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Thursday, 4 July 2024

(2.00 pm)

LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, as I said yesterday, we are going to spend this afternoon hearing the evidence that's being provided by the reading in of some written statements, and I will begin by inviting Ms Forbes to start.

MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady. The first statement is from an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Hammy'.

'Hammy' (read)

MS FORBES: His witness statement reference is WIT.001.001.9806. Sadly, since providing this statement 'Hammy' has passed away.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

MS FORBES: But 'Hammy' tells us that he was born in 1960 and talks about his life before going into care, from paragraph 2. He thinks he was born in Clydebank and originally was with his parents, and apparently there were ten of them as children. However, when he was very young and still in nappies, he understands that all ten of them were put into Quarriers. He doesn't know why that happened. He talks about Quarriers from paragraph 5 and that evidence was read in during the Quarriers case study on 17 November 2018, and that was Day 85.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS FORBES: He had very little recollection of his time
3 there. He says that a couple of things he does recall
4 which relate to future medical issues were, one, he
5 remembers being assaulted by a member of staff, where he
6 fell and broke his arm. He thinks he was about -- that
7 was one of his earliest recollections, when he was very
8 young, so maybe four years old.

9 Then he says, when he was eight, he had an operation
10 on his eye whilst there, but they were unable to save
11 the sight in it. His understanding was that if he'd had
12 the operation before he turned five, they could have
13 saved his sight - and that hadn't been picked up during
14 his time there.

15 During his time at Quarriers, he went to stay with
16 a couple in Paisley on occasion, as a precursor to them
17 fostering him. They became the only real parents he
18 ever knew. He talks about his time in foster care from
19 paragraph 17. He says he stayed with them until he was
20 11 years old and he says you couldn't have met two nicer
21 people.

22 Thereafter, he says there was a review of his care
23 in 1971, which led to him being sent to Bellfield. But
24 he doesn't know why that occurred and he doesn't
25 remember having done anything wrong to result in that.

1 The placement, the foster care placement, appeared to be
2 going well.

3 He then talks about Bellfield from paragraph 23. He
4 says he thinks it was the foster parents who first took
5 him to Bellfield. He says:

6 'We got there and the doors opened. I recall two
7 members of staff, AIB [REDACTED] and a guy called AIA [REDACTED],
8 grabbed me, stripped me naked, then put me in a room
9 where they hosed me down with an industrial type hose.

10 'To me it seemed as if they were doing this simply
11 because they thought it was funny. It lasted for about
12 ten minutes. They were wearing civilian clothes.

13 AIB [REDACTED] always wore suits, while AIA [REDACTED] would wear
14 cardigans.

15 'Only the outer doors were permanently locked in
16 Bellfield. The windows had wire running through them
17 and could only be partially opened. I was in Bellfield
18 for a few months.

19 'You would get up in the morning at about 7.30 am,
20 being woken by day staff. They tended to do 12-hour
21 shifts and would pull you out of your bed or throw water
22 on you. There were about nine in a dorm and you had
23 your own bed and a unit to put your stuff in.

24 'Before and after breakfast, you would do chores,
25 like polishing floors, with those big buffers.

1 Thereafter you would be in the TV room watching things
2 like 'Watch with Mother'. There was no school or
3 attempts to educate you.

4 'There were no organised activities or anything like
5 that, though you could sometimes play football. You
6 would be watching TV until supper at 8.00 pm, then more
7 TV, then bed.

8 'The food was rotten, but you had to eat it as there
9 was nothing else. I remember that one of the other boys
10 had a glass eye and his party-piece was to take it out
11 and put it in your mince and say "keep an eye on that
12 for me". It was disgusting.

13 'You were dipped in a bath, scrubbed and back out.
14 Staff were in the vicinity.'

15 And that relates to the washing and bathing
16 routines.

17 At paragraph 31, he goes on to say that his foster
18 parents visited every weekend:

19 'They could never understand why I was there.'

20 And his foster father used to say that he wouldn't
21 be there for long. He goes on:

22 'They would bring me clean clothes and take the
23 dirty ones away to wash. There were no meetings with
24 staff or social workers while I was there. It was "out
25 of sight, out of mind".

1 'Anybody who wet the bed would get reprimanded and
2 slapped. Your bed got stripped and the mattress was
3 turned. You dreaded it happening. The place was very
4 regimented and if you stepped out of line you got
5 walloped.

6 'The abuse was slaps and dead arms and legs done by
7 AIB [REDACTED] and the guy called AIA [REDACTED]. I also got
8 regular hosings and, on one occasion, as I was getting
9 hosed, I put my foot through AIA [REDACTED]'s shin to defend
10 myself.

11 'The main form of discipline was forcing you to
12 polish the floors. There was no use of the belt or
13 things like that. In fact you were allowed to smoke,
14 though officially not till you turned 12.

15 'The place had a gang mentality and there were
16 constant fights between the various rivals, especially
17 between those from Clydebank and Drumchapel. You were
18 constantly living in fear.'

19 He says he did tell his foster parents about what
20 was happening to him in Bellfield and it is possible
21 they told somebody about it and that is maybe why he was
22 moved. He said his foster parents were the only people
23 he could talk to about it. He couldn't speak to the
24 staff and social workers didn't come and see him.

25 When he was 12 or 13, a Children's Panel sent him to

1 Woodcroft in Lenzie. He didn't attend the Panel, but he
2 was taken there by -- I think this is to Woodcroft, by
3 his foster mother and her friend. He says this was
4 an annex of a psychiatric hospital, although it was
5 about four miles away from it. He talks about his time
6 there from paragraph 39.

7 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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12 He then says that when he was 14 -- this is at
13 paragraph 75 -- he left Woodcroft and was sent back to
14 live with his foster parents, but no explanation seemed
15 to be given as to why he was allowed to go home.

16 He says that while he went part-time to a school,
17 there was a boy that he had had a run-in with before who
18 was there who subjected him to bullying. As a result of
19 that, he was sent back to Woodcroft again and he didn't
20 leave Woodcroft until he turned 16. He says that before
21 he left there, there was no training for the future.
22 There was no back-up or consideration as to what he was
23 going to do, and no vocational training.

24 He then talks about Craiginch Prison from
25 paragraph 79. He says that, when he was 16, he was

1 living in a hostel and he ended up being arrested in
2 relation to a stolen car and ended up in Craiginch
3 Prison in Aberdeen, on remand for three weeks. This was
4 an adult prison and he says he was there two weeks
5 before somebody could pay the financial bail.

6 He was put in with other adult prisoners. He says
7 that, during that time, he was assaulted by three other
8 prisoners and this was a sexual assault and it was
9 a rape. After that he says he 'went crazy' and ended up
10 in the segregation unit until he got out.

11 He says that the prison officers there -- he calls
12 them 'the screws' -- knew he had been attacked, but just
13 walked away from it.

14 There was no segregation of ages. As a 16-year-old,
15 he was put in the main prison.

16 He then talks about life after care and talks about
17 working as a live-in position at a hotel in Argyll, and
18 then going to Torquay and doing an apprenticeship down
19 there and then in Leicester.

20 He eventually became a maitre d' which he did for
21 many years, and then moved into landscaping, but due to
22 medical problems he had to retire about ten years before
23 this statement was given and hadn't worked since. He
24 was never married, but had two children and says he kept
25 in touch with his daughter, but not so much with his

1 son.

2 He talks about impact at paragraphs 89 and 90, and
3 that is there for us to read, about his whole time in
4 the system.

5 Then, in relation to reporting abuse, he says, in
6 paragraph 91, he did give a statement to the police
7 in June 2018 and talked about what happened in
8 residential care and being raped in prison.

9 Then, going forward to the counselling section, he
10 states, at paragraph 93 onwards, he was never on
11 medication after he left Woodcroft, although he had been
12 given antidepressants and painkillers. He says that
13 when he finally set out in writing what had happened to
14 him and his foster mother read it, she just stood and
15 cried and hugged him and hadn't realised how much he had
16 gone through.

17 The lessons to be learned section deals with his
18 whole time in care, but one thing he does say is that
19 children have to be listened to.

20 At paragraph 100, he talks about the fact --

21 LADY SMITH: Just before you leave that paragraph, it is
22 a very interesting phrase he uses:

23 'The past has to be put to bed and the future has to
24 be rewritten.'

25 MS FORBES: Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: I take from that a sense of history being
2 likely to repeat itself, unless we really change the way
3 we are looking after children like him.

4 MS FORBES: He does say, at paragraph 100, my Lady, that he
5 couldn't have wished for two better people to look after
6 him, in relation to his foster parents, and it is
7 probably thanks to them that he never took to drink or
8 drugs in his adult life.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes.

10 MS FORBES: He makes the usual declaration at paragraph 101,
11 and he signed that and it is dated 20 June 2018.

12 My Lady, I will now hand over to Mr Sheldon.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you. While you are changing over
14 folders, there is a name there of a man whose identity
15 is protected by my General Restriction Order, and that
16 is Mr AIA . He is not to be identified outside this
17 room.

18 Mr Sheldon.

19 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this is a very short read-in. It is
20 the read-in of 'Terry'.

21 'Terry' (read)

22 MR SHELDON: The statement reference is WIT.001.001.6293.

23 'Terry' was born in 1964. The reason that it is
24 a short read-in is that his evidence in relation to the
25 De La Salle establishment, St Ninian's, was read in by

1 Ms MacLeod, Day 411; that's TRN-12-000000043.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR SHELDON: Ms MacLeod also read in the paragraphs on
4 introductory material, background and impact, so I can
5 simply take my Lady to page 9 of the statement, where he
6 mentions that he was placed at St Philip's, Airdrie. He
7 doesn't really report any significant abuse there
8 although says that he was, on occasion, punished
9 unfairly.

10 If we then go to the next page, and paragraph 51, he
11 says:

12 'It got to the stage that St Philip's didn't want me
13 there any more as I kept running away. So, on one
14 occasion, when I absconded, they didn't want me back.'

15 He was sent to Bellfield. The record suggests that
16 that was around 1977. The passage on Bellfield is very
17 short. He simply says:

18 'Bellfield Detention Centre in Dumbarton was
19 a short-term place. I can't remember who was in charge.
20 I was only there for a few weeks, maybe six in total,
21 I can't remember exactly. It was okay there.

22 'I remember that the punishment there was to be kept
23 in a cupboard, sometimes all day. One time I got into
24 a fight with ... [another boy] and I got put into the
25 cupboard for a couple of hours. It was smaller than

1 a police cell and had one small window. There was
2 nothing in the room and I was locked in. We called it
3 the cooler. I don't know the person's name who locked
4 me in, but he had a comb over.

5 'It was a closed building, you were locked in there,
6 but you were allowed to smoke. As it was a short term
7 detention centre, after about six weeks I was sent to
8 St Mary's.'

9 He reports inappropriate behaviour by a member of
10 staff there and a fairly serious sexual assault by
11 another young person. But, as I have said, my Lady, the
12 rest of the material has been read in already.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR SHELDON: And 'Terry' has made the usual declaration and
15 signed the statement.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR SHELDON: So I will move then straight to another
18 read-in, my Lady. This is the statement of another
19 witness who is anonymous. Her pseudonym is 'Veronica'.

20 'Veronica' (read)

21 MR SHELDON: The reference is WIT-1-000001063.

22 'Veronica' was born in 1960. 'Veronica' tells us
23 about her life before going into care. She lived with
24 her mother and father. She says she is the second of
25 four children. She says that she thought she had quite

1 a normal childhood, but arguments began to develop
2 between her parents and her father left.

3 She says that her mother struggled to cope and
4 became something of a recluse. She says, at
5 paragraph 4, that life at home was hard and she spent
6 more and more time -- at paragraph 6 -- with her
7 grandparents.

8 She says that her mother had got used to having her
9 at home and wanted or needed company. 'Veronica' didn't
10 mind, because she had started to get bullied at school.

11 At paragraph 8, she says that the bullying got worse
12 and worse and she was bullied for anything and
13 everything, 'like the clothes I was wearing'. She says:

14 'I was getting beatings and it all got too much for
15 me to take.'

16 Reading short, she says:

17 'I left school in second year in 1973.'

18 Paragraph 9:

19 'Up until I stopped going to school, there was no
20 social work involvement, but between the ages of 13 and
21 15, I had two social workers ...'

22 She told them about the bullying at school, but
23 nothing was done to help and that's when the Children's
24 Panels started. She says there were numerous visits
25 from social workers, Children's Panels and supervision

1 orders and her mother was, it seems, prosecuted and
2 fined for not sending 'Veronica' to school.

3 Eventually the Panel sent her to Cardross Park
4 Assessment Centre. She says, paragraph 9:

5 'I wasn't told how long I would be there. It was
6 either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 1975.'

7 And she was there for three months.

8 LADY SMITH: So she would be about 15, then.

9 MR SHELDON: Yes.

10 She goes on to tell us about Cardross Park. She
11 says it had been an Assessment Centre for both boys and
12 girls:

13 'But we were kept separate. I think all the kids
14 there were between the ages of 12 and 16. It looked
15 like a lovely big three-storey house, covered in ivy,
16 from the outside.'

17 And she describes the internal layout at
18 paragraph 11.

19 At paragraph 12, she says:

20 'I don't remember any of the staff by name. We
21 called the woman in charge "Miss", and I think she was
22 in her 50s. I remember she wore her glasses on a chain.
23 There was a heavy built woman, also in her 50s, who
24 I think was the housemistress. She abused me while
25 I was there. There was also a tall, thin woman who was

1 verbally nasty. There were a couple of night shift
2 staff who I thought were nice.'

3 Reading short, she says the male staff tended to
4 work with the boys and the female staff with the girls.
5 She notes that there were kitchen staff and cooks, but
6 couldn't name them.

7 At paragraph 13, she says, of the residents, she
8 only remembers two girls, who bullied and abused her,
9 and she gives their first names.

10 At paragraph 14, she says:

11 'When I was told by the Children's Panel that they
12 were sending me to Cardross Park, I remember crying and
13 clinging on to my mum. I ran and locked myself in the
14 toilet, but a policeman came and got me out. The social
15 worker shoved me in a yellow Mini and drove me to
16 Cardross.

17 'When I walked in, the first thing I noticed was
18 that everything was grey; grey walls, grey floors, grey
19 clothes, even the women who worked there had grey hair.
20 The windows were all nailed shut. It wasn't homely at
21 all. A heavy built woman, maybe in her 50s, came to see
22 me, took me through to a room and told me to strip off.
23 I was such a shy girl and I didn't want to strip off in
24 front of her. It was terrible and I got upset. Because
25 I got upset, she manhandled me and took my clothes off.

1 She checked my body and checked my head for lice. Then
2 she touched me inappropriately where she shouldn't have
3 touched me. I have no idea why she would do that. She
4 then gave me a set of clothes and told me to get
5 dressed. I remember the trousers were too short; they
6 were way up my legs. It was obviously in case you ran
7 away, so you would be spotted a mile off. Then she put
8 me in the day room with the other girls and locked the
9 door.'

10 In relation to the morning routine, she says:

11 'In the morning, I was usually woken up by the two
12 girls who bullied me. They would slap me across the
13 face with a wet face-cloth. After we got up, we made
14 our beds, got washed, dressed and went down for
15 breakfast. After breakfast we did our chores. We took
16 turns at cleaning the pots and dishes and putting the
17 potatoes in the big machine. Sometimes we would have to
18 polish the floors or the big staircase. I would often
19 volunteer to do extra chores because it kept me out of
20 the day room and away from the other girls. Once we had
21 finished our chores, we were locked in the day room.
22 Very occasionally, we would be allowed to go outside
23 where there was a set of boules.'

24 Taking paragraph 17 short, she says that they would
25 eat lunch in the dining room and then be locked in the

1 day room again. If you needed the toilet during that
2 time, you had to knock on the door for a member of staff
3 to take you.

4 At the end of the paragraph, she says:

5 'We got one hour of TV after dinner and I remember
6 watching Top of the Pops. We had to shower every night
7 before bed and then, around 7.00 or 8.00 pm, we were
8 sent upstairs. We had to wash our own pants and socks
9 in the sink every night with carbolic soap. Once we
10 were in our dorms, that was us for the night. We were
11 locked in. I think there was a toilet in the dorm, so
12 we didn't have to be let out.'

13 In relation to food she says:

14 'I remember the food being like school dinners.
15 There was a lot of soup. I would eat my breakfast
16 because it was usually toast or porridge, which I didn't
17 mind. If it was meat, sometimes I would eat it,
18 sometimes I wouldn't. I didn't like fat. You weren't
19 forced to eat if you didn't want to, but you would be
20 punished for not eating and left to go hungry. The
21 staff would slap you on the head. If you caused a fuss,
22 you were stripped naked and put in what we called the
23 cooler. It was a passageway between the day room and
24 the dining room. The lights would be turned out and the
25 only piece of furniture in there was a wooden bench,

1 like a church pew.

2 'At mealtimes, the two bullies would shove my face
3 in my food or spit on my food. You're not going to eat
4 food that someone has spat on. I remember once, when we
5 were given tapioca, they told it me it was "spunk" and
6 tried to make me eat it. I was so naive, I had no idea
7 what they meant. They thought it was funny that
8 I didn't know what they were talking about.

9 The girls washed in a communal shower room. There
10 were no cubicles or curtains. I absolutely hated it
11 because I was so shy and reserved about my body.
12 I think I got that from my mum. I hated having to take
13 my clothes off in front of people. I was never allowed
14 to shower by myself.

15 'All of my clothes were provided by the staff at
16 Cardross Park. When I arrived, my clothes from home
17 were taken from me and I was given a set of clothes and
18 either a set of pyjamas or a nightdress. I was also
19 given a pair of old black gutties. As far as I
20 remember, I only had the one set of clothes the whole
21 time I was there. I had absolutely nothing of my own.
22 In our dorm rooms, we had a little bedside cabinet at
23 the side of our bed, but I never had anything to put in
24 it.

25 'There wasn't really any leisure time. The only

1 thing we got was one hour of TV after dinner and, on
2 a rare occasion, we got to go outside for a little
3 while. That was it. The staff never took us out
4 anywhere. I can't even remember there being any toys or
5 games in the day room. I think there were maybe a few
6 books we could read, but I spent most of my days looking
7 out a window.

8 'I had no schooling whatsoever while I was at
9 Cardross Park.'

10 She says that she didn't see a nurse, doctor or
11 dentist during her time there. The only thing that
12 happened was that the housemistress checked her hair for
13 lice. She doesn't remember there being any religious
14 element at Cardross Park, and she says that, although
15 she was there for her 15th birthday, there was no
16 celebration or recognition of her birthday at all. It
17 was just like any other day. At paragraph 28, she says:

18 'I wet the bed a few times while I was at
19 Cardross Park. It was something that happened quite
20 a lot at home too. I don't think it happened as often
21 at Cardross because I was too scared to sleep soundly
22 so, most of the time, I was able to get up and go to the
23 toilet through the night. On the occasions when I did
24 wet the bed, the housemistress would thump me and the
25 other girls would call me a baby. I was made to wash my

1 sheets in the big sink in the wash room. I remember the
2 soap would sting my hands. Sometimes if I wet the bed,
3 I would try to hide it. I would make my bed up in the
4 morning and, if none of the staff checked, I would get
5 back into a wet bed that night. There were other times,
6 when I hadn't wet the bed, the two bullies would pour
7 water on me to make it look like I had.

8 'I didn't see a social worker while I was there and,
9 as far as I know, there weren't any external inspections
10 or reviews of my care.'

11 She says she didn't have any contact with her
12 siblings while she was at Cardross Park, but her mum did
13 come to visit her around three times.

14 Paragraph 32:

15 'When my mum visited, we had to sit on seats outside
16 the day room. Once, she was allowed to take me out and
17 we walked down, over the railway bridge, to the shore.
18 I wrote to my mum once. The staff would check our
19 letters before sending them. If they didn't like what
20 we had written, they just wouldn't send the letter.'

21 Paragraph 33, she says:

22 'The discipline at the Assessment Centre was quite
23 cruel. The staff would shout at us, slap us and put us
24 in the cooler, sometimes for hours on end. There were
25 occasions where kids would be stripped and put in the

1 cooler naked. I seem to remember being made to clean
2 the stairs with a toothbrush once. It was a punishment
3 for something, but I quite enjoyed it because it meant
4 I was away from the other girls. Also, there was
5 a miner bird, which was kept at the bottom of the
6 stairs, and I enjoyed talking to it.

7 'There were lots of times when I wanted to make
8 a run for it. There were times when I saw the kitchen
9 door open and I was really tempted, but I knew I would
10 be found and dragged back, so I didn't. I saw other
11 kids running away. When they were brought back, they
12 would be put in the cooler for hours. I saw some of the
13 boys being brought back by the police. They would be
14 fighting with the police and getting dragged up the
15 driveway.'

16 Paragraph 35:

17 'During my time at Cardross Park, I just tried to
18 keep myself to myself, but it didn't work. I was picked
19 on and abused by some of the female staff. I was also
20 abused and bullied relentlessly by two of the resident
21 girls ...'

22 And she names them and describes them. She thinks
23 they were both around 15 or 16 years old. She says:

24 'The abuse started the moment I arrived and was
25 taken by the heavy built female staff member and told to

1 strip off. She manhandled me and touched me
2 inappropriately. She was the housemistress. [And she
3 describes her.]

4 'On other occasions, the same woman took me into the
5 communal showers and scrubbed me with a hard brush. She
6 did that because I didn't want to undress in front of
7 the other girls in the shower room. The girls would
8 laugh at me and make fun of me because I wasn't
9 developed. That woman scrubbed me like that regularly.
10 It didn't happen every day, because she wasn't in every
11 day, but it happened several times while I was there.

12 'I realised that the two girls who bullied me were
13 in cahoots with the housemistress. She would treat them
14 differently and give them sweets and things. She let
15 one of them wear her own clothes when no one else got
16 to. She would also encourage them to ridicule me and
17 would laugh along with them. I came to describe them as
18 "Miss and her henchgirls".

19 'The verbal abuse from these two bullies was
20 constant. I could be sitting minding my own business,
21 and have my hair grabbed and be dragged across the floor
22 for no reason. The attacks were daily. I would be
23 punched, kicked, slapped and have my hair pulled.
24 I would be sitting by myself in the day room, looking
25 out of the window, and I would see these two girls

1 planning their attack. On one occasion, the girls were
2 making fun of me because I didn't have my period yet.
3 I didn't know what a period was, so I asked them. They
4 then shoved a used sanitary pad in my mouth. On another
5 occasion, these two girls dragged me over the floor and
6 scraped a comb down my face. The housemistress heard
7 the commotion and came in to find me lying on the floor.
8 She didn't say anything to the two girls, but I was put
9 in the cooler.

10 'The two girls who bullied me would regularly shout
11 obscenities through the wall to the boys' dorm. It was
12 sexual stuff. I didn't know what it meant at the time,
13 but I do now.'

14 Reading short to paragraph 41:

15 'One night, when we were in the dorm, these two
16 bullies were shouting to the boys through the wall.
17 They were telling them that "we have a wee virgin in
18 here". They then said, "she won't be one for long".
19 They did something sexual to me. I don't know exactly
20 what they did, but it hurt, and afterwards they said
21 I wasn't a virgin anymore.

22 'The sexual abuse by these two bullies didn't stop
23 there. When I was in my bed, in the dorm, they would
24 regularly lift my covers, hold me down, touch me
25 inappropriately and call me dirty. They would shout to

1 the boys and tell them what they were doing to me. It
2 was funny to them, but it certainly wasn't funny to me.
3 It was complete humiliation, because I was 14 years old,
4 but I had the mind and body of a 9-year-old.

5 'It was just relentless. These two girls continued
6 attacking me, pouring water on my bed, making fun of me,
7 laughing at me, humiliating me, spitting in my food and
8 pushing my face in my food. The staff must have been
9 aware of what was going on. The housemistress certainly
10 was but, instead of punishing them, she laughed along
11 with them, encouraged them, and rewarded them.'

12 On leaving Cardross Park, she says:

13 'One day, out of the blue, one of the staff came and
14 told me that I was going home. They gave me my clothes
15 back, that I came in with, and my mum came to pick me
16 up. I remember getting the train home with her and she
17 took me to buy records because she had missed my
18 birthday. Although I had only been at Cardross Park for
19 three months, it felt like I had been there for years.

20 'When I got home, I didn't tell anyone what had
21 happened to me at Cardross Park. I just hid myself
22 away. I ate, slept and spent my time in a cupboard in
23 order to feel safe. It was all a reaction to what I
24 had experienced. My mum never questioned my behaviour.
25 I did that for years. Right up until I was in my 50s, if

1 I felt stressed, I would hide myself at the bottom of
2 a cupboard. That only stopped when I started to get
3 help to cope with what I had been through.

4 'I don't remember any social work involvement when
5 I got home. I started going to ... high school, but
6 that was only for a short time until I was old enough to
7 leave school at 16.'

8 She then went to live with her gran and grandpa.

9 She says that her dad died in an accident when she
10 was 17 and she deeply regretted that she never got to
11 know him again.

12 She then talks about her jobs and employment after
13 care. She went to Falkirk College to do a secretarial
14 course, and worked as a crèche worker and was a child
15 minder for many years. She says that:

16 'I just loved caring for and nurturing kids.'

17 She says that she did go back to Cardross Park as
18 an adult and notes that it has been turned into private
19 residences.

20 At paragraph 49, she says:

21 'As an adult, I have struggled with various mental
22 health difficulties, including depression. I have also
23 struggled to have successful adult relationships.

24 I just don't know how to have a normal relationship.

25 I suffered a lot of abuse in relationships and I was

1 raped constantly by my daughter's dad. I brought my
2 daughter up by myself. She has two degrees, two children
3 and a lovely house so I must have done something right.

4 'My education is also something that suffered as
5 a result of everything I went through. I left school
6 with no qualifications and had to educate myself. My
7 daughter can't believe how bright I am, despite not
8 really having had much formal education at all. I went
9 back to high school as an adult student and studied
10 various modules, including word processing. I also got
11 my English O grade at the age of 26.'

12 She says that she has received treatment. She was
13 allocated a community psychiatric nurse and she has
14 discussed her time at Cardross Park, and her psychiatric
15 nurse put her in touch with survivors' groups.

16 At paragraph 52, she says she has received numerous
17 treatments and therapies over the years, including Eye
18 Movement Desensitisation and Reprogramming, which is
19 a form of psychotherapy to help with the distress caused
20 by traumatic memories. She was diagnosed, by
21 a psychiatrist, with complex post-traumatic stress
22 disorder, and has also been diagnosed with social
23 anxiety and social phobia. She has been invited to talk
24 about her experiences as part of her work with
25 survivors' groups.

1 She talks about records.

2 At paragraph 55, on lessons to be learned, she says:

3 'I came forward to talk to the Inquiry because the
4 things that happened to me shouldn't be allowed to
5 happen to anyone else. Kids shouldn't be treated like
6 that. If you are placed in care, you should be cared
7 for. I think the Social Work Department need to carry
8 out regular checks on the kids they put in care and
9 ensure they have support and get a good education.

10 I also think that there should be a process for keeping
11 each child's records securely. People need to know what
12 has gone on, so it can be stopped. I want everyone who
13 has had a similar experience to me to be able to come
14 forward and tell their story. That is what I think the
15 Inquiry gives to those who have been in the care system.
16 It gives us a voice and an opportunity to be heard.'

17 She has made the usual declaration and signed the
18 statement, my Lady.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Forbes, when you are ready.

20 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next applicant's statement is from
21 an applicant who is anonymous and is known as 'Barry'.

22 'Barry' (read)

23 MS FORBES: The reference is WIT.001.002.6983.

24 'Barry' was born in 1955 and talks about his life
25 before going into care, between paragraphs 2 and 7. He

1 was born in Rhu and his family lived in Clydebank. He
2 had four brothers and a sister. He was the second
3 youngest. His father was in the Royal Navy, then the
4 Merchant Navy and was away a lot. His mother worked at
5 the shipyard, but was an alcoholic.

6 Life wasn't good at home. Older brothers picked on
7 him and he usually had to look after his younger
8 brother. His mum struggled to look after them all
9 because of her work and drinking problems.

10 He started primary school and ended up missing a lot
11 because he was being bullied. He was there on and off
12 until he was 11. He went to secondary school in
13 Clydebank and he was running away a lot at that time,
14 because of the bullying and the fact there was no food
15 in the house, which meant they were always starving.

16 The shipyard lost a contract and his mum and older
17 brothers lost their jobs, which made things even worse
18 and he was running away more often. He reported to the
19 police that he was being bullied at school, and he was
20 put into a children's home in Helensburgh. He thinks he
21 was there because of the bullying, missing school and to
22 give his mum some respite. And he talks about the fact
23 that he was in a children's home a couple of times. He
24 tells us about that between paragraphs 9 and 24. Secondary Institu

25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2 He says that when he went back home after being in
3 the children's home both times, life was still hard at
4 home and there was one time he was sent to live with
5 a relative in Northern Ireland for a few months in 1966.
6 He then tells us about Cardross, from paragraph 26. He
7 says:

8 'In 1966, I was sent to Cardross Assessment Centre
9 and was there for two weeks. I think that it was again
10 for skipping school.'

11 He says his brother was there with him, also, so it
12 might have been to give his mum some respite. He says
13 the place was set back from the road and it had a lot of
14 rhododendrons. The only member of staff he recalls is a
15 Mr Davidson who lived [REDACTED].

16 'Barry' says it was all boys aged from about 5 to
17 15. He recalls two boys in particular, that he names.
18 He says they slept in dorms and it was five or six boys
19 to each dorm, and they were locked in at night.

20 In relation to routine, 'Barry' says they would get
21 up about 7.00 am, get washed and dressed and go for
22 breakfast. After breakfast, he says:

23 'We worked all day in the garden, pulling up the
24 weeds, regardless of the weather. Schooling was basic,
25 if we got any at all. All I recall is digging roots all

1 day. I think on a Saturday we got about an hour to play
2 games. The food was basic, but I don't recall much
3 about it.

4 'We wore sandals with no socks and trousers with
5 no underpants. We were also issued with thin shirts.
6 We were never given a pullover or coat and it was
7 freezing.

8 'Nobody ran away when I was there, though it was all
9 people seemed to talk about.'

10 'Barry' says his mum would visit on a Sunday and he
11 and his brother would meet her, but they were never
12 alone with her and there was always somebody listening.

13 No social workers came to see him and he doesn't
14 have a recollection of being assessed whilst there.

15 Paragraph 32 goes on to talk about any abuse at
16 Cardross and says:

17 'There was a lot of bullying at Cardross and you
18 would get battered with sets of keys if you stepped out
19 of line. Somebody would be getting hit every day and
20 you daren't step out of line. If it happened to you,
21 you didn't dare complain.

22 'You would also get hit with a leather belt,
23 especially by Mr Davidson, though that didn't happen to
24 me. You always had to try and keep your head down and
25 not get noticed. If you got caught bullying or

1 stealing, you got beat up and you lost your privileges
2 for a week.

3 'There was one occasion when one of the boys got
4 pushed down the metal stairs of the fire-exit. Four of
5 us were smoking at the door when somebody, I don't know
6 who, suddenly pushed one of the others down the stairs.
7 That happened during my first time in Cardross.

8 'The first time I left Cardross I went home, but the
9 second time I left I was sent to St Joseph's in Tranent,
10 and that was in 1968.'

11 He says in 1967 he was skipping school again and the
12 Children's Panel sent him to Bellfield, where he stayed
13 for about ten weeks. Then he talks about Bellfield from
14 paragraph 37.

15 He describes Bellfield as being a big, old Victorian
16 house which had cells in the basement. The doors were
17 locked and they had small windows in them.

18 At paragraph 38:

19 'We slept three or four to a dorm and the ages went
20 from 8 or 9 up to about 14, all boys. I can't remember
21 any of the staff, other than the night watchman, who was
22 like a prison guard. During the day you were locked in
23 unless you were working or at school. We would get up
24 about 6.00 am, being woken by the night watchman, and
25 then we would get washed and dressed and go for

1 breakfast. After breakfast we would go to school, where
2 we would have a 15-minute break in the morning, during
3 which we could have a cigarette. It was in Bellfield
4 that I started smoking.

5 'After lunch, we would play games for a while in the
6 common room before going back to school in the
7 afternoon. After tea, we would be back in the common
8 room before supper, then bed at about 8.30 pm.'

9 He then talks about food and says it was all right.
10 He says the way he looked at it was at least he was
11 getting fed. He then talks about chores, at
12 paragraph 42, and says:

13 'I washed floors in the main hall after breakfast
14 which got me some pocket money, which I could use to buy
15 cigarettes. On Saturdays we were outside sweeping
16 leaves and cleaning up. Some of the older boys would be
17 out in other places, bricklaying and labouring, and
18 I didn't see much of them.'

19 He says that the school was on the grounds and
20 everyone was in the same class. He doesn't remember the
21 teacher's name, but he was a good guy and a good teacher
22 who they all liked, and he enjoyed it.

23 He says that there were visitors who came on
24 a Sunday, but he never got any visitors. In relation to
25 recreation, he says, from paragraph 46:

1 'We weren't allowed outside and there were no trips
2 but we could play board games. There was no physical
3 exercise. If you got caught fighting, you were put in
4 a cell for the day, though that never happened to me.
5 The place wasn't great, but it was warm and we were
6 getting fed.

7 'When I left Bellfield I went home but, in 1968,
8 I appeared in front of a Children's Panel and they sent
9 me back to Cardross Assessment Centre. The only reason
10 I went there was because there wasn't a place for me,
11 but after two weeks I went back to the Children's Panel
12 and they sent me to St Joseph's in Tranent.'

13 The evidence in relation to St Joseph's that he
14 tells us about is from paragraph 49. That evidence was
15 read in during the De La Salle chapter on 16 January of
16 this year, which was Day 406. He says he was there when
17 he was about 12 years old, for about six weeks, and
18 describes the place being run as a -- like
19 a concentration camp.

20 He then said that he was on a weekend leave from
21 there and met up with a friend, when his mum had gone to
22 the pub, and they started climbing trees looking for
23 birds' eggs, and his friend fell, but they were caught
24 by the police who said they had been trying to break in
25 to shops. He ended up being taken from the cells to

1 Barlinnie, because there was no room. That part of his
2 statement was read in on 14 November 2023, which was
3 Day 389. Essentially, he says that he spent, I think,
4 a night in Barlinnie and then he was taken back to
5 St Joseph's again after that.

6 After about six weeks, he says that without any
7 explanation he was moved to St Ninian's, Gartmore. His
8 younger brother was in St Ninian's at the time and
9 wasn't eating, so he thinks that might have been the
10 reason why he was moved there. His evidence about
11 St Ninian's is from paragraph 66 to 109 and that was
12 read in on 16 January 2024, which was Day 406. He
13 mentions Brothers that we have already heard about,
14 Brother MBZ and Brother Benedict, and he talks about
15 physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and he has
16 concerns about tablets he was given by a female
17 psychiatrist. He was never told what they were for.

18 He says that one day, without warning, he and his
19 brother were told they were leaving and his mother came
20 to get them. He says he was about 13 at that time.
21 Then he went home and went to secondary school, but was
22 subjected to bullying again, and life at home wasn't
23 much better, but he did manage to stay at school and got
24 a job delivering milk. He stayed at home until he was
25 15 and, in 1972 or 1973, he was sent to Polmont for one

1 to three years for vandalism, but ended up only doing
2 nine months. He talks about Polmont from paragraph 110
3 to 120. That was read in during the Scottish Prison
4 Service section on 14 November 2023, Day 389. He
5 describes it as being a brutal place and there were
6 assaults by members of prison staff.

7 He ended up in hospital -- after an assault by
8 a member of prison staff -- with a hernia and received
9 laser treatment, which he says went wrong.

10 He then talks about life after care from
11 paragraph 121. He says that he managed to stay out of
12 trouble and joined the Territorial Army and then joined
13 the proper army at 19 and was in for three years, but
14 received an honourable discharge when a hole in his
15 heart was discovered. His dad then got him a job at
16 sea, but he didn't like it and became a commis chef and
17 worked all over as a chef, but gave it up at about 45
18 due to issues with his knees.

19 He talks about impact from paragraph 124. He says
20 that he ended up depressed and has twice tried to kill
21 himself.

22 At paragraph 126, he says that he was sterile as
23 a result of the operation after the assault in Polmont,
24 and he was never able to have children. He went to the
25 police in 2004 and gave a lengthy statement about his

1 time in care. He says he gave evidence in 2006 at the
2 trial of Brother Benedict.

3 At paragraph 133, he says he doesn't think that
4 all-boys schools are healthy. He has given the usual
5 declaration at paragraph 134 and he has signed it. It
6 is dated 3 July 2019.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

8 MS FORBES: Sorry, my Lady, just for timings, I think
9 Mr Sheldon is going to try to fit another one in before
10 the break.

11 LADY SMITH: Very well. While you are swapping over,

12
13
14



15 Mr Sheldon.

16 MR SHELDON: My Lady, the next statement to read in is the
17 statement of 'Michael'.

18 'Michael' (read)

19 MR SHELDON: 'Michael's' statement reference is
20 WIT-1-000000830. 'Michael' was at eight establishments
21 which are within the scope of the present case study,
22 including SPS establishments and De La Salle
23 establishments.

24 His evidence about the SPS placements was read in by
25 Ms Rattray on Day 394, that's TRN-12-000000026; and his

1 De La Salle evidence by Ms MacLeod on Day 410, that's
2 TRN-12-000000042.

3 Among 'Michael's' placements were Cardross and
4 Bellfield.

5 'Michael' was born in 1962. He tells us about his
6 early life.

7 Taking that short, if we move to page 2,
8 paragraph 9, he says he was taken to a Children's Panel
9 for the first time aged eight, because he wasn't going
10 to school. He says that he appeared before a panel of
11 three people. His social worker was there and he
12 recommended that 'Michael' should be sent away because
13 he wouldn't go to school, and he was then told that he
14 was being put into care.

15 He says that he was taken away by the social worker
16 and didn't even get to say goodbye to his mum.

17 Paragraph 11, his social worker took him to the
18 social work office and then straight to Cardross Park
19 Assessment Centre.

20 So he goes to Cardross aged eight. He describes
21 arriving at Cardross and says it is a big manor house in
22 its own grounds.

23 At paragraph 15, his social worker took him into the
24 building and spoke to the staff, while he was made to
25 wait in a room on his own. Then he left -- I think his

1 social worker left, and:

2 'A staff member came to get me and showed me around
3 the place.'

4 He doesn't remember any of the staff names. He then
5 describes some of the layout of the building.

6 At paragraph 17, he says:

7 'I was given a bag with clothes for me to wear on
8 my first day, which were denims. In it, there was also
9 a toothbrush, pyjamas and my own towel. I was shown my
10 dormitory, which had about 15 beds in it. I was then
11 taken back downstairs to the day room.'

12 Reading short, to paragraph 18:

13 'There were about 15 to 20 boys in the day room,
14 which was all the boys from the home. I was the
15 youngest and they went up to about 15 years old.

16 'The boys had arranged the seats in the room into
17 a boxing ring and told me I had to fight the last boy
18 who had arrived in Cardross before me, who was about 12
19 or 13 years old. I didn't want to, but he fought me and
20 I got battered. That happened in the first hour I was
21 there. A staff member came in when it was over and told
22 me to go get washed, because I was bleeding. Nothing
23 was said about it.'

24 He then goes on to talk about the routine at
25 Cardross. He says at paragraph 23:

1 'After breakfast, we would be put in the day room.
2 There were only chairs in there. There was no telly,
3 pool table or anything to do. There may have been cards
4 or board games, but I don't remember.

5 'We would be left in the room all day, except for
6 when we went to the dining room for our dinner and our
7 tea. The staff would come in once or twice, have a look
8 and leave again. We were left to our own devices.
9 There was nothing to do, so there would be a lot of
10 arguments and fighting between the boys, but I didn't
11 get involved in that. I would just sit at the window
12 all day and look out at the trees and the squirrels,
13 waiting for my mum and dad.'

14 He says, taking matters short, paragraph 25, that he
15 doesn't remember any issues with bed wetting. But he
16 says that the routine at the weekend was exactly the
17 same:

18 'We never went out anywhere or did anything. We
19 didn't get any schooling. We didn't even go to chapel
20 or anything.'

21 He describes the routine at mealtimes.
22 Paragraph 29, he says the food was okay and he didn't
23 have any issues with that.

24 At paragraph 31, at wash time, a member of staff
25 would be there when they got washed, but says that they

1 would not really be supervising, just standing in the
2 middle between the sinks. He says they got a shower
3 about twice a week.

4 At paragraph 35, he says:

5 'I wasn't there over my birthday or Christmas.
6 I don't remember anyone's birthday being celebrated.'

7 He says, paragraph 37:

8 'The social worker brought my mum to see me in my
9 second week there. The three of us sat in a room
10 together. I remember asking the social worker if I went
11 to school then could I get home. He said no, that it
12 was too late and I had had my chance.

13 'He said that they were trying to find me
14 a placement in the children's home and I wouldn't be in
15 Cardross for long.'

16 Paragraph 39, he also remembers a priest coming in
17 to speak to the boys:

18 'He would come into the day room and speak to us.'

19 He says, paragraph 41, he doesn't remember any nurse
20 there, or medical room.

21 On running away, he remembers running away twice.
22 He was brought back by the police and remembers feeling
23 very lonely when he was taken back.

24 Paragraph 47, he says:

25 'I got battered in the first hour on my first day

1 there. The boys were all just left in the day room
2 without supervision, so they made every new boy fight
3 the last boy who came in, which meant every boy had to
4 fight twice.'

5 And he repeats the story about fighting the much
6 older boy.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 MR SHELDON: Paragraph 48:

9 'I fought the boy because I had to and he gave me
10 a right doing. He kicked me to the ground and kicked me
11 many times while I was down and jumped on my head, then
12 it was over. When it was over, the staff member came in
13 and asked what was going on. He pulled the chairs apart
14 and grabbed me and looked at me. I had blood all over
15 my face and he said I would be all right and go and wash
16 my face. When I went back in the room, all the boys
17 were making fun of me for getting beaten up. The staff
18 never asked or did anything else about it. I had to
19 fight a second time a few days later when a new boy came
20 in after me. The new boy was about 12 years old and was
21 bigger than me. I wasn't going to get battered again,
22 so I grabbed a brush and hit him over the head with it
23 straight away and that was the fight over.

24 'The other boys were laughing at the new boy because
25 he'd got battered by someone smaller than him. The

1 staff knew what was going on. They would see the seats
2 arranged into a boxing ring and they would take the new
3 boy into the room and leave. They would just be waiting
4 outside the door while the fighting happened. They
5 would hear the metal from the chairs banging, and the
6 noise, but they didn't care. Then they would come in to
7 see who won because they took bets on it.'

8 He says that after the visit from his mother:

9 'I was walking back to the day room and had been
10 crying because I was so upset. I felt a smack on the
11 back of my head and it was from a staff member. He told
12 me to grow up and get myself together before I went back
13 into the day room or the boys would make fun of me for
14 crying.

15 'I got hit quite often by the staff in there.
16 Whenever you were going for a wash in the morning or
17 walking somewhere, a staff member would slap you on the
18 back of the head and tell you to hurry up. It happened
19 regularly to a lot of the boys and all the staff members
20 did it. It was just a normal thing that happened every
21 day in there.'

22 He says:

23 'I wasn't assessed in any way in there. Nobody sat
24 and chatted to me or did any tests with me. I think it
25 was more of a Remand Home to hold boys until they found

1 a place for them to go.'

2 Taking matters short, my Lady, he is then found
3 a place at St Ninian's, Gartmore, and reports serious
4 sexual and physical abuse there.

5 If we turn to page 27, he has a period back at home,
6 but got into trouble again and was sent to a Children's
7 Panel and, aged 13, was taken to Bellfield. He was told
8 that he would be there for three weeks. This is
9 paragraph 162:

10 'He told me I would be there for three weeks until
11 they found me somewhere else.'

12 Paragraph 163, he was shown around and given
13 clothes. He says all the boys wore the same; it was
14 a uniform.

15 Paragraph 164, he says:

16 'All the staff were male and I don't remember any of
17 their names, just their faces. There were only about
18 four members of staff there and they swapped shifts, so
19 there would only be two members of staff around at any
20 one time.'

21 He thinks there were 15 to 20 boys in total and that
22 there were girls in the home, too, but:

23 'We never saw them.'

24 He goes on to describe the layout of the
25 establishment and notes that there was a day room with

1 a TV in it and another room for smoking. He says there
2 was a room that you could play games and table tennis
3 in, and that same room was changed into the dining room
4 for meal times.

5 At paragraph 169:

6 'There was a staircase going up and the boys'
7 dormitories were on the first floor. There were two
8 dormitories with about ten boys in each.'

9 He says, paragraph 172:

10 'It was a secure place where the main door and fire
11 exits were all locked, so you couldn't get out. The
12 rooms within the home weren't locked. You could get out
13 of the first floor dormitory window, but it was quite
14 a drop.'

15 He goes on to describe the routine in the home. At
16 paragraph 174, he says:

17 'There was no schooling at all. You just sat there
18 all day in the day room. The radio would be played and
19 you could hear that. It was really boring, so I would
20 just sit in the window, watching the squirrels and
21 praying that my mum would come.'

22 He says that they got to go to the smoking room and
23 were given four cigarettes a day.

24 Paragraph 176:

25 'We sometimes got asked to do jobs, like help in the

1 kitchen or sweep the floors and put tables away. We
2 didn't mind getting tasks because there was nothing else
3 to do.'

4 He says there was a lot of fighting between the boys
5 in the day room because there was nothing else to do.
6 In order to go to the toilet you had to knock on the
7 door and wait for someone to let you out. Only two boys
8 at a time were allowed to go.

9 Reading short again to paragraph 181, he said:

10 'The food was okay.'

11 He says, paragraph 182, there was no choice about
12 what you got; there was one option and, if you didn't
13 eat it, you would go hungry.

14 He says, paragraph 184, that he never got any visits
15 from anyone in there, nor any letters, 'as far as I can
16 remember'.

17 Paragraph 186:

18 'The first time I got home leave, a member of staff
19 showed me how to get to the train station and got me on
20 the train home. After that, I was just given my train
21 fare and allowed to go home by myself.'

22 Moving to paragraph 189, on abuse in Bellfield, he
23 says:

24 'There was one big, well-built guy there that all
25 the boys told me to watch out for. He was the one that

1 gave most of the beatings. I think he was maybe
2 ex-police or something, but I don't remember his name.

3 'I got kicked in a few times from staff in there,
4 but I wasn't too bothered about it. It was sexual abuse
5 that I was bothered about, but that never happened in
6 there. The closest thing to that was that one of the
7 staff members brought in a guy called GJK .'

8 And he says:

9 'He was brought in after I had been in the home for
10 a few months to play table tennis with me, because he
11 was supposed to be good. I played three games with him
12 and beat him really easily. This man then tried to get
13 me to come to his house, but he didn't get permission
14 from Bellfield for it, because nobody was allowed to get
15 out of Bellfield.

16 'I was the first person in Bellfield to start
17 getting home leave, because I was there longer than
18 anyone else. Whenever I would leave Bellfield to go
19 home at the weekends ... [this individual] would be
20 outside Bellfield in a silver car waiting for me.'

21 And he describes him and says:

22 'He would ask me to come back to his house, which
23 was in Dumbarton or Helensburgh. I would say no, but he
24 would keep insisting. He told me that other boys came
25 back to his house to play table tennis too, and he had

1 alcohol at home. I would say, "no way", and then he
2 would offer to drive me home or wherever I wanted to go.
3 I would still say no. I never went with him in his car,
4 because I didn't want to be in a position of being alone
5 with him after what had happened to me in St Ninian's.'

6 He says that this happened to him three or four
7 times, whenever he was going home.

8 At paragraph 193, he says that a friend had also
9 been asked to go to this person's home, but he can't
10 remember who had asked him.

11 Paragraph 194, he says that he ran away with two
12 other boys. When they were caught by the police and
13 brought back, they got into trouble.

14 Reading from paragraph 195:

15 'We were taken upstairs to the dormitory by two
16 staff members. We were given clean uniforms to change
17 into. Then two staff members gave us kick-ins, one at
18 a time. I was the third to get it, so I knew what was
19 coming because I saw the other two get it before me. We
20 were all slapped, kicked and punched all over our body
21 and face. When they did it to me, I was curled up as
22 a ball on the ground, so they couldn't hit my face.
23 They were still kicking me and telling me I better not
24 do that again. I don't remember who did it, but it
25 wasn't the big, well-built ex-police guy.

1 'That was the first beating I got in Bellfield.
2 I had a black eye and my nose was bleeding after it, but
3 we were just told to get cleaned up and get back in the
4 day room. We were told we would get the same treatment
5 if we ran away again. Everyone in the day room knew
6 what had happened when they saw us. I didn't run away
7 again.'

8 In paragraph 198, he repeats that there was a lot of
9 fighting between the boys in the day room. Indeed, 'the
10 boys had knives and stuff'.

11 At paragraph 199, he says if the staff did hear
12 a fight, they would call for another staff member before
13 coming in. By the time another staff member came, the
14 fight would usually be over. If it wasn't, they would
15 separate the boys and give them a slap and say if we
16 fought again then we would get a kick-in. Then they
17 would leave and the boys would start fighting again.

18 At paragraph 200, taking that short, he says that
19 the staff would sometimes search for knives, but there
20 was a secret place to stash them. He recounts
21 an occasion where a knife was used, albeit
22 half-heartedly, and the boy didn't need stitches for
23 a wound that he received.

24 He says that there was no supervision at night and
25 there was fighting after bedtime.

1 At paragraph 203, he said that he was still wetting
2 the bed and that he was terrified to tell anyone because
3 of what had happened at St Ninian's.

4 Reading from 203:

5 'The staff eventually found out it was me after
6 a few days because of the smell. The staff checked the
7 beds and found that my bed and pyjamas were wet. They
8 embarrassed me in front of everybody by saying that
9 I shouldn't be wetting the bed at my age. The staff
10 said that if anyone was to wet the bed, then they had to
11 tell the staff. I carried on wetting the bed, but
12 I never told them. I would wait until it was time to
13 change the bedding, which happened once a week, and then
14 quickly strip my bed and put the wet sheets in the
15 basket before it was noticed by anyone. All the boys
16 made fun of me in the day room after finding out that
17 I wet the bed. It caused me to get into a few fights.'

18 He recalls a particular occasion where a boy held
19 a knife to his throat, and he said:

20 'I told him just to do it. I wasn't caring
21 anymore.'

22 After that, my Lady, a place was found for him at
23 St Mary's, and he reports relatively little abuse there,
24 although there was -- he does recount an attempt by
25 a member of the kitchen staff there to sexually assault

1 him. And he then is in various SPS establishments.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR SHELDON: I think I can leave it there and just say as
4 usual he has made the declaration at the end of his
5 statement and signed.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Before I rise for the
7 afternoon break, a name there, somebody GJK,
8 it is subject to the protection of my General
9 Restriction Order, and that person can't be identified
10 outside this room.

11 So, afternoon break and then return to some other
12 reading in after that. Thank you.

13 (3.13 pm)

14 (A short break)

15 (3.22 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

17 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant
18 who is anonymous and known as 'Bruce' and his reference
19 is WIT-1-000000788.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 'Bruce' (read)

22 MS FORBES: And 'Bruce' was born in 1960 and tells us about
23 his life before going into care, from paragraph 2
24 onwards. He stayed in Barrhead in Glasgow with his
25 parents, three sisters and six brothers. He said that

1 he went to primary school and loved it, but had trouble
2 reading because letters would disappear on the page and
3 didn't make sense. Whenever he was asked to read, he
4 would rub his eyes. He said his dad worked as a general
5 labourer and his home life was brilliant, but there was
6 some arguing sometimes about his older brothers and they
7 got into trouble, and he doesn't know why. But a social
8 worker became involved and there was an altercation
9 between that social worker and his dad, where his dad
10 threw him out of the house and made comments towards
11 him.

12 He says at paragraph 5, ten days later, he was in
13 Cardross Park Home and he was 7 years old.

14 He explains, at paragraph 6, that he got involved
15 with a 17-year-old boy who took him to a works place
16 with an office and told him to run round and check if
17 the front door was open and, when he came back, the boy
18 was taking a calculator and magnifying glass out of the
19 window. The police caught them there and then. He was
20 then taken to the police station and remanded overnight
21 and went to Paisley Sheriff Court the next day.

22 He was let out from there then, three weeks later,
23 went to a Children's Panel, at which time he was put
24 into Cardross Park for 28 days. It is fair to say that
25 he states through his statement that he blames a lot of

1 what happened after on that social worker, and feels
2 that he was targeted because of what had happened with
3 him -- between that social worker and his dad.

4 He talks about the Children's Panel from paragraph 8
5 onwards.

6 At paragraph 9, he says when he went to the Panel
7 with his dad, the social worker was there and the head
8 man on the Panel spoke to the social worker and then
9 looked up and said, '28 days', and the social worker
10 said, 'Aye', and that was it. When he went out, a
11 policeman said to him that was the first time he had
12 seen anybody get 28 days for breaking a window.

13 He said at that time he had never been in trouble,
14 and had been doing well in school.

15 At paragraph 10, he says he was breaking his heart.
16 Then the social worker left and then came back. When he
17 came back, he had his wife and his children with him and
18 that's when he took him to Cardross, with his wife and
19 children.

20 He says he was in Cardross Park twice. The first
21 time was when he was 7, from [REDACTED] 1968 to
22 [REDACTED] 1968, and the second time was when he was 8,
23 in 1969.

24 He then tells us about the first stay at
25 Cardross Park, from paragraph 12 onwards. He gives us

1 some description of the grounds and the building and the
2 layout.

3 At paragraph 14, he says that the boys were all big,
4 and he was the smallest boy in there. He says the
5 oldest boy was a particular boy -- that I will refer to
6 as ■■■ -- and he was 12 years old. He says they were in
7 dorms and there were about 25 boys altogether.

8 He says there was a cook and two guys he saw working
9 at Cardross and those two guys would take turns on
10 shift; one would be on and one would be off.

11 He then goes on to tell us about the routine at
12 Cardross Park from paragraph 16. He talks about that
13 first day and says, when he went into Cardross with the
14 social worker, this was the first time he had been away
15 from home. The man in Cardross met with the social
16 worker and said he was there for 28 days and asked him
17 what he had done:

18 'All I could say was I broke a window, even though
19 it wasn't me. The man asked what else I had done and I
20 said nothing.'

21 He comments that the other boys in Cardross said to
22 him they were in for stealing a car or breaking into
23 a shop.

24 He then talks about the general routine, from
25 paragraph 18, and says that after breakfast you went

1 across the hall to the other room until lunch, then you
2 went back to that room after lunch until teatime and
3 then after tea you went back to the room again until
4 about 7.00 pm and then you went to the dorm. The meals
5 weren't spectacular, but he says they were 'eatable'.

6 He said, at paragraph 19:

7 'Every boy in Cardross was locked in that room all
8 day. We were never out. There was nothing to do. There
9 were comics, but I couldn't read anyway. I tried, but
10 I wasn't very good. We played table tennis. There was
11 one bat and a hardback book to play with. The guy with
12 the bat won every time. Boys ran about and we made our
13 own fun. There was no staff in the room and boys did
14 what they wanted. Bullying happened and boredom was
15 a big part of that. There was no schooling in Cardross.
16 We didn't do any chores. The windows had nails in them
17 and blocks of wood, so that you could only open the
18 window a wee bit. We peed out of that window sometimes,
19 because the staff wouldn't come to let you out to go to
20 the toilet. You could bang on the door for ten or
21 fifteen minutes and the staff wouldn't come. When
22 I peed out the window, I had to stand on the radiator
23 pipe so I could reach.'

24 He then says that there were three or four showers
25 in a row. You got one shower a week. You changed your

1 sheets and towel, and got clean underwear. That was all
2 done at the same time. When you went into Cardross, you
3 were given a stripy, short sleeved t-shirt, a pair of
4 shorts and sandals. Everybody was the same. There was
5 no jacket or jumper. Your own clothes were locked up in
6 a room.

7 He says he didn't get sick whilst he was at
8 Cardross, but says he had a sore face from being hit by
9 other boys and was just told he would be fine by the
10 staff. He then talks, at paragraph 24, about going to
11 church. He says he was a Catholic and he went to
12 church, which was close to Cardross, but just outside
13 the grounds. And that was the only time that he saw the
14 two members of staff together.

15 'Bruce' then talks about bed wetting at
16 paragraph 25, and says:

17 'At Cardross I wet the bed every night. I hid it
18 from the staff for a week and every night I went into
19 a wet bed. The staff found out the first time we
20 changed the sheets. They said I should have told them
21 and I had ruined the mattress. There were two of us
22 boys who were wetting the bed. I was so relieved when
23 I found out someone else was wetting the bed. The two
24 of us were told to take the sheets to the laundry and
25 then to go back upstairs and put clean pyjamas on. We

1 sat in the dorm all day and our dinner got brought up to
2 us. We were best mates after that. The staff got sick
3 of that every day and took me downstairs. I wet the bed
4 before I went into Cardross and for a long time after,
5 in every place I went to. When someone did find out,
6 then it meant anger and retaliation from me. You
7 couldn't let someone call you names.'

8 He then says that his parents came up every Sunday
9 with his brothers -- well, some of his brothers -- to
10 visit and the visit was an hour. And if it was a nice
11 day, they could walk out and sit on the grass, but they
12 couldn't move. If it wasn't a nice day, they went to
13 the dining hall and you got your visit there.

14 He says visitors were allowed to bring in sweeties.
15 He says, at paragraph 29:

16 'That's what the trouble was with [redacted] [the other boy].
17 He tried to take my sweeties from me. That was not on
18 and I wasn't taking that from him.'

19 He says that the social worker did not come to visit
20 him at Cardross or any other institution he was in.
21 When he would get home, then he would have to go and see
22 him.

23 He then says, at paragraph 31, after two weeks of
24 being in Cardross, his brother came in. He says:

25 'I was delighted, but floored.'

1 He describes there had been an incident where boys
2 had broken into a school and his brother was the one --
3 the only one out of the eight of them who had been put
4 away, and he got two weeks in Cardross. His brother
5 stayed in his dorm. He was 9 years old and he said he
6 was a [REDACTED] baby, who had [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED].

8 'Bruce' then goes on to talk about abuse at
9 Cardross Park at paragraph 32. He says:

10 'I was bullied and put under pressure by [REDACTED] and his
11 two pals. They bullied me every day for a short amount
12 of time. It wasn't just me.'

13 And he talks about his brother as well, who [REDACTED]
14 bullied:

15 'There were other boys getting bullied by him.
16 I had big brothers, so I kept going for the bullies and
17 pushing them away. I learnt that those boys didn't stop
18 when you said you gave in, like your brothers did. Those
19 boys kept punching you.'

20 [REDACTED] started pushing his brother about and he called
21 him 'the [REDACTED] bastard', and 'Bruce' says:

22 'I flew for [REDACTED] and pushed him. I pushed him that
23 hard that he hit his back on the table. A member of
24 staff came in and took us both outside, round the back
25 of the house, to the back of a garage. The member of

1 staff said to get it sorted. [REDACTED] punched me three times
2 in the face. I couldn't hit him because I couldn't get
3 near him. I got pasted by [REDACTED]. When I looked at [REDACTED] I was
4 looking into his chest. All I could do was try and
5 protect myself.'

6 He then says that he and his brother told his
7 parents about being taken by the staff member behind the
8 garage with [REDACTED]. That's the way things were sorted out
9 then, he says at paragraph 35, and he says:

10 'My ma said she would tell the social worker.'

11 He then says:

12 'Me and ... [his brother] knew we were getting out
13 of Cardross on [REDACTED] 1968.'

14 And that was six or seven days before his birthday.
15 He changed into his own clothes and his dad came and
16 picked him and his brother up at the same time. He says
17 that returning home, he couldn't wait to get back to
18 school, but he and his brother had to go and see the
19 social worker at a clinic after they got out.

20 He says he can't remember why he was put back into
21 Cardross, but he must have tried to break into
22 somewhere, but that, up until then, he had been enjoying
23 school and playing football for the school team. But he
24 had only three games with them and then he was away
25 again.

1 He went to a Children's Panel and the social worker
2 was there, and he got six weeks. Then he talks about
3 his second stay at Cardross, from paragraph 39. This
4 second stay was six weeks. He was eight years old. It
5 was only a matter of months after the first time. This
6 would be [REDACTED] 1969. The routine, he says,
7 was the same, and he says, at paragraph 39:

8 'I don't want to make it sound as if it was easy,
9 but it was easier the second time. I knew what to
10 expect, and I knew what I had to do.'

11 He talks about, at paragraph 40, being asked to
12 volunteer to clear the hedgerow outside, and everybody
13 volunteered and he was one of the lucky ones who got to
14 do that for a couple of days. He thought that was
15 great.

16 At paragraph 41, 'Bruce' says he still wet the bed
17 and he had to take his sheets to be washed in the
18 morning, and he would get clean sheets and then he could
19 go and get his breakfast. But the bed had a rubber mat.
20 He also says that, once or twice, he had to stay in the
21 dorm all day and he had to do that in front of all of
22 the boys and it was embarrassing. Again, his parents
23 visited every week, with his brothers, and he got to
24 know that, when you shared your sweeties, you got pals.
25 Some boys never got visits and he would give them some

1 sweeties. But, again, no visits from the social worker.

2 He then talks about abuse at Cardross Park from
3 paragraph 43, and says:

4 'People called you "pishy"; you couldn't sit there
5 and take it otherwise the boys would be on your case all
6 the time. I had to stop that. I never stopped the boys
7 calling me that, but I tried. I'd jump down their
8 throat or push them. Things calmed down a bit and then
9 only a couple of boys called me that.'

10 Then he says that his mother phoned the social
11 worker to tell him about him being bullied at Cardross,
12 but was ignored.

13 Then, when he left the second time, his dad picked
14 him up and took him home and he says, again, he had to
15 go and see the social worker when he was back at home,
16 and he was out of trouble for a year that time. Then he
17 says, at paragraph 47:

18 'I put what I learned at Cardross into practice when
19 I got out and I got caught. I was put into Bellfield
20 for breaking into a garage with my mate. I was stupid.
21 Every time I was caught, I was held overnight and went
22 to an emergency social work meeting and Panel. I knew
23 where I was going, even though I was praying I wasn't.'

24 He says:

25 'My da went apeshit. [And comments] my brothers

1 weren't getting into trouble.'

2 He talks about Bellfield from paragraph 48. This is
3 his first stay. He says he was in Bellfield three times
4 between the ages of 10 and 13. The first time was in
5 1971 for three or four weeks for a remand for reports to
6 be done. In 1973, he was there the whole summer. He
7 says the routine was the same every time. The home was
8 all boys and there were about 30 boys in it, most of
9 whom were older than him and the boys were in for
10 breaking into cars, housebreaking, and assaults.

11 He then describes the dorms in Bellfield all being
12 upstairs, and sets out the layout at paragraph 49, but
13 says that whilst you could go outside, because there was
14 an old tennis court and they went out there to play
15 football, when they weren't outside they were locked in.

16 He says there were about six staff and only two sat
17 in the TV room at one time. There was a hierarchy and
18 one person was in charge. He can't remember that
19 person's name. It was the same staff every time he
20 went.

21 At paragraph 51, he talks about the fact that the
22 first time he went to Bellfield, on the first day, the
23 night watchman took him upstairs and showed him his bed
24 and gave him pyjamas. He went into bed and wet the bed
25 and he got up the next morning and the boys were asking

1 who he was and where he had come from. And then, after
2 they got breakfast, they went to the TV room and sat
3 there all day.

4 He then tells us about the general routine at
5 Bellfield from paragraph 52. He says the dorm wasn't
6 very big; it was maybe -- eight or ten boys in it. He
7 talks about getting the meals there.

8 He says, at paragraph 53:

9 'The food wasn't great, but you ate it. If you
10 didn't like the food, then you didn't eat.'

11 Then he gives some information about the type of
12 food that they were given.

13 At paragraph 55, he says if you wet the bed then you
14 got your sheets and dumped them outside the kitchen.
15 You did that in front of the other boys:

16 'It was more the wee boys who said things to me
17 about wetting the bed. The older boys weren't bothered.
18 I told the wee boys to shut it. There were separate
19 showers, but no curtains. We got a shower every week
20 and you could ask for a shower.'

21 He then says they were given clothes. This was
22 short trousers, t-shirts and a jumper. It wasn't
23 a uniform; they were all different colours. Your
24 t-shirt, vest, pants and socks were changed every week.

25 At paragraph 58, he says:

1 'We watched TV sitting in rows. There were six rows
2 of boys and about six boys in each row. When you went
3 in at first, you sat at the front. The longer you were
4 in, then you could move back. The door was open. You
5 put your hand up and asked if you wanted to go to the
6 toilet.'

7 He then says they got out for an hour and a half to
8 play football and there was a bit of grass outside that
9 they could sit on if the weather was good. Staff
10 brought in newspapers and the boys would get them.
11 Comics came in on a Saturday at visits, but there were
12 no toys.

13 At paragraph 59, he says:

14 'It was sheer boredom. We didn't do any jobs. We
15 didn't go to church.'

16 He says at paragraph 60:

17 'In 1973, when I was 12 years old, I had been in
18 Bellfield for about eight weeks. The heat was
19 sweltering. The head man said to me one day that they
20 were going for a walk and the only reason I was going
21 was because I had the boots. The man said I wasn't to
22 have him phoning the social worker and telling the
23 social worker he was right. At the time I had no idea
24 what he was talking about. Now [he says] I think that
25 the social worker told the staff not to let me out of

1 their sight because I'd run away.'

2 And he says:

3 'Me and six boys got for a walk up the hills with
4 three members of staff and that was the only time I ever
5 went out of Bellfield. There was a garage out the front
6 that backed onto the River Leven. It was like
7 a classroom. The guy in the class told me to fill
8 something in, it was like an exam, and to read
9 something. It didn't take me long, so it wasn't much.
10 I started rubbing my eyes. That became my excuse for
11 not being able to read. The guy asked me if my eyes
12 were all right and I said they were fine. He told me to
13 sit down and he would get me after, but he never did.
14 That was the only time I went to education. Nobody
15 tried to find out what was causing the problem with
16 reading, either at Bellfield or any of the other places
17 I stayed in.'

18 He says his parents visited every Sunday and you
19 were allowed three visitors in at a time. He says, the
20 first time he was in Bellfield on remand, nobody came to
21 see him from social work and the report must have just
22 been done in the offices. He got one visit from
23 a social worker when he was in the second time, over the
24 summer. It was a woman and she asked how he was doing
25 and if his parents came up.

1 In relation to running away, at paragraph 65
2 onwards, 'Bruce' says:

3 'I was told one of the boys tried to run away and
4 smashed through the window in the TV room. The window
5 was replaced and one of the boys tried to run again.
6 This time the boy smacked right off it and hit the
7 floor. Some boys did run away. They would run along
8 the fence, jump up on the wall and run along the back
9 way. Everybody knew where they were going. There was
10 no way out. I didn't run away.'

11 In relation to discipline, 'Bruce' says, at
12 paragraph 67:

13 'There was a single cell called the cooler. It
14 measured 4 feet by 4 feet and had a heavy door. You
15 were put there to keep you calm. There was a wee window
16 that pulled right down and you could have got out of
17 that very easily. I was only put in the cooler once.
18 Boys were put in the cooler for running away. There was
19 no point running away. Where was I going to go?'

20 In relation to abuse, from paragraph 68 'Bruce'
21 says:

22 'The staff were rough with you because you had been
23 in trouble and you were in a place like Bellfield. The
24 staff didn't take any lip. A couple of boys got dragged
25 out and put in the cooler.

1 'One time we were playing football. I was sitting
2 beside a member of staff. He was an old guy and he was
3 all right. You could talk to him. A boy called ... [we
4 will call him ■] had a high pitched voice. ■ grabbed me
5 by the chest, told me to move and pulled me off the
6 seat. I don't know why he picked on me. I grabbed ■ by
7 the hair and kicked him. Every time I kicked ■, the old
8 guy said, "Again, again". There was a member of staff
9 on the other side of the fence and he shouted. The old
10 guy got up and grabbed me then, but he could have
11 grabbed me at any time. I thought I was getting
12 a leathering, but the old guy took me to the cooler and
13 put me in there for an hour. The old guy told me he
14 hated "that squeaky voiced bastard".

15 'I had a lot of arguments with other boys. The
16 arguments didn't go too far because you didn't want to
17 get dragged out and put in the cooler. It wasn't good
18 to see and you didn't want it to happen to you.'

19 He says the first time he left Bellfield, he went to
20 the Panel, and straight from there to St Ninian's. Then
21 he said the Panel told him he would be held in
22 St Ninian's List D School for the duration, but they
23 didn't give him a length of time. He said his parents
24 were upset and his mother was crying and he had the
25 feeling that he was going away.

1 He said he had never heard of St Ninian's, but he
2 had heard of St Joseph's and was apprehensive. He then
3 talks about St Ninian's between paragraphs 73 and 135
4 and that evidence was read in during the De La Salle
5 chapter, on 22 January 2024.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: Which was Day 410.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS FORBES: He was 10, he says, when he went there in 1971
10 and he was there for 19 months, coming out in 1973 when
11 he was 13 years old.

12 In relation to St Ninian's, he talks about physical
13 assaults by members of staff and the Brothers; sexual
14 assaults by the Brothers.

15 He then says that he got out of St Ninian's. This
16 is going down to paragraph 135. He was taken by the
17 Brothers to Glasgow. He was 13 years old. He said
18 after that he went back to school, to high school, but
19 he wasn't there long until the summer holidays. He had
20 missed first year because he had been in St Ninian's.
21 He said he got expelled a couple of times, but went into
22 third year before he was sent back to Bellfield for
23 housebreaking or something. He says that was the last
24 time he was at high school.

25 Then he talks about Bellfield, the second and third

1 stays, from paragraph 137. He was in Bellfield twice
2 after St Ninian's. The longest time was in 1973. The
3 routine was the same as the first. He didn't see the
4 social worker whilst he was there. When he got out, he
5 had to report to the social worker at his office, so he
6 would go there himself. He said that sometimes the
7 phone was cut off for lack of paying the bills, so he
8 couldn't phone and tell the social worker if he was
9 going to be late. He said he missed appointments and
10 that looked bad for him when he went to court, and he
11 says he thinks that's why he was dealt with so harshly;
12 it looked like he wasn't bothered.

13 He says that he was then arrested by the police when
14 he was 14, off the street, and was sent to a remand
15 unit, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17 When he got out of that unit, after a week he went
18 to court and the social work asked the court to put him
19 into Longriggend and said he was unruly. He then talks
20 about Longriggend from paragraph 142. That evidence was
21 read in during the Scottish Prison Service chapter on
22 17 November 2023, which is Day 392. He was there, he
23 says, three times as a schoolboy, and was remanded there
24 for reports to be done. The first time was 1974, when
25 he was 14. He said he didn't survive there the first

1 time; it was hard and he was remanded in custody on an
2 unruly certificate until his trial. But then he managed
3 to get bail and went out, and the trial was dismissed.

4 But he wasn't out long before he was in again for
5 the second time; and that was seven weeks on remand and
6 again classed as unruly.

7 The third time he was in for a few weeks, and he was
8 taken to court, to Barlinnie and then Longriggend.

9 Going further in his statement, he does talk about
10 some assaults in Longriggend from a member of staff, and
11 verbal abuse. In relation to Barlinnie, he was 14 or 15
12 when he was there and that was for two weeks. He says
13 that there was assault, again from a member of staff,
14 and verbal abuse.

15 He was then in St Andrew's School in Shandon. He
16 talks about that from paragraph 174. He was there for
17 15 months, from 1975 until just after his dad died in
18 1977. He was 16 when he came out. He tells us about
19 that, which is there in his statement, and he says that
20 during his time there -- this is paragraph 198 -- they
21 got a phone call and it said that his dad had died. He
22 had actually tried to go and visit him in hospital just
23 before that, but he missed the transport to get there,
24 and didn't see his dad before he died. His dad was only
25 47.

1 He says that St Andrew's was easier than the other
2 places he had been in and he would have preferred to
3 have been there earlier. There was some general grief,
4 he says, from other boys, but they didn't try to assault
5 him. He says that he didn't go to a Panel, but got
6 a date to get out of St Andrew's. This is at
7 paragraph 204. He got out about three months after he
8 had run away; he got out in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 1977. He was
9 16. He says:

10 'I was sad to go and at the same time I couldn't
11 wait to go.'

12 He got back home again and was getting into trouble
13 and he saw social workers until he was 21 years old. He
14 ended up in Polmont, being sentenced to 18 months'
15 borstal when he was 17, in 1977. He was only there for
16 six weeks, before he went to Castle Huntly for 17 or
17 18 months.

18 He says that, in Polmont, he heard a few boys
19 getting a couple of doings off of what he refers to as
20 'the screws' for not saying yes sir, no sir. And then
21 in Castle Huntly, he says that was easier than Polmont.
22 It was regimented, but it wasn't as bad. He then says
23 he got out of Castle Huntly when his sentence finished
24 and he ended up in Glenochil for three stays. He was
25 there as a young offender. The first time he was 17.

1 He says that Glenochil had just opened and he was one of
2 the first in it.

3 In relation to Glenochil, he talks about an incident
4 where a boy he knew in there had been sniffing
5 thinners -- and that's something he had started doing as
6 well -- and had died in his cell. He says that after
7 that, he threw his thinners away and he never touched
8 that again. And he got out of Glenochil on his 21st
9 birthday.

10 In relation to life after care, 'Bruce' says, from
11 paragraph 233, he still got into some trouble and that
12 work was hard to get because of the trouble he had been
13 in. He met his daughter's mum, but he says that when
14 his daughter was born he calmed right down and stopped
15 breaking into so many places, but started taking drugs
16 and drinking, and was selling drugs, too. He was caught
17 for that and sent to Greenock Prison for 18 months.
18 Then he had a son when he got out. He says that, since
19 he was 28 years old, he has calmed right down and has
20 only been in trouble for things like breach of the
21 peace.

22 He found out that his partner was taking heroin, so
23 he left and went to work in London for a period and then
24 came back. He says he has worked doing driveways and
25 patios. His relationship with his partner was on and

1 off for 20 years and they had another two children, but
2 he finished that relationship. He said he went to work
3 on the railways in London and met a girl and said that
4 was -- sorry, they were together until 2009 and they had
5 two sons, but then that relationship fell apart.

6 He says, at paragraph 239, he has been on his own
7 since 2009.

8 At 241, he says the last time he had any work was in
9 2017. He went all the way down mentally, but now, at
10 the time of giving this statement, he was starting to
11 come back up again and he says: 'I am starting to
12 breathe again'.

13 In relation to impact, he talks about that from
14 paragraph 242. He says:

15 'Being in these institutions as a child didn't do me
16 any good. The confidence that I had was the wrong
17 confidence.'

18 At paragraph 243, he says:

19 'Ever since I first went into Cardross, when I was
20 7 years old, it has been burning in my head why I was in
21 there. It is hard to understand how [his brother] got
22 two weeks for breaking into a school and I got 28 days
23 for breaking a window.'

24 He says:

25 'My da had friction with the social worker and he

1 passed that on to me. Whatever abuse the social worker
2 got he deserved.'

3 But he comments that the social worker stayed away
4 from the house, and they always had to go to him. He
5 didn't see that back then; it is only now.

6 He talks about his time at St Ninian's in the
7 following paragraphs.

8 Then, at paragraph 250, he says:

9 'My time in institutions was perfect for my criminal
10 education. Everything I learned about breaking into
11 places or stealing motors, I learned in Cardross and
12 Bellfield. The things that really matter, like reading
13 and writing and history, I didn't have at all. I still
14 have trouble reading and letters still disappear. In
15 jail, I got the new books that came in last because
16 I was the slowest reader.'

17 He talks about the fact that he had trouble with
18 anxiety and he says that he started writing about his
19 experiences, and his daughter said to keep doing that.
20 He also mentions that he has had difficulties in being
21 able to see his youngest sons after splitting up from
22 their mother.

23 He says, at paragraph 255, in 2020 he did report
24 matters to the police -- this was in relation to
25 St Ninian's -- and was told by the police that the

1 abusers were all dead.

2 He says, at paragraph 258, he has never had any help
3 or support.

4 In relation to lessons to be learned, he says at
5 paragraph 261:

6 'If a kid's angry with an official adult, the adult
7 should take the time to listen to what that wean is
8 shouting about. Don't just shut the kid up, fob them
9 off or make excuses for somebody. Social workers should
10 ask kids they are dealing with why they hate social
11 workers so much. If social workers get the kids young,
12 then they can nip it in the bud and weans like me won't
13 be so angry.

14 'I thought social workers were supposed to be good
15 people doing a good job. I wondered why they were
16 messing me about and letting me down all the time.
17 I don't have an answer for that, but I would like to
18 know why social workers ignored me all that time and why
19 they are still ignoring me now. I blame myself for
20 a lot of it because of my mouth, but I think social
21 workers should show a lot more understanding.'

22 He says, at paragraph 267 -- he makes the usual
23 declaration, I should say, and he has signed that and it
24 is dated 25 August 2021.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Forbes.

1 MS FORBES: My Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: I think we will stop there for today. Then
3 tomorrow we have, I think, three witnesses in person,
4 lined up, don't we?

5 MS FORBES: Yes, we do.

6 LADY SMITH: That's the plan, is it? Very well. I will
7 rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

8 (3.54 pm)

9 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday, 5 July

10 2024)

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4	'Hammy' (read)1
5	'Terry' (read)9
6	'Veronica' (read)11
7	'Barry' (read)26
8	'Michael' (read)35
9	'Bruce' (read)49
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