family. If they did anything to me and
15 I was to tell my grandad, he would kill them. They
16 weren't really abusive to the other boys.

17 'Some of the older boys would try to bully me, but
18 because of my older cousin I wouldn't take it. My
19 cousin was 14 or 15 when I was in there. Bullying
20 amongst the boys was a problem.'

21 He then talks about leaving Bellfield. It is
22 noteworthy that he says that the rest of his family were
23 put to a place called Smyllum. At paragraph 42, his
24 granny used to take his brothers out of Smyllum nearly
25 every weekend. And:

1 'She was an old woman and tried her best.'

2 He says:

3 'The last time I went back to Bellfield that was
4 when they were shoving me off to St Ninian's. I wanted
5 to go with my brothers, but they weren't having it.'

6 So, my Lady, he then talks about his time at
7 St Ninian's, Falkland. He says, later in the statement,
8 it was a horrible place. Just taking that short, he
9 reports sexual and physical abuse, emotional abuse, and
10 bullying by other young people, as well as the abuse by
11 the members of staff.

12 So, moving to page 20, my Lady, I think it is worth
13 going to paragraph 91 on reporting abuse at St Ninian's,
14 where he says that when he got home at weekends:

15 'I told my granny about St Ninian's and she was very
16 religious, her and my granddad, and she said it would
17 never happen and they wouldn't do anything like that in
18 there. I told her it was happening. I said to her
19 I wanted to see a social worker.'

20 After St Ninian's he went back to a Panel. He says
21 he hadn't been to any Panel Hearings in the years he was
22 in St Ninian's:

23 'They knew I was ready to get out. The male social
24 worker based at St Ninian's took me along with a woman.'

25 And they were going to take him back to St Ninian's,

1 but he ran away, hid on the family boat. He simply
2 refused to go back to St Ninian's. He ran away again,
3 and seems to have managed thereafter to stay out of the
4 care system. He got a job at a boatyard after leaving
5 St Ninian's. He says:

6 'I didn't have a good life at all [this is
7 paragraph 98]. I had a lot going on in my head.
8 I couldn't see my brothers. I didn't see them until
9 they came out of the home they were in and started
10 working with me.'

11 He says, paragraph 99:

12 'My main occupation through my life was with and on
13 boats and I did engineering. I stayed working with my
14 uncle until I was twenty-one and then I went into the
15 garage side. I had my own flat by then. I was putting
16 money away.'

17 And he bought himself a boat. He did have contact
18 with his mum and:

19 'I did start talking to her.'

20 And when he separated from his partner, his mother
21 took care of his boy and brought him up, but she did
22 what she had done to him:

23 'She did what she'd done to me and put him out on
24 the street and he was a boy. He nearly got taken into
25 a home.'

1 He says:

2 'I used to disappear and I tried to kill myself
3 a few times. There was a lot going on in my head.
4 I always ran away from it. I was drinking a lot.
5 I would disappear and the family wouldn't see me for
6 weeks. I didn't want them to go through what I went
7 through. I went off the rails and I was sleeping on the
8 streets.'

9 It seems that at some point he was hospitalised for
10 mental health issues.

11 He says, at paragraph 102:

12 'The mental abuse because I couldn't read or write
13 was the worst. That has always stuck with me. I would
14 walk out of places as an adult because it was getting to
15 me all the time. I never got help for it at all. When
16 I went to the GP and told him I was depressed about not
17 being able to read or write and all he did was give me
18 tablets.

19 'It has affected my employment in a big way. If
20 I had the knowledge of reading and writing I would
21 probably have my own garage and I could have done a lot
22 more with it. I got a pilot's ticket for driving the
23 ferries because the company I worked for gave me extra
24 help and got someone to read out the information to me
25 and I was to give him answers to the test orally.

1 I could navigate on the water using the GPS and
2 a plotter, like in a car, rather than using a map.
3 I was getting 100 per cent in the tests.

4 'My ability to form relationships has been affected.
5 I think, with not being able to read and write, that
6 other people are going to think I am an idiot. Some
7 people would take the piss and I would get angry.
8 I used to turn to drink.'

9 That messed up his relationship with his daughter's
10 mother, through drink.

11 Over the page, paragraph 105, he says:

12 'Seeing what can happen to kids in care made me
13 closer to my own children, as I didn't want it happening
14 to them. I was very protective of them and I always
15 wanted to know where they were and who they were with.
16 It wasn't just them. It was the same with my nephews as
17 well.'

18 Reading short, paragraph 106:

19 'Every time something went wrong in the family they
20 all wanted me to come and help out and get involved and
21 sort it out. It started to get to me. One day
22 I decided I'd had enough. Nobody knew where I was and I
23 ran away for over a year and I was sleeping on the
24 streets. Then my daughter found me in Bradford.'

25 He says he had a counsellor after that and managed

1 to get a flat. He says he has ended up getting
2 treatment a few times in a hospital in Glasgow:

3 'I was always on antidepressants and I tried to hide
4 it. I received counselling once, a long time ago. That
5 was because of my thoughts about suicide. Life was too
6 much and other people's expectation of me was too much,
7 but I couldn't help them with everything. My trust in
8 people was difficult. My doctor asked me recently if
9 I wanted counselling support.'

10 He says there has also been a big impact on his
11 religious beliefs.

12 Paragraph 109, he talks about reporting abuse, and
13 says:

14 'I have never made any reports to the police ...
15 after leaving care. They approached me in 2022 and came
16 to my house to interview and took a statement. They
17 treated me really well and were nice to me. I have seen
18 them once, but they said they would come back to see me.
19 That interview was about Bellfield and St Ninian's.'

20 He says he has a copy of his social work records and
21 has a lawyer who is instructed in a civil case who has
22 requested records and told him that a lot of information
23 is missing. And he also has medical records.

24 On lessons to be learned, he says:

25 'The homes for children in care need to be monitored

1 more and watch what's going on. They are just putting
2 kids in them and just leaving them. They don't know
3 who's looking after who.'

4 He says:

5 'I hope the Inquiry can put a stop to it all.
6 Somebody's got to do something about it. It has been
7 going on for years.'

8 And over the page, he says:

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

13 He has signed and dated that, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Well, we are going to
15 leave it there for today, I think, Mr Sheldon. It is
16 now 3.55 pm.

17 Would you like to confirm the arrangements for
18 tomorrow?

19 The original plan was we wouldn't have any evidence
20 in the morning and witness statements in the afternoon;
21 is that still the plan?

22 MR SHELDON: Yes, read-ins in the afternoon, my Lady, yes.

23 LADY SMITH: So not sitting until 2 o'clock?

24 MR SHELDON: Correct.

25 LADY SMITH: Very well. I will rise now until 2 o'clock

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