

1

Friday, 5 July, 2024

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning, and welcome to the final day this  
4 week in Chapter 7 of Phase 8: evidence on Bellfield,  
5 Cardross Park, and Calder House. As I said last night,  
6 we have three witnesses in person today and I am told  
7 the first witness is ready; is that correct?

8 MR SHELDON: The first witness is ready, my Lady, and he is  
9 Steven Emslie. He has waived anonymity.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Steven Emslie (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: Steven, do sit down and make yourself  
13 comfortable.

14 A. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Steven, a couple of practical things before we  
16 begin.

17 A. Yes. That's fine, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: That red folder has your written statement.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: I want to thank you for providing that in  
21 advance; it is really helpful to have had it. Do bear in  
22 mind that is already evidence in the Inquiry.

23 A. Right.

24 LADY SMITH: As you will probably have been told, what we  
25 are interested in doing today is focusing on some

1 particular parts of the evidence you have already given  
2 in writing.

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: I hope you will feel able to do that.

5 A. Oh yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Perhaps less practically, you are striking me  
7 as sounding very organised and prepared, and we no doubt  
8 all feel like that.

9 A. It has been 40 years.

10 LADY SMITH: I have asked you to come into a public forum  
11 and it can be a bit difficult, some people find at  
12 times. It can strike them. Great if it's not and you  
13 feel you can sail through, but if you are taken by  
14 surprise and you want a breather --

15 A. No.

16 LADY SMITH: -- or a break, just say. It's not a problem.

17 A. I have kept my mouth shut for a lot of years, so now,  
18 not a chance.

19 LADY SMITH: Good. I am glad to be able to give you the  
20 opportunity.

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: The other thing is: sometimes we don't explain  
23 things as well as we ought to, and we all have legal  
24 backgrounds here.

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: We can drop into the wrong language. If we are  
2 not making sense, just tell us.

3 A. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: Ask us to explain things better. It is our  
5 fault, not yours, if you don't understand; all right?

6 A. Not a problem, thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to  
8 Mr Sheldon.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: He will take it from there.

11 A. Okay, thank you.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Questions by Mr Sheldon

14 MR SHELDON: Good morning, Steven. I think, when we spoke  
15 before, you were okay with me calling you Steven.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. Steven, as Lady Smith says, you have your  
18 statement in front of you --

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. -- in the red folder. I wonder if you could just look  
21 at that for me, please, briefly?

22 A. I don't need to. I will open it, but you can ask me  
23 anything.

24 Q. Sure. It is really just a formal matter. If you could  
25 look, please, at page 23 of your statement. It is just

1 the last page.

2 A. Oh. Okay.

3 Q. And I think --

4 A. Yes, that's my signature.

5 Q. Your signature, and I think you tell us there you have  
6 no objection to your witness statement being published  
7 as part of the evidence to the Inquiry?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And you believe the facts stated in the statement are  
10 true?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Right. And you can just put that aside now.

13 Again, just for our records, our procedure, the  
14 reference, the NUIX reference for the statement is  
15 WIT-1-000001268.

16 Now, Steven, I think you were born in 1973; is that  
17 right?

18 A. [REDACTED]/1973.

19 Q. And you were born in Glasgow --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- but I think you and your family, particularly you and  
22 your mum, moved around quite a bit; is that fair to say?

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. You tell us a bit about your early years. I don't want  
25 to go into all the details of that, but would it be fair

1 to say that it was a pretty complicated and difficult  
2 childhood?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. You lived in Montrose for a while, and moved back to  
5 Glasgow; that would be 1977 or so?

6 A. We moved up to Glasgow, I think -- Montrose, in '76. It  
7 was about '77/'78 we moved back to my gran and  
8 grandad's.

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. And then we went across to [REDACTED].

11 Q. You tell us when you got back to Glasgow and -- my Lady,  
12 I am looking at page 6, paragraph 20 of the statement  
13 now.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR SHELDON: You tell us that, when you moved back to  
16 Glasgow, you started having some trouble because you had  
17 a different accent because of your time in Montrose.

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. And you were bullied?

20 A. Constantly fighting. Even though I was born in Glasgow,  
21 Stobhill Hospital in Springburn, like I said, I moved up  
22 to Montrose, so by the time -- I was 3 when I moved up  
23 there. So that was me just basically learning to talk,  
24 which -- you talk total different.

25 Came back down to Glasgow after my mum's first

1 husband beat her up, beat us up. Came back down to  
2 Glasgow with a different accent and the kids in the  
3 block of flats, [REDACTED], where we lived in  
4 [REDACTED], because I talked different, not  
5 Glaswegian, I became a target.

6 Q. Yes. And I think because your mum was moving around  
7 quite a bit, you were moving primary school quite a bit  
8 as well?

9 A. I went to one primary -- one nursery and about five  
10 different primary schools.

11 Q. Over this time, you tell us that you experienced, from  
12 various people, both sexual and physical abuse?

13 A. Yes, that's true.

14 Q. And you tell us, at paragraph 22 of your statement,  
15 page 6, that, what with all the things that were going  
16 on, you ended up turning to sniffing glue?

17 A. Yes. That was probably about six, six/seven.

18 Q. You tell us you started smoking at four.

19 A. Yes. My mum threw a fag out of the window, thinking  
20 she'd threw it out, but didn't realise me and my friend  
21 were sitting down at the close. There was probably  
22 about that much left of the cigarette (indicates).  
23 I have picked it up, started smoking it and my mum's  
24 seen smoke coming up, and she's thought: I threw that  
25 fag out; why's there smoke coming up?

1           And she's seen the front of my trainers. That's how  
2           I got caught.

3   Q.   Right. Did the glue become a regular thing?

4   A.   Yes, I sniffed that for a lot of years.

5   Q.   Okay. You tell us, at paragraph 25 of your statement,  
6           that when you were six -- and this was around the time  
7           you were starting to sniff glue -- you were sexually  
8           abused by [REDACTED]

9   A.   [REDACTED] yes.

10  Q.   And --

11  A.   [REDACTED].

12  Q.   And you tell us that on one of the occasions he did  
13           that, he said to you, 'No matter what you say, no one  
14           will believe you'.

15  A.   Oh yes. And I will be dead before I'm 29.

16  Q.   Sorry?

17  A.   I will be dead before I am 29.

18  Q.   That's what he said to you?

19  A.   Yes, yes, yes.

20  Q.   And you say you had that message drummed into you  
21           for years; is that right?

22  A.   Yes.

23  Q.   That's what you grew up believing, as it were?

24  A.   Yes, yes.

25  Q.   You tell us then that, after that occasion, you stole

1           some money from this person's wallet and, as a result of  
2           that, when it was discovered, you got a beating?

3    A.   There were two separate cases where I stole the money  
4           off him. The same weekend, I stole five pounds out of  
5           his wallet on the Saturday and then, the Sunday, I went  
6           back again and I thought I had actually taken a tenner,  
7           but it turned out to be a twenty-pound note.

8           And then when I came back later on that day, me and  
9           my friends, he seen us -- and my friend's mum and dad  
10          was walking down as well. Both of us got dragged off.  
11          He went off to his mum and dad's and then he took me  
12          down and battered the hell out of me.

13   Q.   You tell us a bit more about your family and about  
14          moving around from school to school.

15   A.   Yes.

16   Q.   You say that -- and this is paragraph 29, my Lady --

17   LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

18   MR SHELDON: -- by the time you were 13 or 14 you still  
19          hadn't come to the attention of the social work, but by  
20          then you were getting into trouble for glue sniffing and  
21          there were drugs as well; is that right?

22   A.   Yes. LSD, which is -- yes, LSD. Cannabis, amphetamines  
23          and other tablets as well, like Valium and all that kind  
24          of stuff. Same with alcohol, as well.

25   Q.   Sure. You tell us that you were by this time staying



1 off school, and you got into trouble with the police?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You described that in your statement, Steven, as

4 'a scream for help'?

5 A. That was partly a scream for help, yes. Like I say, in

6 my own household, family members supposed to look after

7 you, supposed to protect you... I didn't have that.

8 When I got into trouble and then the police came, or the

9 police took me to the Baird Street Police Station,

10 I felt safe.

11 Q. And was that when you first met a social worker, when

12 you were given a social worker?

13 A. Yes, her name was Davina -- Ma -- Was it Davina McCall?

14 I think it was Davina McCall.

15 Q. You give the name. This isn't a memory test, Steven.

16 The name you have given in the statement is

17 Marina Devine; does that ring a bell?

18 A. That was it, yes.

19 Q. So you meet her. And you talk in the next paragraph

20 about going to a Children's Panel. Did that happen

21 straight away? Was that just straight after you met the

22 social worker?

23 A. Near enough, yes.

24 Q. Or were there more occasions when there was involvement

25 of --

1 A. Well, I seen Marina. I got told I had to go to the  
2 Social Work Department, which is actually my first  
3 primary school I ever went to, Broomhouse Primary. The  
4 school closed down after about four or five years that  
5 I was there, and then it become the Social Work  
6 Department.

7 I seen Marina, I think, maybe once, and then I was  
8 transferred -- or told -- well, my mum just took me and  
9 we ended up at Anderson Bus Station, Anderson House,  
10 where it was a Children's Panel.

11 Q. Right. So this was your first time you had been to  
12 a Children's Panel?

13 A. Yes, yes.

14 Q. What can you tell us about that? What was it like for  
15 you?

16 A. Well, a little bit -- it was scary, because I didn't  
17 know what was happening. Nobody told me why I was  
18 coming here. Or not here, but to the Children's Panel.

19 LADY SMITH: Was your mum with you?

20 A. Yes. My mum was with me, yes. Me and my mum actually  
21 went to the Anderson Bus Station, Anderson House, and  
22 then we met my social worker there. Her and my mum  
23 ended up talking and then the next minute -- you know,  
24 I got taken into the Panel and then, the next minute  
25 I know, it was adjourned or it was -- they said whatever

1           and then the next minute you know, I am getting taken  
2           away by my social worker.

3 MR SHELDON: Do you remember what the Panel said to you?  
4           Did they speak to you?

5 A. They never spoke to me.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. They just talked to my social worker.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I didn't know what was happening.

10 Q. They didn't explain to you --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- what was happening or what was going to happen?

13 A. No. Before I knew it, the court -- the Panel finished,  
14           and we came outside the doors and then the next minute  
15           you know, I am being told that I have to go to this  
16           assessment centre.

17 Q. Had you ever heard of assessment centres before?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. Did you know what they were?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did Marina tell you what they were?

22 A. She didn't. I don't think -- she was actually Italian,  
23           Marina, my social worker, so I am not sure how long she  
24           had actually been over here and doing the job. But  
25           I wasn't really told until we started going down the

1 stairs -- or down the lift, going to her car, that she  
2 was actually saying to me about going there. She got  
3 me --

4 Q. I am sorry to interrupt you again, but did she tell you  
5 you were going to Cardross at that point?

6 A. She didn't mention Cardross. She just says I was going  
7 to an assessment centre --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- near Helensburgh.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. I didn't even know where Helensburgh was.

12 LADY SMITH: And you were a teenager?

13 A. Yes, I was about 13/14.

14 LADY SMITH: 13/14?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 MR SHELDON: This would be about 1987; does that sound about  
17 right?

18 A. Yes, '86/'87/'88.

19 Q. So Marina takes you to Cardross; do you just go straight  
20 there from the Panel?

21 A. Yes. She actually let my mum come with me.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And then she stopped off at a garage, fuelled up, got me  
24 an orangeade drink, a glass bottle, bell bottle,  
25 a packet of crisps and a Mars bar.

1 Q. Right. So arriving at Cardross --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- Cardross Assessment Centre --

4 A. It was night time, dark.

5 Q. Right. So I suppose particularly scary for you --

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. -- not being able to see the place properly?

8 A. Not just that, but I had been taken away from my home,

9 my mum.

10 Q. Did your mum actually come with you into the Assessment

11 Centre?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. All right. But presumably at some point she had to

14 leave?

15 A. Yes, she left with Davina. Or Marina, sorry.

16 Q. What were your first impressions of Cardross when you

17 arrived?

18 A. All I seen was a big glass building, loads of windows.

19 I was scared.

20 Q. Was it a modern building or an old fashioned building?

21 A. At that time, yes, it was a modern building. What

22 I remember about it was, when I -- we came in, there was

23 a golf course on the right-hand side and then there was,

24 like -- the grass had all been cut. There was a few

25 trees, but it was a wynd that came round to the front of

1 the building.

2 Q. And when you went in; was someone there to meet you?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did someone talk to you?

5 A. Erm --

6 Q. Someone on the staff?

7 A. -- yes, one of the staff members, I think it was a man,  
8 if I remember right, came down, seen Marina ... or --  
9 I have mentioned her name that many times, it just keeps  
10 on coming back.

11 Q. That's all right. It's okay.

12 A. But he spoke to Marina, spoke to my mum and then give us  
13 about five minutes. And then he took me up to my room  
14 and my mum and that left.

15 Q. Did he speak to you?

16 A. Yes, he was talking to me going upstairs.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Just asking me how I feel and not to worry about it,  
19 that there is other kids here as well. But, again, it  
20 wasn't until I got to the room that, when I opened the  
21 door, I actually seen -- that would have been the first  
22 time I'd ever had a duvet.

23 Q. Right. Did anyone tell you how long you were going to  
24 be there?

25 A. No.

1 Q. All right. Did anyone tell you what you were going to  
2 do there or what they were going to do with you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. You tell us in your statement a bit about the  
5 building. You told us it was massive. It had big glass  
6 windows.

7 A. Yes, that was mainly downstairs.

8 Q. Right. So how was it laid out inside the building?

9 A. When you walked through the doors, it was like the big  
10 brown school doors, kind of thing, big glass windows at  
11 the top, at the bottom bit the wood. As soon as you  
12 walked in it was like cream, the floor was like marble.  
13 To the left, it was like they went down a couple of  
14 steps, that was the visiting area. Straight in front,  
15 there was a -- I can't remember if there were stairs  
16 there, but that would take you up to that side of the  
17 building.

18 Then you have the back wall, where this bit that  
19 goes down -- There is another little wall and you walk  
20 in between there, where the big wall is here, there is  
21 a games room. Well, games room; one pool table. Then  
22 you walk through, go through the doors and it takes you  
23 up the stairs.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. And that's where I was.

1 Q. Okay, is that where your bedroom was?

2 A. Yes. When you come up the stairs and go through the  
3 door, you have other rooms over here, about four or  
4 five, and there was about three or four on this side,  
5 which I was on. I was in the corner, the corner room.

6 Q. And were you in a single room?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Just you?

9 A. Yes, single room. As soon as you walked in you have --  
10 when you opened the door, the wardrobes were, like,  
11 built in. Coat hangers were already there. It was the  
12 actual coat hanger that you had to lift up and hook back  
13 in, if you know what I mean.

14 Q. Yes, sure.

15 A. Bed was here; window was there. Again, the window would  
16 only open up that much. It had a little bar on it where  
17 you could -- there was like an eye, so you pick it up,  
18 push it down --

19 Q. Sure.

20 A. -- and it opens the window, just a little bit.

21 Q. Okay.

22 Was there any other furniture in the room?

23 A. A chair. The bed. That was it.

24 Q. Right. No drawers or --

25 A. No.



1 Q. -- wardrobe, anything like that?

2 A. No, you had the wardrobe, like I say, a built in  
3 wardrobe behind the door. So, as soon as you opened the  
4 door on this wall, that was where your wardrobe was.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So you probably had -- like I say, the wooden coat  
7 hangers, they were on here. You only had about two or  
8 three. And I think there might have been a couple of  
9 drawers down here --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- but the doors closed over.

12 Q. Were all the kids in Cardross in single rooms or were  
13 there any dormitories?

14 A. No, from what I can gather -- because I had actually  
15 been on both sides at different times, I had actually  
16 been there twice -- the first time I was there it was on  
17 the left-hand side, they were all single rooms, but  
18 there was mixed as well. So you had boys and girls  
19 there.

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. And then on the other side it was basically -- to me, it  
22 just looked like one corridor and then you got doors  
23 going off.

24 Q. Okay. And were boys and girls in the same part of the  
25 building?

1 A. Oh yes. Yes, yes, yes, all mixed.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. All mixed.

4 Q. Okay. You tell us that the staff allowed you to smoke?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But you were only allowed five cigarettes a day?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How did you get the cigarettes, Steven?

9 A. Well, I used to get -- my mum used to come up and see  
10 me. The day that I first went there, I used to have,  
11 like, a black ski jacket, the same sort of length of  
12 this that I have got on, the suit jacket. And in the  
13 hood, which you used to be able to tuck into the band,  
14 my mum took her fags out and give them to me. So, when  
15 I went up to the room, I put them in there, so they were  
16 out the way. Then my mum give them another packet of  
17 fags, so I could have five a day. But they didn't know  
18 that I had had my other ones, which I used to smoke out  
19 the window, yes.

20 Q. You had an extra supply?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. You tell us -- and this is page 11 of your  
23 statement, paragraph 38 -- you talk about the next day,  
24 after you arrived, being introduced to some other people  
25 in the place?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. And I don't need his name, but you talk about  
3 a particular young kid --

4 A. [REDACTED].

5 Q. -- who you thought was about seven or eight years old?

6 A. [REDACTED], blond hair.

7 Q. He was really that young?

8 A. Oh yes, yes.

9 Q. So really just a little kid?

10 A. He was only a youngster, yes.

11 Q. And you say that the oldest children were, you think,  
12 about 16?

13 A. About 16, yes.

14 Q. Okay. And of course you would be 13/14 --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- at that time yourself?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You talk about some of the other children that you met.  
19 You do say that you can't remember if they locked  
20 the front door or not, but you say that it was deemed to  
21 be a secure unit. Where did you hear that it was meant  
22 to be a secure unit?

23 A. I am not quite sure, to be honest with you. All I was  
24 led to believe was that once you were in there, you  
25 couldn't go anywhere, up and down corridors, kind of

1           thing. You could only stay on this side; you couldn't  
2           go on to the other person's side because anything could  
3           happen.

4   Q.   So were some of the doors inside the unit locked?

5   A.   They had -- they did have locks on them, yes.

6   Q.   Right.

7   A.   But, when I was on that side, they never locked the  
8           doors.

9   Q.   Okay. So, in theory, it was possible for you just to  
10          walk out?

11  A.   As far as I know, you could have went down the stairs,  
12          because this is how ██████ used to get out. It was like  
13          fire exit stairs. It was like a bar, so you pushed the  
14          bar and go out the door.

15                But the front doors, I think, they did actually  
16          lock, but you still had the two fire exits either side.

17  Q.   Okay. And they weren't locked?

18  A.   No. Well, you got the -- what do you call it? The  
19          secure, like, fire exit thing.

20  Q.   Yes.

21  A.   So all you have to do is push that and you could go out.

22  Q.   Okay?

23  LADY SMITH: I take it it didn't set off any alarm?

24  A.   I think it did.

25  LADY SMITH: Oh, it did?

1 A. I think it did, yes.

2 MR SHELDON: Okay.

3 A. I never attempted it because I didn't know -- or didn't  
4 want to get into any more trouble.

5 But, at that time, when I was on that side, I felt  
6 safe for the first time in my life, apart from being in  
7 the police station, but there ...

8 LADY SMITH: Why? Why did you feel safe?

9 A. For a lot of things that was happening in my home. And  
10 then to get away from that, to go to school, I always  
11 got the same hassle again. So the only time I really  
12 got peace is when I actually went looking for golf balls  
13 or looking for stuff to get the money to help support my  
14 mum, as well as myself.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR SHELDON: You tell us in your statement about the routine  
17 at Cardross.

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. About getting up in the morning, breakfast, all that  
20 sort of stuff.

21 One thing I wanted to ask you about was meals. You  
22 said that although there was a dining room, or  
23 a canteen, most of the food -- you took your food  
24 upstairs?

25 A. Yes, it was upstairs.

1 Q. In your bedroom?

2 A. You would either eat it in your bedroom or there was,  
3 like, a little seating area, where you had the TV, but  
4 the TV was very seldom on.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. You had a couple of seats around about where you could  
7 eat, but they advised you or wanted you to eat in your  
8 bedroom.

9 Q. Okay, so what's the routine? Would you come down to a  
10 kitchen and load up with food there and then go back  
11 upstairs or what?

12 A. I think they used to bring the food up.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. So we never really -- when I was on that side, apart  
15 from they would let you down to go for a game of pool,  
16 which was few and far between, you never really left,  
17 apart from going to the education, which was just  
18 a house. And it was an old woman that actually took the  
19 class, probably about 10 to 15 of us.

20 Q. So should we understand that really you spent -- you had  
21 to spend most of your time in your room?

22 A. Between your room and then that little, like, area. But  
23 you also had, like, a staff counter, kind of thing,  
24 where they would sit. So it was supposed to be  
25 monitored.

1           There was no toilet in the rooms. If you wanted the  
2           toilet you had to come out and then go. I think it was  
3           in the same bit, or it might have been in the corridor.  
4           I'm not quite sure.

5   Q.   Okay. Can you tell us more about the education that you  
6           got? You say that there was some.

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   But what was it like?

9   A.   When I was 13/14, the stuff they were actually teaching  
10          me was what I had learnt when I was about 5/6/7, and  
11          that was the same with English. The only thing I really  
12          sort of enjoyed was when she done the art class, which  
13          we ended up -- I remember making, like, a seagull, where  
14          you make different parts to it, paint it all up, put the  
15          string through it, and you hang it up and you pull the  
16          bottom of it and the wings start flapping. My mother  
17          still had that for about 30 years after.

18   Q.   Okay. How long during -- sorry, I will ask you this  
19          first: were you in classes every day or at least during  
20          the week?

21   A.   Near enough every day, but you would only spend probably  
22          about two hours, if that.

23   Q.   Well, that was the next question. So about two hours  
24          a day, you think?

25   A.   Two hours in the morning. Go back in the afternoon,

1 same again.

2 Q. Okay. You also tell us in your statement that you had  
3 staff that worked on your side of the building, and you  
4 say that they were fine. In your words, you didn't have  
5 any problems with them.

6 A. No.

7 Q. How were the staff with you?

8 A. One of the times that I came back from the education, me  
9 and my friend [REDACTED] -- but we used to call  
10 him [REDACTED]. I know he was another Glasgow boy. He was  
11 from Easterhouse -- we were coming back from the  
12 education and we were chasing each other, racing, and we  
13 gets up to the doors, he goes one way and I go the  
14 other. And I heard someone say, 'Stop running', which  
15 I thought was my mate [REDACTED], and I told him to F-off.

16 Q. You thought the person that said, 'Stop running', was  
17 your friend?

18 A. My friend, yes. So I told him to F-off, started walking  
19 or whatever. Next thing you know, someone has caught up  
20 with me, spun me round, picked me up by the throat, the  
21 scruff of the neck, kind of thing, put me up against the  
22 wall, and said, 'Don't F at me'. It scared the hell out  
23 of me.

24 Q. It sounds pretty scary.

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. Just talk us through that, if you could. How does the  
2 member of staff take hold of you?

3 A. He spun me round on my shoulder and then grabbed me by  
4 the throat, like that.

5 Q. With his hand like that?

6 A. Yes, yes, yes, pinned me straight up. I mean, I was not  
7 much taller than I am now; he was about six foot.  
8 I can't really remember him. I remember a green shirt.  
9 But the way he picked me up and said that, I was too  
10 scared to even look at him.

11 Q. Were your feet off the floor --

12 A. Oh yes, yes.

13 Q. -- when he did that?

14 A. Oh yes, yes.

15 Q. That must have been pretty painful, wasn't it?

16 A. Again, through all the other stuff I had been through,  
17 from being a kid, with [REDACTED] bouncing the hell out  
18 of me, it was just like another thing, basically, that  
19 I have experienced mostly all my life. It did scare me.  
20 It did frighten me.

21 Q. And would you be choking? Were you able to breathe?

22 A. Oh, I couldn't breathe.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I couldn't breathe.

25 Q. How long did it last?

1 A. Basically, the way he grabbed me, you know your Adam's  
2 apple? It was like that.

3 Q. How long did that go on for?

4 A. Probably about 20/30 seconds or so.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And then he dropped me, told me to go back to my room.  
7 And then he went off that way. I had never seen him  
8 before. He wasn't on my side.

9 Q. This was definitely a member of staff?

10 A. Yes, yes, yes, yes, 100 per cent. There was no other  
11 people there, apart from the staff.

12 Q. So, although you say that the staff on your side were  
13 fine --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- it sounds as though some of the staff weren't fine?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Was that something that you saw happen to other young  
18 people?

19 A. [REDACTED], he run out the building and run across to the --  
20 you came out the building here and went off to the left,  
21 which is going over a bit of the grass where you have  
22 the road that comes round and then you have the golf  
23 course. He had gone so far up the golf course, they  
24 caught him and kicked him up the arse. Sorry about  
25 that. Kicked him up the backside, sorry.

1 Q. No, it's all right.

2 A. I had seen that happening a couple of times to [REDACTED].

3 Q. Just to him or --

4 A. Yes, I didn't see anything else, apart from that.

5 Q. Right. This member of staff who assaulted you --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- did you see that person again?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Never seen him again.

11 Q. Okay. Did you see anything like that happening to other  
12 children?

13 A. Like I say, [REDACTED].

14 Q. Okay. What about when children were acting up? If  
15 children were really behaving very badly?

16 A. Again, [REDACTED], if he was acting up, they used to give him  
17 a little clout and whatnot.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I know [REDACTED] had a couple of experiences, because I told  
20 him what had happened to myself.

21 Q. Mm-hm.

22 A. He mentioned a couple of things.

23 Q. What sort of things?

24 A. I couldn't really remember on that.

25 Q. Okay. You said that in relation to your friend [REDACTED] --

1 A. Yes. He wasn't really a friend, [REDACTED].

2 Q. Well, someone you knew.

3 A. Just a kid that I knew.

4 Q. Sure. You said he got a clout; more than one?

5 A. Yes, he had a few clouts. Like I said, I had seen him

6 getting kicked up the arse. Again, sorry about that.

7 Q. It's all right.

8 LADY SMITH: There is no need to apologise.

9 A. It is my French.

10 LADY SMITH: Just let me assure you, in my working life

11 I have heard worse language than that on a regular

12 basis, so no need to think you can't use it here.

13 A. Okay, thank you.

14 MR SHELDON: So these clouts [REDACTED] would get; were they with

15 the back of a hand or the front of the hand?

16 A. I would probably say that way, so it would be like a

17 skite.

18 Q. On the head? On the body?

19 A. Oh, it would be more likely on the head.

20 Q. And when children were really sort of acting up; were

21 they ever restrained? Were they held by staff?

22 A. I couldn't tell you.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I couldn't tell you that.

25 Q. You didn't see it?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay.

3           You talk a bit about other things, Steven. There

4           were some chores?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It sounds from your statement as though there wasn't

7           a lot of that; is that right?

8 A. From what I can remember, one of my jobs that I got

9           asked to do -- but I sort of completely forgot all about

10          it and then I was sort of reminded, whatever, told to go

11          and do it -- was the back stairs, to clean them off. Go

12          down the banisters, clean them off, the bars in between.

13          And then other people would have to clean -- where you

14          have got the rooms and then it is like a day room, kind

15          of thing. Other kids used to have to get -- to Hoover

16          that or they would get the polish out, or stuff like

17          that.

18 Q. Sure. How often would you have to do that?

19 A. I think it was near enough every day, basically.

20 Q. Right. Okay. And for how long?

21 A. I was there for six weeks the first time.

22 Q. I'm sorry, I meant how long were you doing the chores?

23 A. Oh. It would probably take you anything from 20 minutes

24          to maybe, say, an hour, something like that.

25 Q. Okay. So not a huge amount of time, I suppose?

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. Okay. You also talk about trips. I think you remember  
3 a particular occasion where you had a day out to Oban;  
4 is that right?

5 A. Yes, yes, took us fishing.

6 Q. How was that?

7 A. We went up on one of the -- we used to call them --  
8 I don't mean any disrespect or anything like that.  
9 I remember the blue and yellow van, minibus, kind of  
10 thing, which was a Strathclyde -- we used to call them  
11 spacca buses back in the day. They took about half  
12 a dozen of us, just over half a dozen of us, took us up  
13 to Oban to go fishing, sea fishing. We got to the pier,  
14 threw the line out, and it was that windy, that breezy,  
15 all the sea water was coming up. We ended up going for  
16 a bag of fish and chips and then coming back to  
17 Cardross.

18 Q. So not too many fish caught?

19 A. No, just out the chippy.

20 Q. You tell us about some other trips, for example to the  
21 swimming baths?

22 A. Yes, that was Coatbridge, I think it was.

23 Q. Was that a regular thing or a one off?

24 A. No, I think we went there once, maybe twice. And that  
25 was a group of us. Again, it was, like, strange for

1 myself, because I have actually got some friends there.  
2 Whereas before, living in Glasgow, it was just fighting  
3 with different people and I would get smacked with  
4 baseball bats, pick shafts, balls, golf clubs. That was  
5 even going to school and again coming out of school.  
6 But back at Cardross ...

7 Q. So I suppose, in comparison with that, Cardross was  
8 quite --

9 A. Yes, like I say, I felt safe.

10 Q. Okay. You tell us that you had some visits; that your  
11 mum was able to come and see you?

12 A. Yes, my mum, my gran, my grandad, my brother and his  
13 partner.

14 Q. And during those visits they let you out of the Centre?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. Oh, they didn't?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. You could never leave the Centre, you could never go  
20 outside.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. And it was only a maximum of three visitors at a time.

23 Q. Okay. You tell us, in the statement, that sometimes you  
24 would be able to go to the train with your mum and walk  
25 back to the Centre; is that not right?

1 A. Er, there was once that they let us out for a day  
2 release because my mum had actually come to sign me out,  
3 and we just took a walk up and down the -- it was only,  
4 like, one road, a little country road. To the left it  
5 was, like, where you have the houses -- it was like  
6 a conservatory kind of thing and there was a group of  
7 old people there, so I don't know if it was, like,  
8 a little cafe. Something had caught my eye and I turned  
9 back and then, as I got to turn back round to carry on  
10 walking, I walked into a lamppost, banged my head off  
11 a lamppost. But that was the only time that my mum --  
12 we had gone out with my mum and then they let me go down  
13 to the train station. My mum caught the train and  
14 I came back up.

15 Q. Okay. But, apart from that, they expected you to stay  
16 in there?

17 A. That was it, yes. The only time you could actually come  
18 out of there, out the main building, was to go to the  
19 education. You never had exercise.

20 Q. Well, I was going to ask you about that. I mean, were  
21 there games? Was there an opportunity to play football  
22 or anything like that?

23 A. No, the only games that was there was a pool table.

24 Q. Okay. Was there anywhere that you could have gone  
25 outside and --



1 A. Oh, there was loads of grass round about, but they never  
2 let you out.

3 Q. Right. You tell us --

4 A. If you were actually caught outside the building, they  
5 would say you were trying to run off, and that's what  
6 was happening with [REDACTED].

7 Q. Okay. That was my next question, Steven. You got there  
8 ahead of me. No, it's fine, it's --

9 A. Sorry.

10 Q. -- absolutely fine.

11 You tell us, paragraph 52 of your statement, that  
12 you thought the front doors were locked, but the fire  
13 exits were never locked. But you tell us it never  
14 entered your head to escape, as there were always  
15 consequences.

16 A. Yes, yes.

17 Q. That's what you say. What do you mean by  
18 'consequences'?

19 A. (1) Because of what I had seen with [REDACTED] getting kicked  
20 about and whatnot, and then (2) I just wanted to get  
21 back home. So if I ended up jeopardising anything along  
22 those lines, then I wouldn't be going back home. So  
23 that was my main concern; I just wanted to get back home  
24 to my mum.

25 Q. Sure, you wanted to see out your time quietly --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- and get back?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. You have told us a little bit about some abuse  
5 that happened to you and that you saw at Cardross, this  
6 staff member who assaults you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you talked about [REDACTED]; you said he got booted in  
9 the backside?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Just a moment ago you said he got booted about?

12 A. That's what I meant. Any time he was out and going off  
13 and they caught him that was a kick up the backside.

14 Q. And more than that?

15 A. Like I said, I seen him getting a clout on the back of  
16 the head.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. But mainly it was a kick.

19 Q. You tell us that you were in Cardross for a six-week  
20 assessment?

21 A. That was the first time, yes.

22 Q. And you went back to the Children's Panel. Now, was  
23 that hearing, I think the second Panel hearing that you  
24 would have been at; was that different from the first  
25 one? Did you understand any more about what was

1           happening?

2   A.  No.  All I knew was that I was allowed to go back home  
3           to my mum.  They were actually trying to put me back  
4           into mainstream school or -- I ended up going to  
5           a private school in Possil, Possilpark.

6   Q.  I think we just want to understand a bit more about what  
7           happened at this stage, because you tell us in your  
8           statement that every day after this Panel you didn't go  
9           to school, but went to a tenement in Possil; is that  
10          right?

11  A.  Yes.

12  Q.  Is that the private school you are talking about?

13  A.  Yes, sorry, it was a tenement building.  The top floors  
14          were basically turned into -- you had a pool table in  
15          one of the rooms and then you had, like, little chairs  
16          with desks in it.  Again, it was just maths and English  
17          that they gave you.  As soon as you filled them in, that  
18          was you, you were done.  Then they give you cans of  
19          Coke, crisps, let you play pool.  And then when it got  
20          to about 12 o'clock, that was you and then I had the  
21          rest of the day to myself.

22  Q.  Oh, right.  So it was just a morning of lessons?

23  A.  Yes, yes.

24  Q.  Who was running this place?

25  A.  It was partly run through the social work.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. And, again, I ended up in an IT group at the same time  
3 as well.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. So they used to pick me up on a Tuesday about 5 o'clock,  
6 5.30, go round, pick up other kids from different areas,  
7 and then they would take us down to -- I think it was  
8 Hawthorn Street, where there was a school, and they  
9 brought us in there. It was basically -- how can I put  
10 it? A youth centre for troubled kids. But it was only  
11 the troubled kids that could go there through the social  
12 work, which was organised -- I don't know if it was to  
13 keep an eye on me, kind of thing, build reports.  
14 I don't know.

15 Q. But you got some IT --

16 A. That's what it was called. It was an IT group.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. So I don't know what the IT actually stood for, but  
19 that's all I knew what it was. It was just a group of  
20 troubled kids.

21 Q. Okay. Were you learning to use computers?

22 A. No.

23 Q. No. Okay.

24 A. The computers, I remember them coming in, I think it was  
25 about 11 or 12. So I would have been about Primary 7 --

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. -- when computers first came in. But no, no computers.

3 No, nothing like that.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Basically, it was just like a little youth centre, club,

6 sort of thing, just for us to hang out instead of being

7 on the streets, sort of thing.

8 Q. Sure. You are getting some schooling in the morning and

9 on at least some evenings you were at this youth group?

10 A. Oh, it was just a Tuesday.

11 Q. Just a Tuesday. At this time during the week you were

12 staying with your mum?

13 A. Yes, [REDACTED].

14 Q. And you tell us at the weekends you had to go back to

15 Cardross; is that right?

16 A. Yes, I had to be there on a Friday by 3 o'clock. And

17 then it was a Sunday, they should have let me out

18 between 12.00 and 1.00, so I could go down and catch the

19 train back to Glasgow. Sometimes they did, other times

20 they completely forgot all about me and I would be

21 banging on the door and eventually they would let me

22 out. I would miss the train, so I would have to sit

23 there for another couple of hours waiting for a train.

24 Q. Was this requirement to be at Cardross -- was that --

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. -- what the Children's Hearing ordered?

2 A. Yes. Well, I don't know if they were ordered, but I was  
3 just told I had to go back there on a Friday until the  
4 Sunday.

5 Q. Okay. Did you have any understanding of why that was  
6 required?

7 A. No. It wasn't until actually me and my mum left  
8 Glasgow, March 20, 1988, and moved down to England,  
9 Staffordshire, that she actually eventually told me.  
10 I think it was probably about a year later that she says  
11 that if we had stayed in Glasgow they were going to lock  
12 me up until I was 18. Which again, shocked me, because  
13 what had I done? I didn't do anything, basically,  
14 wrong, really.

15 Q. Well, tell us about your stays at the weekend at  
16 Cardross, because it sounds pretty --

17 A. Oh yes, that was the worst experience. The first time  
18 I was there, I was on the left-hand side of the  
19 building. When I went there, back on the Friday to the  
20 Sunday, they put me on the right.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. That's how I know that side just had a long corridor and  
23 then it was like doors, bedrooms, basically.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. They would come round, lock the door.

1 Q. Okay. And was the room you were in the second time --  
2 was it similar to the one you had been in before?  
3 A. Yes, yes.  
4 Q. Okay. So there was a bed?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. You had a duvet?  
7 A. Yes, a chair. There was a -- there was a table there.  
8 Where the window was, here, I had the table there, the  
9 chair, the bed over here, and the wardrobe over there,  
10 when you opened up the door.  
11 Q. And no toilet in the room?  
12 A. No.  
13 Q. Okay. And you tell us that they then locked you in?  
14 A. Yes, yes. As soon as I walked in there, sometimes they  
15 would give me a piece of paper and then it would either  
16 be another piece of paper with either English on it or  
17 maths.  
18 Q. Okay.  
19 A. And that was it. The square was probably about that  
20 size, about that, (indicated) no bigger.  
21 Q. Okay, so these pieces of paper; were these tests of some  
22 sort?  
23 A. Just kind of maths and English, kind of thing. Not  
24 tests, just for me to do.  
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And then apparently they were supposed to come back and  
2 give me something else, but no.

3 Q. Did you have anything else to do?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you have magazines, books, anything like that?

6 A. No. Eventually, after the first weekend, when I got  
7 back home I told my mum what had happened. She ended up  
8 getting me, like, a wordsearch book, where you would  
9 actually look for the words, things like that, so that  
10 would pass my time.

11 Q. But nothing else provided by the Centre?

12 A. Nothing else, no.

13 Q. What about food? How did you get food?

14 A. Not all the time, but they would come round. Sometimes,  
15 when I first landed, it would be a packet of crisps or  
16 an orange. Maybe a -- you would get the little packs of  
17 biscuits, where it's maybe two or three in them, like,  
18 custard creams, Digestives, that kind of thing.  
19 Occasionally, a roll. I never had any hot food.

20 Q. What about the toilet? What were the arrangements for  
21 that?

22 A. I had been banging on the door for God knows how long,  
23 trying to get out to use the toilet --

24 Q. Sorry to stop you, just for a second, Steven. But  
25 that's what you were expected to do in order to go to



1 the toilet?

2 A. Oh, yes, bang on the door, yes. The door's locked.  
3 There is no bell, there is no intercom, no nothing.  
4 A lot of the time I was banging on the door for hours  
5 and then, in the end, you end up -- you got no choice.  
6 And all I had was two pieces of paper, the window only  
7 opened up so much and, again, that brought me more  
8 hassle, when I ended up having to come back away from  
9 there on the train, back to Glasgow, get off at Queen  
10 Street, and then walk round for the bus and then catch  
11 the bus back up to my estate. And then again, even the  
12 block of flats had over 5,000 families, just in them  
13 flats alone, but then you have the other districts close  
14 on to it. Obviously, (1) I couldn't wipe myself  
15 properly. I actually had to pee and do a number two out  
16 of the window. Again, it was all over me. And then,  
17 coming back, people that might know me or whatever,  
18 smelled that and I am getting picked on again, and  
19 that's just a snowball effect after that.

20 Q. Yes. Were you given any chance to have a wash when you  
21 were in --

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. No.

25 Q. So you just had to go home dirty?

1 A. A lot of the time, yes. It was only a couple of times  
2 that they would actually come down -- it could have been  
3 a Saturday or it could have been a Sunday morning -- to  
4 let me out to use the toilet or to give me, like,  
5 a sandwich or something like that. But then other  
6 times, no. There was one time a female member of staff  
7 took me in and then put me in the room, shut the door,  
8 but she never locked it. She went off back. I was  
9 sitting there thinking, 'She ain't locked that door',  
10 and I was hesitant whether to go to the toilet or not go  
11 to the toilet. But I did check the door, and I opened  
12 the door a bit and I thought: do I? Do I not?

13 Again, I was too scared because of what had happened  
14 to me previously, so I shut the door. And I think it  
15 was probably about 10/15 minutes later she has come  
16 down, or somebody has come down, and locked the door.

17 Q. On these occasions when you had to go home and you felt  
18 dirty because you hadn't been able to clean yourself --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- this is maybe a daft question, but: how did that make  
21 you feel?

22 A. Embarrassed, ashamed. And then I knew what I was  
23 walking into, because a lot of the people -- by the time  
24 I came back all the kids are out, so straight away some  
25 people would stop me, either try to go through my

1           pockets, stuff like that, and then again they would  
2           smell that, the faeces, and I would be fighting again.  
3           It would be a no-win situation for me.

4   Q.   You tell us in your statement, Steven, that when your  
5           mum came to visit you, you were able to tell her about  
6           this occasion when the staff member grabbed you by the  
7           throat?

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   And you say you told her not to speak to anyone about  
10          it, and that was because you thought there might be  
11          consequences for you if she complained --

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   -- what did you think might happen if she complained?

14   A.   Anything could happen.  Mainly physical violence, locked  
15          in the room, kept out the way.

16   Q.   And just to recap, I think: in all the time that you  
17          were going back to Cardross for the weekend, no one  
18          explained to you why that was the case?

19   A.   No.

20   Q.   How long did that go on?

21   A.   I think it went on for a couple of months.

22   Q.   Okay.  So the time comes, I think, when you were finally  
23          free of that requirement?

24   A.   Yes.

25   Q.   And I think you went back to live with your mum; is that

1 right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Well, at that period of time, I was living with my mum  
5 Monday to Friday.

6 Q. Sure.

7 A. And then I had to leave, roughly -- I think it was about  
8 12/1 o'clock I used to leave, catch the bus into the  
9 city centre, jump on a train from Queen Street through  
10 to Cardross.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Return ticket.

13 Q. When the time came for you to leave Cardross altogether;  
14 did someone just say to you, 'You are free of this  
15 requirement now'?

16 A. I can't remember if it would have been my social worker  
17 or it was my mum.

18 Q. Okay. But at all events, the time came when you  
19 understood --

20 A. Yes, well, I didn't understand. But my mum says --  
21 I think it was my mum that says that I don't have to go  
22 there anymore. I seen Davina, or Marina, once after  
23 that and then I don't know what happened to herself, the  
24 social work, but I think she seen quite a lot of things  
25 that was going on and she actually left. And I think

1 she went back to Italy.

2 Q. So I think after Cardross you moved for a short time  
3 down to England?

4 A. No, I have been down in England ever since. I have  
5 actually come up from England today.

6 Q. No, I understand. I am just thinking about the period  
7 immediately after you leave.

8 A. Oh, it was March 20, 1988 that we went to Staffordshire.

9 Q. When you went down south?

10 A. Yes, caught the train from Central.

11 Q. And how was life for you after that period?

12 A. A new experience. For the first time we moved into  
13 an up and downstairs house, front garden, back garden,  
14 side garden, which I hadn't seen since Montrose. And it  
15 was just total different way of life.

16 Again, my accent, being in England, it stuck out.  
17 I went to school. I was accepted. No fighting. Yes,  
18 I got called Jock and what have you. But, apart from  
19 that, a total different way of life.

20 Not long after, my mum and her second husband, my  
21 stepdad, they split up and then it was just me and my  
22 mum. Again, I had to look after my mum again from the  
23 age of 15 again, onwards. A couple of years later, she  
24 met someone else, got remarried, and she was happily  
25 married for 26 years.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Which, again, gave me, for the first time in my life,  
3 stability, if you know what I mean.

4 Q. Yes. How did you find working life? Were you working  
5 at that time?

6 A. I have never been able to hold a job down. Probably the  
7 longest job I have ever had has been about six months,  
8 eight months.

9 Q. Okay. You tell us in your statement that you think it  
10 is because you rebel; do you have an idea of why that  
11 might be?

12 A. Oh, from what I went through, and it's just snowballed  
13 ever since. Nobody's ever believed me. I was told that  
14 by [REDACTED], no matter  
15 what I say, nobody will believe me, and also I will be  
16 dead before I am 29. And that was drummed into me for  
17 a lot of years.

18 And it wasn't until, really, that I was actually in  
19 prison, I was serving a ten-year sentence, I ended up  
20 going to a therapeutic community. This is a prison  
21 within a prison. And basically what they want to know  
22 is why you have ended up in that situation to where  
23 I was. But it traces you back to your childhood, so you  
24 are basically talking from there, and then that's how  
25 you are finding out why you went off the rails.

1 Q. How does the therapeutic community work, Steven? Is it  
2 a group thing?

3 A. Yes, it is mainly prisoners and you've got a couple of  
4 officers, psychologists and whatnot. They do the  
5 facilitating. They don't really get involved unless  
6 there is arguments or stuff like that. It is mainly off  
7 the other cons, that when you are talking or anybody  
8 else is talking, you sort of click to say, 'Well, this  
9 is what's happened. This is where you have gone wrong  
10 here', and so on.

11 I have spent just under 12 months on the  
12 therapeutic. But, again, you've still got the issues of  
13 the trust, the confidentiality, and then knowing that  
14 once you finish there you still have to go back into the  
15 normal population. That's when I started getting to the  
16 stage of: do you know what? I don't give a hell now.  
17 I have kept my mouth shut for a lot of years, so  
18 I thought I would start talking.

19 But what I found out being on the therapeutic, if  
20 you talk about anything -- that you committed a crime,  
21 that you can get done. They can actually rearrest you  
22 and then prosecute you. But when you are talking about  
23 your past and what's happened to you, they are not  
24 interested. And that's what really got me frustrated,  
25 because obviously I want to deal with the things that

1 I have gone through, but when you are talking about it  
2 they are not willing to help. It was basically like  
3 another kick in the teeth.

4 Q. You tell us that you got some advice when you were in  
5 prison and that you decided you just didn't want to feel  
6 angry any more?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That you wanted a normal life?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that how you felt?

11 A. Yes, it wasn't until I was about 30. I went in when  
12 I was 28, came out when I was 35. It was probably about  
13 two years into it when I was doing the therapy that one  
14 of my other friends that I met, which was a long-termer,  
15 a lifer, again because of the sexual abuse that I had  
16 suffered -- I don't agree with it -- my partner was  
17 actually raped by a geezer who had only been out  
18 six months prior to serving five years for rape --  
19 I actually seen [REDACTED], not him, and I nearly killed  
20 him.

21 Q. You tell us that you still have some mental health  
22 issues?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But I think you are getting some help for that?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. And is that helping?

2 A. It is a little bit. But at the same time, with  
3 everything else that has been going on, it has impacted  
4 on my health; not just my heart, but my arteries, as  
5 well. Still trying to blank stuff out, still trying to  
6 deal with stuff. I don't drink alcohol any more.  
7 I stopped it years ago. As for other things, I don't  
8 really bother with. I am on a load of medication, but  
9 up until six weeks ago I was still using cannabis as  
10 a coping mechanism. But then I ended up -- I thought it  
11 was a coping mechanism, but it just kept me  
12 overthinking, overthinking, instead of trying to get  
13 a clear head. And it wasn't until I had another issue  
14 where I had to call the police and it was a PCSO,  
15 a local policewoman, a blue badge, she came and seen me.  
16 Actually, I have known her for a few years, but I ended  
17 up saying to her about Cardross, what I went through and  
18 whatnot. After she had left -- I have never thought  
19 about it or whatever, it has always been in the back --  
20 But I Googled it and then that's when I seen, obviously,  
21 the Inquiry started or whatever. And I thought: I was  
22 there and it is about time. I have had to be accounted  
23 for every action I had and it is about time that people  
24 in that job be accounted for what they done.

25 Q. Well, we are glad that you did come forward to the

1 Inquiry, Steven.

2 A. Oh, it has helped me a hell of a lot.

3 Q. Well, I am glad to hear that. And I was just going to  
4 come on to ask you -- because of course we are concerned  
5 with trying to make sure that abuse doesn't happen --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- certainly in residential care. I know that you have  
8 had experiences outside residential care as well as in.  
9 But I just wanted to ask you what you think we can learn  
10 from experiences like yours?

11 A. Times have changed from 1970s, 1980s, to what they are  
12 now. Like a lot of places now are fitted with CCTV, so  
13 there is a lot of things that have actually changed, but  
14 a lot of things have been more -- can't get out of,  
15 can't get away from, but yeah.

16 Q. And you actually tell us, just at the end of your  
17 statement, that you feel you were treated better in  
18 prison than --

19 A. I was going to say that to you about five minutes ago.  
20 I have actually had a better -- more experience, more  
21 exercise, more freedom in prison than what I have had in  
22 that assessment centre.

23 MR SHELDON: Well, Steven, thank you very much. I don't  
24 have anything else to ask you.

25 My Lady?

1 LADY SMITH: I just want to add my thanks, Steven. You have  
2 been very frank and open with us.

3 A. Oh, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: And it has been very good to hear from you in  
5 person in addition to having your witness statement.

6 A. You are welcome.

7 LADY SMITH: I am really grateful and I am now able to let  
8 you go.

9 A. Is that me done?

10 LADY SMITH: That's you done.

11 A. I thought we were going to go on a lot further. Bloody  
12 hell. Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: You can go and relax now, Steven.

14 A. Thank you so much.

15 LADY SMITH: Don't forget how much you have already given us  
16 in detail in writing.

17 A. Yes, yes. If you need anything else, I am more than  
18 happy.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 A. There was a wench from Coatbridge and the first time  
21 I was there I was on this side, she was on that side.  
22 And I can't really remember her name. But I know she  
23 had some issues that went on in between there because  
24 there was male staff as well as female staff and the  
25 whole area was boys and girls.

1 LADY SMITH: And you say there, you mean Larchgrove?  
2 A. I was 14. I think she was 15 at the time.  
3 LADY SMITH: Okay.  
4 A. But yes, she was from Coatbridge. I will go.  
5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
6 A. Thank you. Have a nice day.  
7 MR SHELDON: My Lady, of course we have another live witness  
8 to come. I am told she may not be here yet. So we can  
9 carry on with read-ins.  
10 LADY SMITH: Do a read-in. Just before we do that, just  
11 a couple of names of children that Steven mentioned, one  
12 was called [REDACTED] and the other was called [REDACTED], and  
13 they cannot be identified outside this room. They have  
14 the protection of my General Restriction Order.  
15 Yes.  
16 MS FORBES: My Lady, the first read-in is from an applicant  
17 who is anonymous and known as 'Trevor'.  
18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
19 MS FORBES: The reference for 'Trevor's' statement is  
20 WIT-1-000001130.  
21 'Trevor' (read)  
22 MS FORBES: 'Trevor' was born in 1961 and talks about his  
23 life before going into care between paragraphs 2 and 9.  
24 He was brought up in the Dumbarton area and initially  
25 lived with his parents and four sisters. When he was

1 about 18 months old, his mother was pregnant with his  
2 younger brother.

3 His father had an accident after he was out with  
4 friends one night, had a fall, suffered a concussion,  
5 and passed away during the night. That was  
6 in [REDACTED] 1963.

7 His mum then met another man and then, from that  
8 relationship, had a daughter. Then his mum also had  
9 a son from a different relationship.

10 'Trevor' remembers some good times growing up, like  
11 being taken to the cinema and being taken to collect  
12 mussels and whelks, but most of those times are just  
13 fleeting memories, but there was nothing bad happening.  
14 He went to St Patrick's Primary School and was doing  
15 quite well. He doesn't recall any involvement with the  
16 social work during that period.

17 The day he was taken into care, it was from primary  
18 school. He was told he had to leave and go with two  
19 social workers. They picked up his sisters and were  
20 taken to what must have been social work offices and  
21 told they were going to a new home.

22 He knows from records that he went into care on  
23 [REDACTED] 1968, and he would have been 6 years old at  
24 that time, not turning 7 until that summer. He was  
25 taken to Nazareth House. In the records, it is stated

1 that some of the reasons for him going into care were  
2 down to stealing, neglect and truancy, but he doesn't  
3 remember any of that being the case and never felt that  
4 his mother neglected them.

5 He then talks about Nazareth House between  
6 paragraphs 10 and 47. He was, whilst there, separated  
7 from his siblings and didn't see them much. He ran away  
8 a few times and managed to get to Edinburgh once, and he  
9 talks about being slapped around the head when he  
10 returned from that. He talks about emotional abuse from  
11 the Sisters and assaults by the Sisters; humiliations  
12 for wetting the bed.

13 In [REDACTED] 1972, he managed to get back home again,  
14 and he was aged 11 and he was there until the summer of  
15 1973. From his perspective, things were good. However,  
16 he got himself into trouble with friends at the summer  
17 fair and was arrested by police and then taken to  
18 Bellfield Remand Home. He would have been aged 12 years  
19 old then.

20 He talks about his time at Bellfield in  
21 paragraph 52. He says that when he arrived at Bellfield  
22 he saw that this was a really big mansion-type house  
23 with boys from all over Scotland. Then he goes on to  
24 tell us about the routine at Bellfield from  
25 paragraph 53, but states, really, there wasn't much of

1 a routine. As we have heard from other applicants, my  
2 Lady, it seems that after the first meal they were then  
3 made to sit in this large room for the rest of the  
4 morning, with nothing really to keep them occupied, and  
5 they weren't allowed out of the room.

6 Again, in the afternoon, after lunch, they would be  
7 given perhaps an hour or so to play football in the  
8 grounds before they would be back in that room for the  
9 rest of the afternoon.

10 In relation to meals, he doesn't remember a lot  
11 about the food they had in Bellfield. He does remember  
12 a fight with another boy and the staff who were  
13 supervising them dragging him away.

14 At paragraph 56, he says:

15 'Later I was in the toilet when the boy I was  
16 fighting with came in. He told me I had two options,  
17 and the first was to accept one punch straight to the  
18 face. If I disagreed with this or fought back in any  
19 way, then I would be on the receiving end of a full  
20 beating. I decided it would be better to take the one  
21 hit. He then punched me right in the jaw. I never had  
22 any more issues with him.'

23 He talks about there being a gatehouse-type  
24 building, at paragraph 57, and that this was the  
25 education block. There was no strict obligation to go

1 for education. Some of the kids went to that block and  
2 the rest of them stayed in the other room for the day.

3 At paragraph 58, in relation to leisure, he says:

4 'The older boys who were about 14, maybe 15, were  
5 allowed to smoke. I was much younger and not allowed to  
6 have a cigarette. I was talking to the boy who hit me  
7 in the jaw and asked him why I was not allowed to have  
8 a cigarette. Another boy told me that Mr AIA would  
9 give me a cigarette. The first boy told me that I had  
10 to be careful of both Mr AIA and another member of  
11 staff, IBD. He told me that for a cigarette  
12 either one of them would take me out of whatever room  
13 I was in and, for the price of the cigarette, they would  
14 touch me in a sexual manner. I didn't take either of  
15 them up on the offer of cigarettes.

16 'Later in life I learned that during 1990 to 1995  
17 both of those members of staff were charged for abusing  
18 children in the home, and both AIA and IBD were  
19 quoted as being the staff involved.'

20 He then says that, after his time in Bellfield, he  
21 was released back into the care of his mother. He says  
22 it was really only two weeks that he was in there for.  
23 He was back at school, and seemed to be doing well, but  
24 was suspected of smashing windows and cheating on  
25 a test. He started staying away from school, and was



1 hanging about with other boys at a quarry, drinking  
2 alcohol. Things deteriorated with his mum. He started  
3 staying in the loft at a friend's house and was  
4 constantly getting into trouble. The police came one  
5 day to take him and he was back at a Children's Hearing,  
6 and they recommended he be sent to Cardross Park  
7 Assessment Centre. He was still 12 years old at that  
8 time. He was told if he behaved he wouldn't be there  
9 long, and he talks about Cardross Park between  
10 paragraphs 69 and 75. He says, at 69:

11 'The routine at Cardross was very similar to that at  
12 Bellfield. [He says they were] ... woken in the morning  
13 and after breakfast we would spend the day locked in the  
14 day room and only came out ... for toilet breaks and  
15 meals.'

16 There was no education whilst he was there and they  
17 were just locked in the day room. He says he was  
18 supposed to be there for an assessment, but there was  
19 nothing formal completed in his time there.

20 At paragraph 72, he says:

21 'There was a woman at the home, I don't recall her  
22 name, but she knew my mother. She offered to help me  
23 with my time locked in the day room. She said that if  
24 I was willing to help her with some of the cleaning then  
25 I would be allowed out of the room.

1           'One day I was doing the cleaning and there were no  
2           other members of staff around. I went to the room where  
3           the shoes were kept and grabbed mine. I ran away.  
4           I was only away for a very short time when I realised  
5           that the woman would get into trouble with me running  
6           away. I ran back to the home as quick as I could. As  
7           I was only away for a short time, I was hoping the staff  
8           might have been unaware, but I was wrong. They knew  
9           I had been away.

10           'When I got back I was put into the shoe room until  
11           the man in charge -- I can't remember his name -- spoke  
12           to me in the office. When he spoke to me he told me he  
13           was disappointed that I would break the trust of someone  
14           who was trying to help me.'

15           At paragraph 75, he says:

16           'There was a lot of bullying at the start of my stay  
17           at Cardross. There was one boy who started with name  
18           calling, and graduating to pushing my head into the  
19           passage walls as he passed. Eventually I fought back,  
20           and then the bullying stopped.

21           'As a result of me breaking the trust and running  
22           away, I was referred back to the Panel where they  
23           decided I should be sent to St John Bosco School in  
24           Aberdour.'

25           From paragraph 77 to 113, 'Trevor' talks about

1 St John Bosco's School. He was still 12 years old at  
2 that time. He was told that his time there would be  
3 reviewed after three months. But, whilst he was there,  
4 he says that there was peer abuse in the form of  
5 assaults, emotional abuse, name calling. He was  
6 assaulted by members of staff and he witnessed  
7 peer-on-peer sexual abuse.

8 Just before his 14th birthday, he was moved to  
9 St Mary's, Kenmure, and he tells us about that between  
10 paragraphs 118 and 147.

11 He says that, whilst on home leave from there, he  
12 was getting in trouble with the police. He started  
13 running away, and each time he would be brought back by  
14 the police. His clothes would be taken away, so he  
15 couldn't run away. There was some bullying amongst the  
16 boys, but no real violence. Staff were okay, but he  
17 started glue sniffing there. He talks about an instance  
18 of assault by a member of staff. He thought that they  
19 could only keep him until he was 16 but he was told that  
20 they could keep him until 18, so he got himself a job at  
21 a sawmill and they let him go to that job from the home  
22 a few weeks before his 16th birthday --

23 Sorry, they let him go to his job from home a few  
24 weeks before he turned 16. So he went back home and he  
25 saved some money from working. He had, though, been

1           sacked, but nobody knew and he got into trouble and was  
2           arrested by the police only a day after his order had  
3           been lifted.

4           In relation to the next part, which -- he talks  
5           about going into custody in the Scottish Prison Service,  
6           that was read in to the Inquiry on 6 December 2023, and  
7           that was Day 394. It is from paragraph, I think, 150 of  
8           his statement.

9   LADY SMITH: Yes, Barlinnie.

10 MS FORBES: He talks about Barlinnie, Polmont, Longriggend,  
11           Castle Huntly, and he talks about assaults whilst in  
12           there, and segregation.

13           If we can go down to paragraph 223 of his statement,  
14           he says that he was still just 16. Just before he  
15           turned 17, he was released from Castle Huntly.

16           He then talks about life after being in care, from  
17           paragraph 225. He says he went to Blackburn and got  
18           a job that didn't last long. He got into trouble, but  
19           the court took into account the fact that he was working  
20           and, at 17, he went back to Dumbarton and got a job in  
21           a sawmill again. That lasted nine months. He was  
22           involved in the punk lifestyle and for a period of time,  
23           in the late 1980s and into the mid 1990s, he was  
24           organising raves in different parts of the country. He  
25           started a youth group in Dumbarton. It lasted four

1 years. He spent time in and out of the prison system.  
2 He met his first partner at 22 and later had three sons,  
3 but that relationship didn't last.

4 Then he moved back to Blackburn and met his youngest  
5 son's mother. He ended up working on oil rigs offshore.  
6 He lost a sister to suicide in 1988, which had a huge  
7 impact on his life.

8 He then talks about impact from paragraph 233. He  
9 says, when he was finally released, he felt  
10 institutionalised.

11 If I can go to paragraph 237 of the statement, he  
12 says:

13 'Although you meet a lot of people in those  
14 establishments, they are always a short-term  
15 relationship, as one or other of you is always on the  
16 move to some other home or prison. That affected me in  
17 so much as I could not keep any relationship going for  
18 a long time, as I was always losing friends as I grew  
19 up. I was going to college and studying sociology and  
20 psychology. I had been doing the courses for about  
21 a year when some of the topics we were discussing made  
22 me realise how my life in care had affected me and how  
23 messed up I was.'

24 Then he says, through studying psychology, he began  
25 to realise how often he had been suffering from

1 depression, but the difference now is he can recognise  
2 the symptoms and try to do something about it.

3 He says he struggled with health issues, drinking  
4 and depression, and he went to rehab. At the time of  
5 giving this statement he had been sober for seven years.

6 At paragraph 251, he makes the usual declaration and  
7 he has signed that statement and it is dated  
8 21 November 2022.

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

10 MS FORBES: Mr Sheldon now has a read-in, my Lady, which  
11 I think is quite short.

12 LADY SMITH: Oh right, let's do that before the break then,  
13 thank you. Mr Sheldon.

14 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, I hope this will fit in  
15 reasonably neatly. The applicant concerned, who is  
16 anonymous and is known as 'Steve', has given live  
17 evidence twice before, so we can take it quite short,  
18 I think.

19 He gave evidence in the SON Case Study, Day 61,  
20 under the name 'Steven'. That's TRN.001.003.2227 and  
21 also in the Christian Brothers case study, Day 129,  
22 TRN.001.006.0143.

23 'Steve' (read)

24 'Steve' was born in 1959. He does say that he moved  
25 around a lot in his childhood and he gets confused about

1 time and dates, but I think we can date his time at  
2 Cardross, where he was, to about 1971 or 1972.

3 He starts to talk about Cardross at page --  
4 technically, the Cardross section starts at page 7 of  
5 his statement, but it is just a heading.

6 At page 8, he says that at that time -- he says  
7 Cardross was a children's home. Later on it got changed  
8 to a Young Offenders' Institution. He describes it as  
9 a beautiful big house next to the golf club. There were  
10 probably no more than about 16 or 17 kids there. He  
11 thinks the oldest was probably about 14. He thinks  
12 Cardross was run by the Social Work Department, but he  
13 doesn't remember any of the names of the staff:

14 'There were about five or six of them and I think  
15 they were all males.'

16 He doesn't remember any females. He describes  
17 walking into the house and the recreation room was to  
18 the left. There were stairs straight ahead that went up  
19 and round. Past the stairs was a door that led to  
20 a small room. It was called 'the Black Box' because it  
21 was just a square with no light and no window.

22 He describes the routine. He says there were small  
23 dormitories with four or five beds in most of them. He  
24 thinks there were three or four dormitories with kids  
25 all about the same age.

1           Taking it short to paragraph 42, he says:  
2           'We were schooled inside Cardross by the staff.  
3           There was a classroom in the place, which meant we never  
4           got out.'  
5           He says at paragraph 43:  
6           'The staff used to take us up to the priests'  
7           college, up the road from the home.'  
8           But he doesn't remember any other religious  
9           instruction while he was there.  
10          He doesn't think he was there over his birthday or  
11          at Christmas, and he doesn't remember any of the kids  
12          having a birthday either.  
13          He says, paragraph 45, that his social worker, who  
14          he names, did come to see him at Cardross.  
15          At paragraph 46, he says he ran away once from  
16          Cardross:  
17          'Because they kept putting me in the Black Box all  
18          the time. I think I got about three miles. I was  
19          punished by getting put back in the Black Box again.'  
20          LADY SMITH: Do you think that's what other people have  
21          called 'the cell'?  
22          MR SHELDON: The cell, the Cooler.  
23          LADY SMITH: The Cooler, yes.  
24          MR SHELDON: He goes on at paragraph 47 -- I will read:  
25          'The staff at Cardross were bastards. If you'd done



1 anything wrong you got put in the Black Box, the room at  
2 the back of the stairs. You were told to strip down to  
3 your pants and got locked in. You could be in there for  
4 hours and hours. That included wee kids of four or  
5 five, too. That was their way of destroying you.

6 'A couple of the staff would give you a kick or  
7 a slap if you struggled at all. I only remember one of  
8 them though. He was wee and fat and quite mean.'

9 He says that he probably looked on his social worker  
10 as a surrogate father:

11 'He was a nice guy to talk to. I could sit down and  
12 open up to him. It was decided after less than a year  
13 that I was getting moved again. I can't remember  
14 whether that was to St Ninian's, in Falkland, or  
15 Bellfield Remand Home, in Dumbarton. I think it was  
16 Bellfield. This must have been about 1972, when I was  
17 about 13.

18 'I never reported getting locked in the Black Box to  
19 anybody.'

20 He then says a very small amount about Bellfield,  
21 and says all he remembers about it is that it sat on  
22 a hill:

23 'It was all enclosed, so you couldn't run away and  
24 we were locked in. There must have been around 15 boys  
25 in there. We were in large rooms, with about four or

1 five of us in each. There was a school in the place and  
2 rooms where they taught us woodwork and metalwork.

3 'I don't recall anything much happening there. I was  
4 only in Bellfield for less than a year before I was told  
5 I was getting sent to St Ninian's, Falkland.'

6 He goes on to talk about that experience, and at  
7 St Mary's Kenmure, where he reports being seriously  
8 assaulted by another boy.

9 He has made the usual declaration, my Lady, and  
10 signed the statement. I am reminded by Ms Forbes,  
11 again, to read in the statement reference, and the  
12 reference is WIT.001.001.4228.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I think we should stop  
14 then for the morning break and we will start the next  
15 witness, hopefully, at 11.45 am.

16 (11.26 am)

17 (A short break)

18 (11.45 am)

19 LADY SMITH: Just before I invite Mr Sheldon to introduce  
20 the next witness, I want to remind everybody about the  
21 names Mr AIA and IBD. I have already  
22 mentioned them this week. Their identities are covered  
23 by my General Restriction Order and they are not to be  
24 identified outside this room.

25 Now, Mr Sheldon.

1 MR SHELDON: My Lady, with apologies, one piece of  
2 housekeeping before the next witness is brought in. The  
3 statement that I was reading in before the break --  
4 I realised that I was reading the reference from the  
5 last page and it is an old-style reference, a Delium  
6 reference. So although it would appear in a NUIX  
7 search, it might not do so otherwise. So the correct  
8 reference is WIT.001.001.4210.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MR SHELDON: The next witness will be taken by Ms Forbes.  
11 She is anonymous and is known as 'Poppy'.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 'Poppy' (affirmed)

14 LADY SMITH: 'Poppy', do sit down and make yourself  
15 comfortable.

16 A. Thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Poppy', a couple of practical things first.  
18 The red folder on the desk there has your written  
19 statement in it. It will be available for you to refer  
20 to if you would find that helpful. But we will also be  
21 bringing the statement up on the screen, if that's okay  
22 with you.

23 A. Yes, that's fine.

24 LADY SMITH: If you don't want it on the screen, we can take  
25 it off. So that will also be there. Some people find

1 the size of the font on the screen easier.

2 But, 'Poppy', otherwise I do appreciate that doing  
3 what you are doing today, coming into a public forum and  
4 giving evidence about your own life years ago, when you  
5 were a child, the ups, the downs, the particularly  
6 difficult parts, as well as what may have been not so  
7 difficult, is not easy.

8 A. No.

9 LADY SMITH: So, please, if there is anything I can do to  
10 help, let me know. If, for example, at any time you  
11 want a break or a pause, or you want us to explain  
12 things better than we are doing; that's our fault, not  
13 yours, if you are not following what we are asking. So  
14 don't hesitate to speak up.

15 My object is to try to enable you to give your  
16 evidence as comfortably as you can, whilst recognising  
17 it's not an easy gig to do what you are doing today.

18 A. No.

19 LADY SMITH: All right.

20 A. (Nods).

21 LADY SMITH: I will hand over to Ms Forbes and she will take  
22 it from there.

23 Thank you.

24

25

1 Questions by Ms Forbes

2 MS FORBES: Thank you, my Lady. Good morning, 'Poppy'. As  
3 her Ladyship said, the statement you gave to the Inquiry  
4 is in the red folder. First of all, if I could ask you  
5 just to look at the very last page of that statement,  
6 please. All the paragraphs are numbered. The very last  
7 paragraph there should be paragraph 141. That's where  
8 you have made the declaration that you have no objection  
9 to the witness statement being published as part of the  
10 evidence to the Inquiry and you believe the facts stated  
11 in the witness statement are true. You have signed that  
12 and it is dated 4 November 2019; is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And is that still the position?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If you just go back to the beginning, or put it to one  
17 side, for our purposes, 'Poppy', your witness statement  
18 has a reference number and, for the transcript, I am  
19 going to read it: WIT.001.003.0173.

20 Now, 'Poppy', you tell us about your life before  
21 going into care in your statement, and I know you don't  
22 want to go into that in too much detail today but what  
23 you do tell us is you were born in England in 1974; is  
24 that right?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. And you and your family moved around a lot, and you were  
2 in England, Wales... and then finally coming up to  
3 Scotland?

4 A. (Nods)

5 Q. After you came up to Scotland, you ended up being taken  
6 into care and essentially that was due to sexual abuse,  
7 parental neglect... and you do tell us about that. The  
8 first place that you were put into in Scotland was  
9 Gartnavel Adolescent Unit; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think the dates that you were there, from your  
12 records, are [REDACTED] 1987 to [REDACTED] 1987, so I think you  
13 were aged 12, becoming 13, at that time, and you were  
14 there about five months or so?

15 A. I think so, yes.

16 Q. I think you tell us about your time there, 'Poppy', from  
17 about paragraph 13 onwards. But, essentially, you were  
18 having bad night terrors at the time; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Whilst you were there, you were given quite a lot of  
21 tablets to sedate you?

22 A. Yes. A lot.

23 Q. Yes. And that didn't sit well with you physically. You  
24 were having problems as a result of that; is that right?

25 A. Totally.

1 Q. And to the point that you would just spit them out  
2 without anyone noticing; is that right?

3 A. It affected my entire body, so I couldn't speak and  
4 I couldn't move my body the way I wanted to and  
5 I couldn't even control my own saliva.

6 Q. You do tell us, 'Poppy', at paragraph 14, that your  
7 behaviour at that time -- you describe it as being  
8 'wild'?

9 A. After I went into care, yes. Never before. But after,  
10 yes.

11 Q. There was no police involvement, but there were --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- things like drinking alcohol and you just had this  
14 anger; is that right?

15 A. I had grief. I had loss.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I wouldn't describe it as anger.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Just frustration, yes.

20 Q. Thank you for explaining that a bit more.

21 There came a time, then, when you were moved from  
22 the Adolescent Unit to Sycamore Cottage in Kirkcaldy?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you tell us about that from paragraphs 15 to 74 of  
25 your statement. So it is quite a large part of your

1 statement that you talk about Sycamore Cottage. Now, we  
2 are not going to go into that in great detail, but  
3 that's not because we are not interested. Your  
4 statement is evidence to the Inquiry. It is just that  
5 this part of the Hearings is dealing with your time --  
6 that you went later, in Cardross. But I will highlight  
7 some of the issues that you had there, so we can  
8 understand what happened and how you ended up being in  
9 Cardross and what you were experiencing.

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Poppy', can I just add, if you haven't already  
12 been told: I have previously heard evidence about  
13 Aberlour Trust and the places they provided, including  
14 Sycamore.

15 A. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: So I have got a feel for the set up there and  
17 the background to that sort of provision being made.

18 A. Good, brilliant.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Forbes.

20 MS FORBES: 'Poppy', I think from your records -- and these  
21 are something that I think you have seen as well -- we  
22 know that you were taken to Sycamore Cottage in  
23 Kirkcaldy in [REDACTED] 1987 and you were there  
24 until [REDACTED] 1988, so you would have been about 13 and  
25 a half to 14 and a half, so a period of about 14 months



1 or so?

2 A. Roughly, yes.

3 Q. Yes. As I say, we are not going to go through that in  
4 all the detail that you have there, but we do have that  
5 and we can see what happened.

6 But I think, while you were still there, you do tell  
7 us that you were continuing to suffer from these night  
8 terrors and that's something that stayed with you; is  
9 that right?

10 A. Yes, for many years.

11 Q. Yes. And I think we can see -- this is at paragraph 15  
12 and onwards -- that there were issues there with  
13 drinking alcohol as well, I think; is that right?

14 A. Occasionally, yes.

15 Q. Now, you do tell us about some of the routine and  
16 everything. Again, we are not going to go into that in  
17 too much detail.

18 But there is a section that you talk about going to  
19 school from there, and that's from paragraph 31. You  
20 went to Kirkcaldy High School, first of all; is that  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But you didn't feel like you fitted in there, I think  
24 you tell us; you stopped going to school?

25 A. Yes, totally. School was for normal people.

1 Q. And from paragraph 33 you outlined when you would run  
2 away from school or run off, you would be away somewhere  
3 drinking?  
4 A. (Nods).  
5 Q. And this is a time when you were buzzing gas as well?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. You also say that you were involved in shoplifting  
8 sometimes, too?  
9 A. Occasionally, yes.  
10 Q. You would just fill your day like that and hang out with  
11 other children in a similar position?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. I think there came a time, then, 'Poppy', when you were  
14 expelled from school and transferred to another school,  
15 Viewforth High School; is that right?  
16 A. I was expelled for non-attendance at the school.  
17 Q. But you were only at Viewforth for a short time?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Again, I think you tell us -- this is paragraph 37 --  
20 whilst you were there you would sit in the back of the  
21 class with a can of gas, really, and just buzz it?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. You say:  
24 'That was the only way I could handle going to  
25 school.'

1 A. Absolutely.

2 Q. Buzzing the gas; was that just something to try to block  
3 out what had been happening?

4 A. Totally. It sort of numbed you and stopped you from  
5 feeling things. It also meant school, which was such  
6 a difficult place for me to be, with children who moaned  
7 about getting a detention or silly little things that  
8 were happening in their life, and they had no clue what  
9 my life was like. And it just felt such a dividing gap  
10 between me and them. I was always popular at school,  
11 I was always liked at school, but it wasn't ever a place  
12 I felt comfortable in. I thought it just highlighted  
13 even more to me how not normal I was.

14 Q. And I think you tell us you didn't feel like you fitted  
15 in there?

16 A. No.

17 Q. During this time at Sycamore Cottage, you talk about  
18 self-harming --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and cutting yourself. And I think on occasions that  
21 meant you would have to go to hospital for treatment; is  
22 that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. This was multiple times, I think you tell us about, that  
25 you would have to be taken by staff to be treated --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- in relation to that?

3           Whilst you were there, you go on, 'Poppy', to tell  
4 us about running away and that was a big part of your  
5 life while you were in Kirkcaldy?

6 A. Massive.

7 Q. Either running away or attempting to run away?

8 A. Yes, both.

9 Q. You say that on average you would run away two or three  
10 days a month?

11 A. If I could, yes.

12 Q. To try and stop you, the staff would take your shoes  
13 away and --

14 A. They would put me in my pyjamas, yes.

15 Q. And that was to try to stop you from running away?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But that wouldn't work?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Because you would still try to do it in whatever you  
20 were wearing?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You then go on, 'Poppy', to talk about some things that  
23 happened at Sycamore Cottage that you consider to be  
24 abuse. That's between paragraphs 52 and 74.

25           I think if we can go down to paragraph 56, you say

1           that there were a lot of occasions where you would wake  
2           up being restrained by staff?

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   And that really restraint formed a big part of your time  
5           at Sycamore Cottage; is that right?

6   A.   A massive part of my time at Sycamore Cottage.

7   Q.   And at paragraph 56, you make the comment:

8           'My overriding memory of being in Sycamore was being  
9           restrained most of the time.'

10  A.   Yes.

11  Q.   Is that how you remember it?

12  A.   It is exactly how I remember it, and, a lot of the time,  
13           unnecessarily so.

14  Q.   Yes.  You say that during the first five weeks of your  
15           staying there, you have seen from your records that you  
16           were restrained over 30 occasions, that were recorded?

17  A.   Yes.

18  Q.   And you make the point that that was just the times that  
19           were recorded on paper?

20  A.   Yes, there were plenty of times where they didn't record  
21           it.

22  Q.   Okay.  And at paragraph 61, you talk about being sedated  
23           sometimes, and there were four separate occasions where  
24           you were sedated with an injection?

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. And you give us some more detail about that, and we do  
2 have it. But that's something -- in Gartnavel it had  
3 been tablets you were given; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But here, in Sycamore Cottage, injections were being  
6 used?

7 A. They called out the paramedics to sedate me and then  
8 said I was beyond their control.

9 Q. Okay. Again, the self-harming continued --

10 A. Always.

11 Q. -- throughout that period. You go on to tell us, at  
12 paragraph 71, about a male member of staff who was being  
13 inappropriate, you felt?

14 A. Yes, he was.

15 Q. In relation to touching?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Yes. And that was something that you got to the point  
18 where you had to tell someone about it; is that right?  
19 It was reported?

20 A. Eventually, when another child had noticed what he was  
21 doing, yes.

22 Q. Okay. You then go on to tell us about a time when you  
23 had cut your arms again in an incident of self-harming,  
24 and you had spoken to your sister on the phone; is that  
25 right?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. After that, your mother and your sister attended at the  
3 home and took you away?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And they took you down to London?

6 A. They did.

7 Q. And there was no permission for them to do that?

8 A. None whatsoever.

9 Q. But while you were down in London, you didn't stay with  
10 your mum; is that right? You ended up in a --

11 A. I ran away from my mother.

12 Q. And Childline were able to get you into a teenage refuge  
13 for a few days?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then the authorities became involved and it was  
16 decided that you would be sent to Cardross Assessment  
17 Centre?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. And then you were flown up from London to Glasgow?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then you were taken to Cardross from the airport,  
22 essentially?

23 A. Indeed.

24 Q. Is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You then, 'Poppy', go on to tell us in your statement  
2 about Cardross Assessment Centre. So that's what I want  
3 to ask you some questions about now.

4 We know from your records that you were officially  
5 transferred there from Sycamore -- to Cardross on  
6 [REDACTED] 1988, so you would have been aged 14 at that  
7 time. You stayed there until you were transferred to  
8 the Innocence Project, which was around [REDACTED] 1991?

9 A. That would be about right, yes.

10 Q. When you were maybe still 16, but about to turn 17?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But I think we know from your records that the order  
13 that was keeping you in care had been discharged prior  
14 to that, but you stayed on longer --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- at Cardross; is that right?

17 So I think from the records, then, 'Poppy', it was  
18 a period of about two and a half years that you were at  
19 Cardross Park?

20 A. Is that all? It felt a lot longer.

21 Q. To you it feels a lot longer?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, you tell us about arriving there. We have had some  
24 evidence about the set up of Cardross Park. At  
25 paragraph 78, you tell us about this long driveway up to



1 the front of the building and the building being really  
2 large and L-shaped?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was this the new building at Cardross Park?

5 A. I don't know if it was new. It looked to me, being  
6 young, very old. It probably wasn't, when I look back.

7 Q. I think you do mention another building where the school  
8 was placed in the same grounds?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But that the top floors of that were not supposed to be  
11 accessible?

12 A. Because they had fallen down. Yes, everything had  
13 started to die in there, yeah.

14 Q. So you weren't in that building?

15 A. No, just for school.

16 Q. But you do say that this was a building with bars on all  
17 of the ground floor windows?

18 A. All the windows, not just the ground floor ones. Every  
19 window had a bar on it.

20 Q. And these windows only opened a few inches; is that  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You tell us about the layout: that there was a massive  
24 dining room, big enough to cope with around 50 kids and  
25 the staff. And I think you go on to explain that that

1           was on one floor; is that right?

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   Which was an upper floor, because the building was on  
4           a slope?

5    A.   Yes, that's right.

6    Q.   And there was then a lower floor, but that wasn't some  
7           place that you were ever in?

8    A.   I think that was office space.

9    Q.   Okay. You tell us about an induction, 'Poppy', when you  
10           arrived there. How did you feel about that?

11   A.   Um, I just remember a member of staff asking me a lot of  
12           questions about how I had arrived there; why I was in  
13           care. She took a description of what I looked like and  
14           any distinguishing marks.

15   Q.   Okay.

16   A.   I remember being very, very frightened, but also really,  
17           really hard on the outside. But I was scared. I had  
18           quite a fearsome reputation, even back then.

19   Q.   So did you feel like back then you were putting on  
20           a front?

21   A.   Yes, very much so. Very much so.

22   Q.   You tell us about a person who was in charge overall in  
23           Cardross, and you remember him being called 'Alex'; is  
24           that right?

25   A.   Yes, Alex Barnes, I think it was.

1 Q. But he was someone that you didn't really see or have  
2 much involvement with; is that right?

3 A. No, he stayed in the downstairs offices. He didn't --  
4 I don't remember him ever -- except being around at  
5 lunchtime.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And there were these separate units, is that right,  
9 within Cardross?

10 A. Yes, there were several.

11 Q. And you name them as Fruin, Ettrick, Carman and another  
12 unit you can't remember?

13 A. I can't remember, yes.

14 Q. And I think you tell us Fruin was the first place you  
15 were placed into?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And that was where the new arrivals went?

18 A. There were two units for the new arrivals, so Fruin was  
19 one of them.

20 Q. And you think you were there for the first three weeks,  
21 which was normal, but some people were there for as long  
22 as six weeks for an assessment to be made?

23 A. I think generally you were there for three weeks and  
24 then you moved to another unit for three weeks or so.  
25 It -- was only ever supposed to be there for three weeks

1 or so, yes.

2 Q. And you tell us, 'Poppy', there was a mixture of  
3 children in there; was that both male and female? Is  
4 that right? Children?

5 A. Yes, male and female, and children from every background  
6 of life.

7 Q. You go on to say that, whether it was a loss of parents,  
8 truanting, or having been in trouble with the police --  
9 so quite a range?

10 A. There was a huge range. There were children in there  
11 who had committed a lot of violent acts towards others.  
12 There were a lot of children who had been offended  
13 against. There were children there who literally just  
14 hadn't gone to school and that's how they ended up  
15 there. Then there were children like me, where there  
16 was nowhere else for them to go.

17 Q. You were really there for care and protection; is that  
18 what you understood?

19 A. Yes, that's exactly why I was there.

20 Q. I think we know from your records that you were  
21 transferred to Carman Unit -- I think they called it  
22 Carman Preparation Unit -- on [REDACTED] 1988?

23 A. I didn't know they called it that, but yes.

24 Q. So a few weeks after, three weeks or so after.  
25 Then you tell us a little bit more about the layout,

1           which we have been through. But, next to the living  
2           room, you mention an area where a pool table was  
3           situated; was that a --  
4    A. That was downstairs, not in the actual unit.  
5    Q. Okay.  
6    A. That was just in the general area downstairs.  
7    Q. Was that an area you were able to go to, to spend any  
8           time in?  
9    A. Only with staff's permission and if they were with you.  
10   Q. Okay. In the Carman Unit, then, you had your own room;  
11           is that right?  
12   A. Yes.  
13   Q. So there weren't dorms?  
14   A. It was a series of very small little rooms down a long  
15           corridor, but I had my own room.  
16   Q. This Carman Unit, you describe it as a communal unit, so  
17           mixed boys and girls?  
18   A. Yes.  
19   Q. But each of the boys and girls had their own washing and  
20           bathing areas?  
21   A. Yes.  
22   Q. So they were kept separate for that?  
23   A. For that.  
24   Q. But each room would have -- it could have a boy or it  
25           could have a girl in there?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You do say that whilst you were there, in that unit,  
3 that you noticed there was a very young boy who was  
4 there?

5 A. (Nods).

6 Q. You think he was about -- only 8 years old?

7 A. He was 8, yes.

8 Q. Yes. And how did you feel about seeing someone as young  
9 as that in a place like that?

10 A. I was really upset and I remember talking to the staff  
11 about it and saying it wasn't right that somebody who  
12 was 8 was there. It was hard enough being the age  
13 I was. And the reason I got told was, 'He is not like  
14 other 8-year olds. That's why he is here'.

15 Q. But for dinners, everyone would eat together in the  
16 dining room you told us about; is that right?

17 A. Yes, all 50 staff and -- children and many staff.

18 Q. And there was a mix of age ranges of other girls?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You tell us a little bit about your room. You have said  
21 that was a very small room?

22 A. (Nods).

23 Q. Really, it just had a bed, a built-in half wardrobe  
24 which had some drawers in it?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And a window?

2 A. A single bed and a set of built-in wardrobes, yes.

3 Q. But, again, this window would have been one that had --

4 you described it before as one that had the wires in it;

5 is that right?

6 A. You can only open it a few inches.

7 Q. Okay. 'Poppy', you go on to talk about the routine when

8 you were at Cardross, and you say that the food was fine

9 in general, but during this time you decided to become

10 a vegetarian?

11 A. I did, yes.

12 Q. I think you tell us that meant you had some control over

13 the food that you ate?

14 A. I had some control over my life.

15 Q. Yes. And did that, the idea of control, have anything

16 to do with you becoming a vegetarian?

17 A. Absolutely. The lack of -- control of every other part

18 of my life, every part of my life, was just not there,

19 and so therefore food was the one thing that I knew

20 I could control, whether being a vegetarian or just

21 stopping eating, as I did upon many occasions.

22 Q. So really using food as the thing that you could control

23 and have something of your own?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But I think you tell us the night terrors still

1 continued, again, in Cardross; is that right?

2 A. For many years.

3 Q. And that's something that's documented throughout your  
4 records that you will have seen?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You describe wakening in the night as a result of that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And the staff would become involved?

9 A. So I would frequently wake up in somewhere that I didn't  
10 recognise. I might be outside. I might be inside the  
11 unit. It might have been inside my bedroom. But I had  
12 no memory of what happened before then. And I would  
13 wake up and be quite frightened, because quite often  
14 staff would be restraining me. So I literally went from  
15 being asleep to having people holding me down and  
16 shouting at me. And that would sometimes happen two or  
17 three times a night, at worst five or six times a night,  
18 for sustained periods of time.

19 Q. When you would wake up with the staff restraining you;  
20 was that quite a terrifying experience?

21 A. It was -- I couldn't even explain the terror of how that  
22 felt. There were so many different staff that worked in  
23 Cardross, thousands of them in the time that I was  
24 there, so sometimes it wouldn't even be people that  
25 I knew and sometimes I would be very frightened to go to



1 sleep because I knew there were staff there that wanted  
2 that to happen, just so that they could restrain me and  
3 have an excuse to be able to do that. And they leapt on  
4 the fact that if I was sleeping and screaming, then they  
5 felt legitimised into doing that. So it became quite  
6 a terrifying thing.

7 I would try and stop myself from falling asleep  
8 a lot if I knew it was going to happen, but you can't.

9 Q. I think you tell us later in your statement that you  
10 felt that some staff got enjoyment out of the restraint?

11 A. Some staff worked there literally to get enjoyment out  
12 of it. They purposefully, I was told later by staff  
13 members, took people on who looked like bouncers, to  
14 able to maintain control in Cardross. They weren't  
15 taken on for their social care values; they weren't  
16 taken on for their like of children; they were there to  
17 control and manage the children that lived there.

18 Q. And I think you say that sometimes you would have those  
19 staff restraining you in the middle of the night, but  
20 other times different staff would be trying to comfort  
21 you?

22 A. Yes, there were several really, really good staff at  
23 Cardross. People who were there for all the right  
24 reasons, including one who literally came off  
25 a construction site, came to work in social care and is

1 still in my life today because he is a magnificent man.

2 Q. Is that the key a worker that you tell us about later?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Peter?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. We might come to him in a little bit, 'Poppy'. I think  
7 you say that you still had to go to Children's Panels,  
8 whilst you were there and this was a regular thing?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But because you had come from, I think, Dunoon  
11 originally, they had by this time moved to Dumbarton, so  
12 it was closer than before?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And I think you point out that you could sit in the room  
15 whilst you were being discussed?

16 A. Yes, it never felt like anybody listened to me.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I think what surprised me the most when I grew up was  
19 that I didn't even have the knowledge that they were  
20 just ordinary people who joined the Panel; I thought  
21 they were all social workers, because nobody had ever  
22 even explained what a Children's Panel was. It just  
23 felt there were more people who wanted to talk about how  
24 awful I was or how full of despair they were about what  
25 they were going to do with me. I didn't realise they

1           were just members of the public.

2   Q.   When you were at these Panels; do you feel like you got  
3       a chance to put forward your point of view?

4   A.   I found any kind of meeting like that really difficult.  
5       So they would call it, obviously, now, multidisciplinary  
6       meetings.  But, when you are a child and you are in  
7       a room, around probably the biggest tables I have ever  
8       seen in my life, and my Children's Hearings and any sort  
9       of reviews were always packed, so you could have up to  
10      18 people sitting round a table, asking you what you  
11      thought, and you just couldn't.  Especially when you had  
12      heard what other people had had to say about you.  This  
13      wasn't a friendly environment to be in, sometimes.  This  
14      wasn't an environment that felt like you could be  
15      truthful.  And I would sometimes say to them, 'I don't  
16      want to be here', particularly at Sycamore, often at  
17      Cardross as well, but nothing ever changed, nothing was  
18      ever done.

19  Q.   You have described the number of people that would be  
20      there and the things that they would be saying about you  
21      and your behaviour?

22  A.   Yes.

23  Q.   Did you find it quite intimidating and difficult to  
24      speak up and say what you wanted?

25  A.   I always felt quite mute as a child.  Everybody I have

1 met since tells me I was hugely eloquent as a child, but  
2 I felt mute. I felt that it didn't matter if I spoke,  
3 because nobody was going to be listening to me anyway,  
4 because that's what my experience in care had taught me:  
5 you can speak, you can talk, but it will get you into  
6 more trouble and nothing changes.

7 Q. Whilst you were in Cardross Park -- this is at  
8 paragraph 88 -- you tell us that you did make some  
9 friends, but you were in the position that you were  
10 there for quite a long period of time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And a lot of people were really just passing through  
13 Cardross Park on assessment; is that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So did that make it difficult, then, to make  
16 friendships, keep relationships, and things like that?

17 A. Hugely. For such a long period of my childhood,  
18 including my time in Sycamore, it was the same.  
19 Friendships only lasted a short period of time, which  
20 made it quite hard, when you are older, to work on  
21 longer term relationships, when they were all so  
22 fleeting.

23 Q. There was a time, I think you say, later on, when you  
24 got a bit older, around 15, where the section that you  
25 were being held under was amended and that allowed you

1           some more freedom?

2    A.   When I was 16.

3    Q.   16 was it?  Okay.

4    A.   Yes.

5    Q.   So you were allowed then out of the unit?

6    A.   Yes.

7    Q.   Did that mean you could go outside the grounds and go

8           elsewhere?

9    A.   I did.  I did a few times.  There was still -- you had

10           to be very clear about where you were going and when you

11           were coming back.  I think the first time I left

12           Cardross on my own, and I had been on a train somewhere

13           and I was coming back, and local kids threw bottles at

14           me and I ended up having to get stitches in my ankle.

15           And then, yes, because it had such a bad reputation,

16           even though I don't know why, because the children

17           couldn't get out.

18   Q.   So you think in the local area this reputation didn't

19           seem to help you?

20   A.   The local community hated -- absolutely hated having it

21           on their doorstep.

22   LADY SMITH:  When you say that, do you mean the whole

23           business of the Cardross Assessment Centre?

24   A.   Yes, they felt it brought the village down.  They felt

25           it decreased their house prices and would upset their

1 children. And that it was ruining the village, despite  
2 the fact no child was allowed out unaccompanied from  
3 Cardross until they were at the age of 16. So you  
4 couldn't go to the shop. You couldn't do anything --  
5 even basic without having staff members with you.

6 MS FORBES: And you talk about this sort of rationing out of  
7 cigarettes whilst you were there. You were allowed to  
8 smoke, but they were given out after meals, after each  
9 meal.

10 A. You were allowed four a day if you behaved yourself: one  
11 after breakfast; one after lunch; one later on and then  
12 one before bed.

13 Q. Mm-hm. Sometimes there would be an extra, but it had to  
14 be passed round and shared with other -- whoever was  
15 there at the time?

16 A. About 16 children, yes.

17 Q. When you first went there, I think you tell us that,  
18 again, you went to the local school?

19 A. Mm-hm.

20 Q. I think you say that was within Cardross, sorry -- So  
21 that was this education unit in the old building?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. But did you receive much education when you were in that  
24 unit or room?

25 A. Not at first. Not for the first -- probably quite a

1           while. I did every arts and crafts known to man, basket  
2           weaving, playing on computers, everything. It wasn't  
3           until I'd been there quite a while that I attended --  
4           only an English class is what I remember.

5    Q.   Okay. I think there then became a time when, because  
6           you were going to be there for longer, the decision was  
7           made to put you into mainstream school?

8    A.   Yes.

9    Q.   High school; and that was Clydebank High?

10   A.   That's right.

11   Q.   But to get there you would have to get a train; is that  
12           right?

13   A.   I did.

14   Q.   And you would be taken to the train station by staff and  
15           put on the train?

16   A.   Yes, I would be given a travel warrant every morning and  
17           the staff would take me to the train station.

18   Q.   I think you tell us that there were times that you did  
19           enjoy some of the things at the school?

20   A.   (Nods).

21   Q.   And some of the teachers there, who were really good  
22           with you?

23   A.   Some of them, yes.

24   Q.   I think you talk about one particular teacher that you  
25           mention, I think, a bit later on as well, as somebody

1           who has been in your life since then?

2   A.   Yes, yes, that was actually at Cardross, one of those  
3       teachers.

4   Q.   Okay. So when you refer to English classes there;  
5       that's the teacher from Cardross?

6   A.   Yes.

7   Q.   Right, okay, I understand.

8           And, again, because of the night terrors that you  
9       have told us about, that meant that often you would be  
10      tired during the course of the school day and sometimes  
11      fall asleep?

12   A.   Yes. That's why English classes were so nice, because  
13      I knew if I had had a really bad night and I was  
14      frightened to go to sleep, then they were quite okay  
15      with me going to sleep during English class. So at  
16      least I knew I would be safe to be able to grab a little  
17      bit of sleep there.

18   Q.   Was that in Cardross, then?

19   A.   Yes.

20   Q.   Okay. I think you then tell us there was a time when  
21      you stopped going to Clydebank High School; you would be  
22      dropped off, but just walk out?

23   A.   Yes.

24   Q.   Then you were told that you were just to stay at  
25      Cardross for education?



1 A. That's right.

2 Q. But I think you say that you didn't actually go then to  
3 the education classes and you would just end up staying  
4 in your room?

5 A. The only thing I ever remember was my English classes,  
6 where the lovely teacher taught me a love of literature,  
7 and I loved it.

8 Q. In relation to being taken places, sort of leisure  
9 opportunities, 'Poppy', you tell us from paragraph 95  
10 that there were opportunities at Cardross to go to  
11 things like swimming pools and, is it, ice skating  
12 rinks?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And for people who were just passing through, they were  
15 things that maybe they hadn't had an opportunity to  
16 experience before?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. But, for you, after a while; did this start to become  
19 repetitive?

20 A. I was always a child who liked solitude and reading.  
21 Reading was my thing. And I liked ice hockey; I liked  
22 swimming; I liked all of those things. But the problem  
23 was, when it was every single night, you get to a point  
24 where it is just: enough, I want some quiet time with my  
25 books.

1           And then I would get into trouble for that because  
2           it meant other children couldn't go, so other children  
3           weren't allowed to go out if I decided to stay home and  
4           read a book.

5   Q.   Is that because you had to go as a group?

6   A.   We always went everywhere en masse.

7   Q.   So if you weren't complying and going along --

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   -- you were seen as the difficult one?

10  A.   I was made to feel really bad, yes.

11  Q.   I think there was a time at Cardross where you were

12       involved with horses; is that right?

13  A.   That's right, yes.

14  Q.   I think you would spend some time doing that, but then  
15       come back to Cardross Park and then be expected to then  
16       go out with the group?

17  A.   Yes.

18  Q.   But because you had already been doing things that day,  
19       you didn't really want to do that?

20  A.   No, I just wanted to be left alone with my books.

21  Q.   And you mentioned, 'Poppy', like you said before, there  
22       were grounds outside the buildings, but unless you got  
23       to the age where you were allowed to go out on your own,  
24       you weren't usually allowed to go outside?

25  A.   No, you weren't allowed to go out at all unless you had

1 a member of staff with you, particularly as I ran away  
2 so often.

3 Q. And this is where you tell us about the key worker,  
4 Peter?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think he was somebody who would recognise when maybe  
7 you needed to go out and he would ask you to come for  
8 a walk?

9 A. Later on, his version was: I came off a construction  
10 site and was given you as a key child. I hadn't got  
11 a clue what to do with you. Nobody had a clue what to  
12 do with you. So I just thought, 'I will put her shoes  
13 on and I will walk her', and so he did.

14 Q. And I think that progressed from the grounds to going  
15 out onto the hills?

16 A. Yes, he used to take me out locally, around Cardross,  
17 which had lots of lovely areas to explore.

18 Q. And you say that that's something which stayed with you,  
19 this passion for walking?

20 A. Absolutely. Yes.

21 Q. And you still enjoy that today?

22 A. Always. And being outdoors. And that's where it  
23 started.

24 Q. Okay. So he is somebody that seems to have made  
25 an impact on you when you were at Cardross?

1 A. He made a massive impact on me. My whole entire life he  
2 made an impact on. Yes. He gave me away when I got  
3 married. He has always been there for me, although  
4 distantly, because it can sometimes still be a bit  
5 tricky in terms of how we met and where that came from.

6 Q. And I think that's -- you tell us later that's because  
7 people in your life now don't know about what happened  
8 before?

9 A. No.

10 Q. About your time in care?

11 A. No, most people don't. They certainly don't know the  
12 details.

13 Q. Yes. But he is somebody you have managed to keep in  
14 your life?

15 A. Always.

16 Q. Despite that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you say that even extended to things like the  
19 birthdays there or Christmases. There was an allocation  
20 of money given to buy a present, but sometimes you would  
21 get an extra present from Peter?

22 A. Peter would spend quite a lot of his own money making  
23 sure that I had things. Most children went home for  
24 Christmas, most children had presents from other family  
25 members, and I didn't have that. So, when I woke up on

1 Christmas, it was the only time in my life -- or my  
2 birthdays -- where Peter would make sure I got -- and I  
3 got the same as other children had and it just felt like  
4 the most beautiful thing in the world.

5 Q. And one particular memory you tell us about is getting  
6 a ghetto blaster --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- which you think must have cost more than the  
9 allocation?

10 A. It absolutely did.

11 Q. And you came to Cardross -- I think you are quite frank  
12 about that -- with all these issues from before,  
13 psychological issues, but it wasn't until you had been  
14 at Cardross for a while before someone was given to you  
15 to help with that, and you mention that being a lady  
16 called Winnie Bain?

17 A. Waynie Bain.

18 Q. Waynie Bain, sorry.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And she was there to give you sort of psychological  
21 support?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think you say that started after you had been at  
24 Cardross for quite a while, maybe about 18 months or  
25 something?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But then continued for the remainder of the time?

3 A. It continued for the remainder of my time.

4 Q. And was that something that you felt benefited you at  
5 the time?

6 A. It absolutely did. And I only wish that they at least  
7 looked at that when I first came into care, in terms of  
8 being able to understand the sort of issues that were  
9 actually at the heart of what my behaviour was all  
10 about. Waynie understood, although she never said it at  
11 the time. She understood trauma, she understood  
12 attachment, she understood I had issues with all of  
13 these things and that actually it wasn't just  
14 necessarily the abuse that happened to me, but it was me  
15 as a whole and all of my life experiences and she was  
16 fantastic at just being a really kind, gentle,  
17 compassionate person who listened to me.

18 She couldn't do anything, but at least she would  
19 listen to me.

20 Q. Did that, over time, help with the things like  
21 self-harming and the desire to be running away?

22 A. It didn't help with the running away. I always had  
23 an urge to be free, my whole childhood. I know it seems  
24 ridiculous, but from the age of 10 or 11, I would say to  
25 people: I just need you all to go away. If you just

1 left me alone, gave me a house, let me live there,  
2 I would be absolutely fine.

3 And I genuinely felt like that. And the more they  
4 locked me up and the more they tried to keep me from  
5 being outside, the more I would run away. So that was  
6 never going to stop until in my mind I was free, because  
7 that's all I ever wanted.

8 Q. Okay. I think you say, because of the situation with  
9 your family, you would sometimes still get visits from  
10 family members, but one person you wanted to see was  
11 your older sister, a stepsister, I think you said?

12 A. Yes, that's right.

13 Q. But you were at Cardross for quite a long time before  
14 you were able to go out for any visits, and because she  
15 stayed quite far away, that meant that you weren't able  
16 to see her until it came to that point; is that right?

17 A. Yes. And she had a young family at the time as well,  
18 which made it hard for her.

19 Q. Okay. And I think the family visits for you would often  
20 become distressing, and then they would lead to episodes  
21 of self-harming; is that right?

22 A. Quite a lot. I used to be quite clear that I didn't  
23 want to see my mother, that seeing her just made  
24 everything so much worse and, quite often, that wasn't  
25 listened to. It was eventually, but a lot of the times

1 I was forced to see her because she was my mother and  
2 I would feel terrible if she wasn't there, et cetera,  
3 et cetera.

4 Q. I think we know from your records, and obviously you  
5 have told us as well, 'Poppy', that there were a number  
6 of suicide attempts when you were there, cutting your  
7 arms [REDACTED]  
8 things like that. And, whilst you were at Cardross,  
9 that meant on one occasion you had to go to the Vale of  
10 Leven Hospital to be stitched up, because of the cuts to  
11 your arms; is that right?

12 A. That's right. Although cutting my arms was never  
13 a suicide attempt, it was -- they thought it was, but it  
14 never was a suicide attempt.

15 Q. Well, what was it for you, looking back?

16 A. A whole mass of things. I had no self-worth. I had  
17 been told I had no self-worth, which didn't help. It  
18 made me feel better. I felt like just such a bad, dirty  
19 human being -- that somehow that made me cleaner.  
20 I felt it spoke when I couldn't. It kept people away,  
21 because they were horrified by what I had done to  
22 myself. It was a very, very effective coping mechanism.  
23 An exceedingly effective coping mechanism.

24 Q. Did you feel like it gave you a release of some of the  
25 things that were going on inside?



1 A. Yes. And sometimes it just felt almost like I would cut  
2 my arms from my fingers right the way up to the tops of  
3 my shoulders and it was just like a big, screaming  
4 'I hurt'.

5 Q. As you have said, you didn't want to see your mum and  
6 you weren't listened to at first, but I think there came  
7 a time when the decision was made that your mum was no  
8 longer able to see you; is that right? And they took  
9 away some of her rights in relation to that?

10 A. Eventually, but only when she hit me in front of  
11 a member of staff.

12 Q. In relation to what you have told us about running away,  
13 'Poppy', you describe it a little bit more from  
14 paragraph 103. You say that despite the fact that you  
15 weren't allowed to be out the building without  
16 permission, or walk the grounds alone, you would be able  
17 to get out and run away, and that's something that you  
18 did on a regular basis, whenever you could; is that  
19 right?

20 A. I was a really good escape artist. I ran away from  
21 Cardross. I ran away from every outing. I even ran  
22 away from the circus, once.

23 Q. Yes. And I think you tell us about that at  
24 paragraph 104, and that's actually something that's in  
25 your records as well; you took the opportunity that you

1           were able to get away from the tent at the circus.

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   You are quite frank in saying that in the running away

4           you didn't have a grand plan of where you were going or

5           what you wanted to do, but you just wanted to get out?

6   A.   I just wanted to run.  I wanted to be free and I wanted

7           to be away from all of those people.

8   Q.   I think you say that you would try and time it --

9           because you knew when the train would be due --

10  A.   Yes.

11  Q.   -- so that could you hide on the train and avoid the

12           ticket collector and get to where you wanted to -- well,

13           get to somewhere?

14  A.   Yes, between that and hitching, which I did a lot of,

15           yes.

16  Q.   'Poppy', we are coming to the part of your statement now

17           where we talk about the abuse that you say occurred when

18           you were in Cardross.

19  A.   Yes.

20  Q.   And this is from paragraph 106.

21  LADY SMITH:  Are you okay to talk about this, 'Poppy'?

22  A.   Yes.

23  LADY SMITH:  Just keep to whatever feels comfortable for

24           you.

25  A.   Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: I have your written statement as well; all  
2 right?

3 MS FORBES: I think the first statement you make, 'Poppy',  
4 there is that Cardross was a really violent place to  
5 survive.

6 A. Very.

7 Q. When you say that; is that to do with the other children  
8 who were there?

9 A. Staff and children. Both were quite violent. It was  
10 a fight fest a lot of the time.

11 Q. You say you had to fight back to survive?

12 A. Absolutely. I had never been a fighter before I went  
13 into care, never. I wasn't -- it isn't who I am now and  
14 it wasn't who I was then, but you just had to.

15 Q. Okay. And was the thinking that if you fought back or  
16 had a reputation, then people were less likely to try  
17 and assault you or --

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. -- confront you.

20 A. And being a small person, as I am, it made me an easy  
21 target for people, which meant if people were frightened  
22 that I would really hurt them, then they would leave me  
23 alone.

24 Q. And you mention a couple of incidents, first of all,  
25 about -- one involving a girl with a razor; what

1           happened on that occasion?

2    A.  I remember being down for lunch one day and there had  
3       been some disharmony at school, I think, over at  
4       Cardross.  That -- for the past few days, and there was  
5       a girl in who everybody was quite frightened of and,  
6       during lunch, she literally walked over to another girl,  
7       took a razor out, and basically slashed her right across  
8       her face in front of everybody, yes.

9           But I would frequently leave my room, go to make  
10       myself a cup of tea in the little kitchen and have to  
11       step over children being restrained in corridors.  There  
12       were several incidents.  Yes, several incidents.

13          I watched a young man being chased by a really  
14       senior member of the team in Cardross, into the dining  
15       room, where 50 children were, and he gave this kid  
16       a kicking in front of everybody, so bad that even two or  
17       three days later this boy had bruises of this man's foot  
18       on his back, and it was the only time the police were  
19       ever called to investigate what had happened.  Every  
20       single child gave a statement, and the man remained  
21       working there.  But we had all seen it.

22    Q.  I think you tell us about that a bit later in your  
23       statement, 'Poppy', and you name the first name of the  
24       person involved?

25    A.  Yes.

1 Q. Is it -- you said it is GZJ ?

2 A. It is GZJ, yes.

3 Q. That's the staff member you remember being involved in  
4 that incident with the boy --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- that you saw? But, despite the police becoming  
7 involved, and there being a lot of other children  
8 witnessing this, from what you recall nothing came of  
9 that?

10 A. Nothing came of it, no.

11 Q. And he continued working at Cardross?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. After that?

14 A. Absolutely.

15 Q. When you talk about these sort of staff restraints and  
16 violent incidents with other children; was that  
17 something that happened on a daily basis?

18 A. It happened frequently, is how I would describe it.  
19 I got restrained less often than I did in Sycamore, but  
20 it was definitely much more brutal, the restraint, when  
21 it did happen.

22 Q. And I think you describe that a bit more at  
23 paragraph 107. You say that whilst it was less  
24 frequent, it lasted longer than it did -- than it had  
25 done at Sycamore and it was more brutal?

1 A. Much longer, much more brutal.

2 Q. And when you say 'brutal'; what do you mean? Is that in  
3 relation to the level of physical restraint that was put  
4 onto you?

5 A. It was the way that they restrained you. It was the  
6 violent way that they restrained you. It was about  
7 inflicting as much pain on you as they possibly could to  
8 make you comply.

9 Q. Now, we will come back to talk a little bit about  
10 restraint in a minute, but I think in this paragraph you  
11 also talk about some other punishments that would occur  
12 at Cardross?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And there being a points system. And so some of the  
15 punishments would involve less pocket money; is that  
16 right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Or you not getting to do something nice or have a treat  
19 at the end of the week?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. But this points system meant that you would really have  
22 to be in attendance at school --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- to earn those points?

25 A. You had to be in attendance at school. But, even if you

1 missed it for whatever reason, points would be deducted  
2 from you. So I remember points being deducted because  
3 I attended a Children's Panel.

4 Q. So even though had you to attend the Panel and had no  
5 control over that, points were deducted?

6 A. A large number of points were deducted. The headteacher  
7 wasn't a very nice person.

8 Q. And when you say 'headteacher'; is this the person you  
9 mentioned as being 'Alex'?

10 A. No, this was the person who ran the school. Although he  
11 was part of Cardross, the school sort of was separate.  
12 The staff never mixed, if that makes sense.

13 Q. Okay. So when we are thinking about that person, that's  
14 somebody different from in the residential part of the  
15 school?

16 A. Yes, although it was all one, yes.

17 Q. Do you remember that person's name at all?

18 A. Jim, somebody.

19 Q. Okay. You then go on to talk about something called  
20 'Pin Down' as being one of the methods of restraint.  
21 What do you --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- mean by 'Pin Down'? What would happen?

24 A. So what they would do was they -- I suppose it is easier  
25 if I explain what happened to me; is that okay?

1 Q. Of course, yes. I think you go on to tell us of  
2 an incident in that paragraph where had you been bunking  
3 off school?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you had come back, is that right, and you tried to  
6 sneak in?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. If you could tell us then: what happened when you were  
9 discovered?

10 A. I remember opening my bedroom door and I saw that  
11 absolutely everything had been removed. There was  
12 a mattress on the floor, just a little single mattress  
13 with nothing on it, and they had taken ply board and  
14 nailed it all over my window. I don't remember anybody  
15 being in that room before me, but when I saw it I must  
16 have, because I knew that I had to run really fast, and  
17 I did.

18 I remember running down the big long drive,  
19 I remember them catching me, and they really hurt me.  
20 They took me back up to the room. They stripped my  
21 clothes from me and put me in just a t-shirt and then  
22 I was basically left there for two weeks. I was not  
23 allowed out of this room. If I wished to go to the  
24 toilet, I could bang on the door, but nobody would  
25 really come until they were ready. If you went to the



1 toilet, two staff would come. They would open up the  
2 door and you would be escorted down the corridor. None  
3 of the other children were allowed to talk to you, even  
4 look at you. They were removed. You ate your meals in  
5 there. You had no form of entertainment whatsoever,  
6 except four walls. They even took my light shade away.  
7 They took all of my pictures away. There was absolutely  
8 nothing in that small room. And that was probably one  
9 of the most -- hardest experiences of my time in care.

10 Q. I think you say when they took everything, they even  
11 took the carpet, you say?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Everything was gone. Staff would mock you and tease  
15 you. You would have other staff who would basically try  
16 to get you to behave. The words I heard continuously  
17 throughout growing up was: 'If you could just be a good  
18 girl: if you just be a good girl, this wouldn't happen.  
19 If you could just behave we wouldn't have to do this to  
20 you'.

21 Q. And when you say that you were -- your clothes were  
22 taken off you; was this physically removed from you?

23 A. They were physically removed from me.

24 Q. And did that include your underwear or were you allowed  
25 to keep that on?

1 A. I had my pants on. That was it.

2 Q. And you were just left with this t-shirt?

3 A. I was just left in a t-shirt.

4 Q. I think you were in there for two weeks, but there was  
5 a review after the first week; is that right?

6 A. They had a big team meeting after the first week and it  
7 just happened to be their general team meeting and  
8 I remember a member of staff -- a good member of staff,  
9 because -- he was a really good member of staff, but  
10 unfortunately the politics of the place were  
11 difficult -- and he said that he tried really hard to  
12 get me out of that room. He had done everything that he  
13 could, but he couldn't, and I was just going to have to  
14 stay another week, and, again, if I would just be a good  
15 girl -- and I remember ... there just wasn't a part of  
16 a good girl left in me.

17 Q. Yes.

18 A. Not after that. And so I ended up being restrained in  
19 probably the most brutal restraint I ever had in  
20 Cardross.

21 Q. So this was after you were told -- after the first  
22 week --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- you were going to have to stay in there for another  
25 week because you couldn't give them the assurance that

1           you would be a good girl; is that right?

2   A.  No, it was basically: you are just going to stay there.

3   Q.  Okay.

4   A.  It would make no difference if I had been a good girl or  
5       not.  I actually had.  What else could I do in a room  
6       with nothing for a whole week?

7   Q.  That being told to you, that you were going to have to  
8       stay in for another week; did that then cause a reaction  
9       in you?

10  A.  I was a child who had many, many attachment issues.  
11       Being left alone absolutely flipped me, is probably the  
12       best way I could describe it.  The amount of power and  
13       control that they had over me generally was part of  
14       that.

15           The message, which was loud and clear, was,  
16       basically: we can do anything we like to you and nobody  
17       is coming to help.

18           Because there wasn't anybody to help.  And so, after  
19       a week of understanding that they had the power to do  
20       anything they wanted to me, which was terrifying as  
21       a child, I remember completely losing it.

22           Because what's the point in being a good girl?  You  
23       can be a good girl and this is still going to happen.  
24       They are still going to do this to you because that's  
25       what they wanted.  And, unfortunately, that day there

1           were a lot of really power hungry people, because they  
2           were all at the team meeting and I remember being  
3           restrained for a long, long time. A long, long time  
4           until I just didn't even have the energy any more.

5    Q.   Yes. And you describe that, 'Poppy', at paragraph 111.  
6           You say that you were forced face down onto the wooden  
7           floor.

8    A.   Yes.

9    Q.   Is that in the room?

10   A.   Yes.

11   Q.   Where the carpet had been removed?

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   And you say that they were grabbing at every part of  
14           your body that they could reach?

15   A.   There must have been -- I don't even know how many  
16           members of staff were restraining me that day, but there  
17           wasn't a part of my body that didn't feel like it was  
18           exploding with pain. Each staff member would take  
19           a different part of your body and twist and contort it  
20           in a different way.

21   Q.   You say that one of the staff even kicked you during  
22           that incident, on the head?

23   A.   Yes, he did.

24   Q.   But that was brushed off as being an accident as part of  
25           the restraint?

1 A. Yes, but it wasn't. He told me to 'Calm the fuck down',  
2 and then kicked me in the head.

3 Q. Were you being asked to apologise whilst this was going  
4 on?

5 A. Their favourite one, any time they restrained you, was  
6 to either scream at you with spitting, red, angry faces,  
7 'Calm down, just calm the fuck down', like you could.  
8 Or, 'Apologise, apologise', for whatever you had or  
9 hadn't done, because quite often you hadn't actually  
10 done anything, except maybe go too close to a window.

11 Q. You say this went on for, you think, nearly two hours?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Before what you describe as the pain becoming so intense  
14 that you eventually gave in and stopping struggling?

15 A. I remember everything going and I remember them leaving.

16 Q. And I think after this you say that you had bruises on  
17 your body; is that right?

18 A. Yes, I had bruises on my body.

19 Q. And on your face as well?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And was that from your face being pressed into the  
22 wooden floor?

23 A. It was from the kick.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Yes. But they just left me there.

1 Q. And you tell us how you felt after they left you there,  
2 and can you describe a little bit about how you were  
3 feeling at that time?

4 A. I felt like nothing. I didn't matter. That I was worth  
5 nothing. That this is how people saw me and they could  
6 do whatever they liked to me, because they did.

7 Q. And one of the things you say, 'Poppy', at  
8 paragraph 112, is:

9 'They had finally broke me and part of my inner self  
10 left me.'

11 A. Yes. To this day.

12 Q. Yes. So do you feel that to this day there is a part of  
13 you that was left in that room at that time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I can't go in lifts. I can't be in any kind of confined  
17 space. I couldn't even have a door shut for 10,  
18 15 years after that. It would just fill me with such  
19 a sense of panic. On difficult days I still dream about  
20 it.

21 Q. And this is the one incident that really has stayed with  
22 you and really affects you?

23 A. Yes. For what happened, but also what it represented.

24 Yes.

25 Q. And, 'Poppy', I think after they left you in that room

1 for the second week, you say that you were trying to  
2 find [REDACTED] to cut yourself with and --  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. -- you had [REDACTED] before that happened  
5 and it hadn't been replaced, so you were in there in the  
6 dark?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. How long was it before, then, you were allowed to go out  
9 for an hour at a time?  
10 A. So, after two weeks, I was allowed out for five or ten  
11 minutes a day, but only to do jobs that staff wanted.  
12 So they gave me a dressing gown and they would make me  
13 do things, like clean the skirting boards or make them  
14 coffee, clean, doing really mundane tasks.  
15 Q. How long did that go on for?  
16 A. At least another week, if not more. So, every day, if  
17 you behaved, you would get out for another five minutes.  
18 Q. You say that during that time no other children were  
19 allowed to speak to you?  
20 A. No. No one was allowed to speak to me.  
21 Q. You describe the fact that staff would make comments to  
22 you?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. Were these disparaging comments that they would make to  
25 you?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you say they would encourage other children to do  
3 the same?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But they didn't join in?

6 A. No, not many of them. They all knew it could be them.

7 Q. And you say that some of the other children even tried  
8 to pass you sweeties without staff seeing them?

9 A. Yes, they would try to pass me sweeties or little fag  
10 ends.

11 Q. During that time I think you say you were forced to make  
12 the staff their coffee and things like that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You tell us what you would do with that coffee in  
15 retaliation?

16 A. I would spit in that coffee, and I took pride in  
17 spitting in that coffee, because it gave me my power  
18 back and made me sane again. Trying to at least get  
19 some semblance of control back.

20 Q. Yes. And after this period, when you were allowed out  
21 of your room again --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- I think this is when your hair started to fall out?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you say that over a period of days and weeks you



1           would wake up with clumps of hair on your pillow?

2   A. All of it just started to fall out. I would wake up and

3           it would be like another bit gone and then another bit.

4   Q. And I think you were taken to see a doctor and then

5           referred to a specialist?

6   A. Yes.

7   Q. Is that right? And it was explained that this hair loss

8           was as a result of stress?

9   A. Yes.

10   Q. You were told that the hair may or may not grow back?

11   A. That's right.

12   Q. I think, as you will know, 'Poppy', from your records,

13           there are entries about that and the fact that you

14           pretty much had no hair left at this time?

15   A. I had none at one point.

16   Q. As a result, sometimes you would wear a wig --

17   A. Yes.

18   Q. -- that they had provided. But I think there are some

19           comments saying that often you would just take it off

20           because you just wanted to --

21   A. It would freak the staff out if they were out in public,

22           with me looking like a normal child, if I took my wig

23           off and scratched my head, so I did.

24   Q. Is that one little thing you had control over?

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. It is recorded again, during this time, during your hair  
2 loss time, that you are still experiencing these night  
3 horrors, as well?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So when you say 'Pin Down', is that what you're talking  
6 about, being restricted to the room with nothing in  
7 it --

8 A. Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. -- and if anything happens at all, you step out of line,  
10 you are restrained?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think you say, 'Poppy', that it wasn't just you that  
13 it happened to; that you were aware of at least three  
14 other children that it happened to?

15 A. Yes, that happened after. Yes, they are the ones  
16 I remember.

17 Q. You comment there was one boy who was kept in his room  
18 for three weeks?

19 A. Yes, he was.

20 Q. You then go on to tell us about the incident that you  
21 mentioned before, involving GZJ and the boy in the  
22 dining room?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. In relation to reporting anything that was going on,  
25 I think you tell us that there was no one that you could

1 speak to about what was happening in Cardross?

2 A. No, I could speak to people about it and it wouldn't  
3 change. It wouldn't change things. There was a culture  
4 in Cardross where the biggest, most bullying members of  
5 staff kind of ran the place. I could see clearly, even  
6 then, as a child, that some staff were frightened of  
7 these other staff and the ramifications for them.

8 Years later, other staff members told me they were  
9 bullied and intimidated by -- particularly the gentleman  
10 who instigated me being put in that bedroom. They were  
11 frightened, too. So I could complain, I could say, but  
12 nothing would make a difference.

13 Q. So, even though there were some staff who, as you have  
14 said, would be involved in comforting you --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- or would be less likely to restrain you, if given  
17 an option of what to do, they unfortunately weren't in  
18 charge and they had to toe the line; is that the way you  
19 sort of see it?

20 A. It was exactly the way I saw it, yes. In fact I know  
21 for a fact my key worker got into trouble all the time  
22 because people kept saying he had to stop being so nice  
23 to me and he didn't, so he had quite a hard time because  
24 of that.

25 Q. This is a time when you don't have family coming to

1 visit you and that support that you can turn to?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And the people -- I think you described it as the staff  
4 that were causing these issues are the ones who you are  
5 in Cardross with?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And there is nobody independent coming in to check on  
8 you?

9 A. No. And even then, it is very difficult to speak to  
10 people, even independently, who come in, because staff  
11 talk amongst themselves. How do you know that someone  
12 coming in saying they are independent, you can trust  
13 them? Because trust isn't a thing you can afford to  
14 have, especially not in a place like Cardross. You  
15 trust nobody. You have no reason to trust anybody.

16 Q. So did you feel like, if you had said anything, that  
17 anything would have been done about it?

18 A. Nothing would have been done about it. Yes, nothing.

19 Q. And you have told us about the incident involving GZJ  
20 and the boy, where the police became involved; from your  
21 point of view nothing was done about that?

22 A. No. It made no difference what you said. It made no  
23 difference who you told. Nothing was going to be any  
24 different. That was the way Cardross was run.

25 Q. You talk about a throughcare worker who was allocated to

1           you, a Morag Smith?

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   And she was someone who was trying to maybe prepare you

4           for leaving; is that right?

5    A.   Yes, that's right.

6    Q.   So she was trying to teach you things like cooking,

7           looking after a house?

8    A.   Yes.   So she was with me when I picked items when I did

9           eventually move, yes.

10   Q.   Do you feel that was useful?   Beneficial?

11   A.   Oh, it was essential, is how I would describe it.   Morag

12           is still in my life, even though she is a woman well

13           into her 80s these days.   So she took her throughcare

14           work a little seriously.   I was one of the very lucky

15           ones at that time.   Very, very few people had

16           a throughcare worker.   It was a very new thing at the

17           time.

18           Officially, she stopped working with me when I was

19           18, because that's how it was.   In fact, I might not

20           even have been 18, but that's when she officially had to

21           stop working with me:   just for a few months, get me set

22           up in my home and that was it.

23    Q.   But she is someone -- again, another relationship that

24           has continued with you?

25    A.   Yes, very much so.

1 Q. You tell us, 'Poppy', that you went from Cardross to do  
2 some work, I think it was a YTS scheme at a nursing  
3 home?  
4 A. That's right, yes.  
5 Q. And then you had a college course as well?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Whilst you were doing the YTS scheme, you weren't  
8 earning much because that doesn't pay much?  
9 A. No.  
10 Q. But you actually did offer to pay for some of your stay  
11 at Cardross with that money?  
12 A. No.  
13 Q. Oh, sorry.  
14 A. I don't remember that.  
15 Q. Maybe I read it wrong.  
16 A. That's okay.  
17 Q. It says you had made a token gesture to pay for some of  
18 your stay.  
19 A. Oh, right. No, I would never have done that.  
20 Q. But while you were on the college course I think you met  
21 someone whose brother ended up becoming your husband  
22 later on; is that right?  
23 A. Yes, that's right.  
24 Q. Whilst you were working at the nursing home, you were  
25 still living at Cardross at the time; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You fell pregnant and that was at 16?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Unfortunately, because it was a nursing home, they  
5 decided that you couldn't work there any more because  
6 you were pregnant?

7 A. One of the difficulties was, because Cardross was so  
8 violent, that as soon as they found out I was pregnant,  
9 I was removed in a matter of days, because they  
10 acknowledged you can't be pregnant and be in Cardross  
11 because it was just too high a level of risk.

12 Q. Okay. Right. So I am looking at paragraph 120, so just  
13 to clarify: you had to leave Cardross because you were  
14 pregnant, not because -- it wasn't the nursing home?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Sorry.

17 A. I finished at the nursing home at the same time.

18 Q. Okay, yes. And you say then that, in relation to life  
19 after Cardross, you moved out of there, because you were  
20 pregnant and you were sent to the Innocence in Glasgow?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. We have looked at the dates as to when that was. It  
23 would be [REDACTED] when you were turning 17.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. And you stayed there, I think, only for about two weeks

1 before you ran away?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Then, I think through the care worker that you talked  
4 about, she was able to help you get your own flat?

5 A. Eventually, yes.

6 Q. But you point out that whilst you were still with your  
7 child's father, you didn't feel ready to get married or  
8 anything like that, because that to you seemed like  
9 control?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I think you tell us that you then went on -- so you had  
12 your -- is it -- your son was the first child; is that  
13 right?

14 A. Yes, my son was my first child.

15 Q. Yes. Then, when you were 18, you had your second son?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. You had your third child, your daughter, when you were  
18 about 21?

19 A. Yes, that's right.

20 Q. And you are still with your husband now?

21 A. No, I divorced him about four years ago. It's okay, we  
22 were together 30 years.

23 Q. So that was a long relationship you had with him?

24 A. A very long relationship.

25 Q. You say, 'Poppy', that although you didn't stay at



1 school long enough to keep up your education, that by  
2 the time you were giving this statement, the last  
3 ten years before that you had made big efforts to alter  
4 that and you had taken up an opportunity to do an HNC  
5 qualification through a social care charity; is that  
6 right?

7 A. Yes, I worked for a social care charity for a long  
8 period of time and, during that, I got to do my HNC,  
9 among many other qualifications.

10 Q. I think you point out that you didn't want to go to  
11 college to do that kind of thing, but because it meant  
12 you could do it through the charity themselves whilst  
13 working --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- that was an opportunity you felt you could take up?

16 A. The colleges wouldn't take me because I refused to sit  
17 their basic test.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Despite the fact I had been in my job a long time and  
20 I knew what I was doing. So I did it through the  
21 organisation instead.

22 Q. You go on to tell us a little bit later, 'Poppy', that  
23 the night terrors we talked about did stop, but I think  
24 that was into your late teens or so?

25 A. Yes, very much so.

1 Q. I think you said -- this is paragraph 127 -- you make  
2 the comment that you came to a conscious decision that  
3 you weren't going to let them affect you and affect your  
4 son?

5 A. From the minute my son was born, I knew that I had some  
6 really big choices to make in life here. My biggest  
7 fear is always -- has always been that my children would  
8 be taken into care. And so I decided that I just was  
9 not going to think about a single part of that ever  
10 again. I was going to lock it deep inside me. I was  
11 going to learn how to be a mum, from random places like  
12 the TV, because: what the heck did I know about being  
13 a mum? And that was the way that it went. So it  
14 stopped. Because I just refused to let any part of my  
15 childhood be part of me, because I was a mum.

16 Q. Do you feel you have put that part of your life away  
17 into a box and compartmentalised it?

18 A. I did for many years. Probably a lot of it  
19 subconsciously. People -- obviously, it is quite  
20 difficult when people ask you where your parents are, so  
21 I might say: yes, I was raised in care.

22 And then they would give you the sad face. And  
23 I would be just like: no, it was absolutely fine. I am  
24 great, aren't I? Everything's absolutely fine.

25 And that's what I did for many years until I did my

1 HNC.

2 Q. I think you do say a little bit about that. There was  
3 a lecture involving surviving abuse, and when things  
4 were being described in the course of that lecture, you  
5 felt as though the lecturer was describing your life and  
6 your time in care?

7 A. Yes, I had shoved it down very deeply. He was a very  
8 eloquent lecturer, a very nice man. He started talking  
9 about what it was like to be in any kind of care  
10 setting. He was illustrating to the room and then  
11 saying: what would you do if you were in that situation?

12 Then, when they would reply, he'd go: well we won't  
13 do that. This institution will drug you.

14 And it literally felt like he was talking about me  
15 and my life, and it opened a massive Pandora's box in my  
16 head because I couldn't not think about that any more.

17 Q. I think you say that you ended up becoming quite upset  
18 about that at the time; is that right?

19 A. Massively. I didn't have anyone to talk to about what  
20 was going on. I didn't want to talk to anyone about  
21 what my experiences had been, so I started writing.

22 I just vomited words everywhere.

23 Q. Is that something you have continued to do?

24 A. Sometimes, when things are difficult.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. It is helpful.

2 Q. But I think you do tell us that, whilst you were with  
3 your husband, it wasn't something you felt you could  
4 share with him?

5 A. No, never.

6 Q. You are not somebody who is sharing it with people  
7 around you that are in your life?

8 A. Some of my friends in more recent times know more about  
9 my life. I have been in counselling for the last  
10 four years. So I am trying to learn that that's okay.  
11 But I have this deep-seated terror of traumatising other  
12 people by my life experience, or by other people knowing  
13 what feels like my shame. I know it's not. But it  
14 feels like my shame.

15 Q. And you feel -- I think you say that you feel that you  
16 don't want to burden someone else with it?

17 A. No, I don't want other people to have in their head what  
18 lives in mine every day.

19 Q. Is that what you feel it would be, if you were to talk  
20 about it; a burden on someone else?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And you make the point that whilst you have  
23 stopped self-harming --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- you stopped that after your first son was born --

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. -- you can't hide those scars?

3 A. No.

4 Q. They are still there?

5 A. They are all very visible, yes.

6 Q. We have talked about the fact that you reported what  
7 happened to you when you were in Sycamore Cottage?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You didn't feel like there was anyone at Cardross that  
10 you could tell what was going on?

11 A. No.

12 Q. I think this is at paragraph 134, 'Poppy', you say:  
13 'The incidents in Cardross were never reported as  
14 the people who were carrying out the abuse would have  
15 been the people I could have reported anything to, and  
16 that would have been pointless.'

17 A. Yes. What's interesting now is -- I was just saying  
18 earlier that a lot of the staff who looked after me when  
19 I was little have now been charged with crimes against  
20 children. I must have been looked after by hundreds,  
21 possibly even thousands of staff and each year that  
22 number creeps up and creeps up in terms of convictions  
23 or people in court for their behaviour and for their  
24 actions. And it is quite weird, as an adult, to realise  
25 how many people that are now found criminally guilty

1 raised me. Yes.

2 Q. Just thinking then, 'Poppy', about your hopes for the  
3 Inquiry, I think you tell us about that at  
4 paragraph 140. You say that you think:

5 'Moving forward there will be less demonising of  
6 children in care.'

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is that the stigma that you felt when you were in  
9 Cardross from the local community and things like that?

10 A. Through my professional career, I became an expert in  
11 behaviour; in fact led a large social care charity  
12 around behaviour and how we should be working with  
13 people. If I am honest, five years later, I think we  
14 need to stick a bomb in our care system and start again,  
15 because none of it is set up for children. None of it  
16 is set up in a way that it should be, which is about  
17 compassion and acceptance and support and help. I have  
18 no doubt that things in care have changed, but not  
19 enough. Nowhere near enough.

20 Q. Yes. I think you say you hope:

21 '... as a country we can accept responsibility for  
22 what happened to children in care.'

23 A. Yes. I think most people believe that children that go  
24 into care have kind of done terrible things to deserve  
25 that or they come from -- I don't even know what half

1 the people think.

2 I think it is about having the understanding,  
3 actually, that the vast majority of children end up in  
4 care for the very same reason I did, which is to be  
5 protected and taken care of, and that's not what happens  
6 within a care system, even unintentionally.

7 Q. The other thing you say, 'Poppy', is you hope that we  
8 can believe what children are telling us.

9 A. Absolutely. Until it is absolutely proved otherwise, we  
10 should be believing children in what they are saying.

11 Q. You mention a girl in particular who was in care that  
12 sadly committed suicide, and you say that you feel that  
13 she was just forgotten by society, and that's not right?

14 A. She absolutely was. But, unfortunately, she is not  
15 alone. I, having lived in Cardross and in Sycamore,  
16 could give you reams and reams of names of children that  
17 are no longer here.

18 And it is one of the reasons why I am at the Inquiry  
19 today, because the vast majority of children I grew up  
20 with are either in jail or they are dead. Through lots  
21 of different ways, but predominantly through suicide and  
22 drug overdoses. She wasn't alone, but we forget,  
23 because they are nobody's children.

24 MS FORBES: Yes. 'Poppy', I am really grateful you have  
25 been able to come and give us your statement and come





1 'Margaret'.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 'Margaret' (affirmed)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', do sit down and make yourself  
5 comfortable.

6 'Margaret', thank you for agreeing to come along  
7 this afternoon to help us with your evidence. You will  
8 see, in the red folder, your written statement is there,  
9 and it will be available for you to refer to if you find  
10 that helpful.

11 A. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: It has certainly been helpful to me to have it  
13 here in advance, and it is of course already evidence to  
14 the Inquiry.

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: But what we will do today is focus on some  
17 particular aspects of it that we --

18 A. Okay.

19 LADY SMITH: -- would like to invite you to flesh out, if  
20 you like, in a little more detail for us.

21 A. Okay.

22 LADY SMITH: Those practicalities apart, 'Margaret', if  
23 there is anything I can do to make the whole daunting  
24 process of giving evidence at a Public Inquiry more  
25 comfortable for you, please let me know.

1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: Whether it is a break, a pause, explaining  
3 something better than we are explaining it; if you don't  
4 understand us that's our fault, not yours. Or really  
5 anything I haven't thought of. If it works for you, it  
6 will work for me; all right?

7 A. Okay.

8 LADY SMITH: If you are ready, I will hand over to  
9 Mr Sheldon and he will take it from there.

10 Mr Sheldon.

11 Questions by Mr Sheldon

12 MR SHELDON: Good afternoon, 'Margaret'. Just to emphasise  
13 what Lady Smith has said: if there is anything I ask you  
14 that you don't understand, please just stop me and ask  
15 me to rephrase it, find a different way to say it. It  
16 will be my fault. We can go forward that way.

17 'Margaret', as Lady Smith also said, you have your  
18 statement, I think, in front of you in the red folder.  
19 Just for our purposes -- you don't need to worry about  
20 this -- the reference is WIT-1-000001232.

21 If I can just ask you first of all, 'Margaret', to  
22 turn to the last page of your statement, please. Again,  
23 just a formality for our purposes, but I think you  
24 should see there that there is a paragraph that says:

25 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

2 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

3 true.'

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that still the case, 'Margaret'?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I think that's your signature at the end of the

8 statement?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Thank you.

11 Just turning back to the start of the statement, we

12 can look at some of that together. You give us a bit of

13 background about your early life and you say that you

14 were born in Glasgow. I think it's fair to say that

15 your mother and father had a pretty turbulent

16 relationship; would that be fair to say?

17 A. Mm-hm. Yes.

18 Q. They separated and I think you went to live with your

19 father?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us that unfortunately your father was violent

22 to you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I think you say he had mental health issues?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And as you put it in paragraph 4, he battered you?

2 A. Mm-hm.

3 Q. You talk a bit about him and his work and his lifestyle.

4 You say, at paragraph 8, your dad would have people

5 back to the house who would touch you.

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. Is that right?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Did that happen frequently?

10 A. Well, most of my life.

11 Q. All right.

12 A. To a certain age.

13 Q. What age did that start?

14 A. That particular thing, I can remember, I think I was

15 two, two and a half.

16 Q. Okay, all right. You tell us a bit more about your

17 father. It is plain from your statement that your

18 father was regularly violent towards you.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You said he also had a friend in Ireland who sexually

21 abused you?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that was when you were about 7 or 8?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You tell us that you also were sexually abused by

1 an individual in Govanhill and that you reported that,  
2 but your dad found out and he battered you; is that  
3 right?

4 A. Yes, mm-hm.

5 Q. You you told your dad what the man had done, but  
6 actually you didn't tell him all of what this guy had  
7 done. So, even though it was you who was being abused,  
8 sexually, you were also being beaten for it?

9 A. Yes, it was my fault.

10 Q. Why was it your fault?

11 A. Because in his mind I should have stayed away from where  
12 he was.

13 Q. But you were just a child.

14 A. I think I was 11 or 12.

15 Q. This individual -- and we can perhaps call him [REDACTED]  
16 because he reappears in the story from time to time --  
17 he, I think you say, sexually abused you, really,  
18 throughout your early life?

19 A. Yes, mm-hm. Right up until I was an adult.

20 Q. Yes. And we will perhaps come back to that a little  
21 later.

22 But you tell us, at paragraph 15 of your statement,  
23 that you were underweight. You kept quiet about the  
24 abuse, because you knew you would get money or shoes:

25 'I know now that's how he got to me.'

1           So was this person, [GJ], promising you things,  
2           giving you things?

3   A. Well, he would buy me, like, food. I wasn't fed very  
4           often. He would buy me food or something new, clothes  
5           or something that I needed. Or give me a fiver or  
6           something.

7   Q. And I think, later in your statement, you used the word  
8           'grooming'; do you feel now that's what [GJ] was doing  
9           to you?

10   A. I only know that now that I am older.

11   LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', it is not at all unusual for people  
12           only to realise in adulthood, like you --

13   A. Yes.

14   LADY SMITH: -- that something that was happening to them  
15           at that age that you were then was actually grooming.

16   A. Yes.

17   LADY SMITH: And you probably thought that was just somebody  
18           being nice to you.

19   A. That's what I did think. I think that's -- when people  
20           said, 'Stay away, from his shop', I thought he was the  
21           only one that cared for me, so ...

22   LADY SMITH: He took advantage of you.

23   A. Yes.

24   LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon.

25   MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady. And he took advantage in

1           circumstances where other people were very clearly not  
2           being nice to you.

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   You talk a little bit about wetting the bed, and I think  
5           you say that your dad would humiliate you over that?

6   A.   He would hang the sheets out the window for everybody to  
7           see, with the wet spot on it.

8   Q.   All right.

9   A.   And make me walk about with my nightie wrapped round my  
10          neck all day.

11   Q.   How did that make you feel?

12   A.   In front of my step-siblings, it was humiliating,  
13          because their pals were there.

14   Q.   You tell us -- I am looking at paragraph 18 of your  
15          statement now -- that you were in eleven different  
16          primary schools --

17   A.   Yes.

18   Q.   -- four different secondary schools. And that was  
19          because your father was constantly moving house.

20   A.   Yes.

21   Q.   Did you ever have a chance to settle anywhere?

22   A.   No.

23   Q.   You say, at paragraph 19, that when you were 13 or 14  
24          you took the last doing from your dad 'that I was going  
25          to take'.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can we take from that, that at that point you had just  
3 reached breaking point?

4 A. I thought he was going to kill me. He had drank whisky  
5 because it was New Year, and every New Year I knew that  
6 I would get a doing. But this New Year he was fine, and  
7 I was round at my pal's, and I came back and chapped the  
8 door, and he had ran his girlfriend doon and put her  
9 heid through the window of the front door, and opened  
10 the door, and then it was on, after that.

11 Q. Right. So he was violent to his girlfriend and he was  
12 violent to you that day?

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. You tell us that you went to see a social worker at  
15 St Leonard's School in Easterhouse. You said you just  
16 couldn't put up with it any more. Can I just ask you  
17 how you knew to go to a social worker?

18 A. I didnae know. As soon as the schools went back after  
19 that New Year, on the Monday they went back, and I knew  
20 there was a social worker in the school. I don't know  
21 how I did, but I just did. And I made the decision to  
22 go to them and say to them I cannae go back.

23 Q. Mm-hm. You say that the school and your doctor -- and  
24 you name your doctor -- knew what was happening, you had  
25 bruises and things; do you think they knew what was



1           happening before you reported this to the social worker?

2   A.   I think everybody knew everywhere, but my Da moved that  
3       much it obviously got missed.

4   Q.   Yes.

5           You say that the social worker wanted to take you  
6       home to speak to your father and you were,  
7       understandably, terrified, you say?

8   A.   I said no and waited in school.

9   Q.   Okay. And the social workers, you say, got an emergency  
10      order to take you into care.

11   A.   Mm-hm.

12   Q.   You talk a little bit later about going to Children's  
13      Panels, and I will ask you a little bit more about that  
14      in a moment, but do you remember: was there a Children's  
15      Panel at that stage?

16   A.   There was an emergency Children's Panel. They took me  
17      to a Justice of the Peace that night and got a section  
18      44(1)(b), which meant I could be in care, but I couldn't  
19      go outside or anything like that. And then I think  
20      there was an emergency Panel after that.

21   Q.   All right. Do you remember anything about that?

22   A.   I don't. I just remember the court case. When he was  
23      took to court, I remember parts of that. But I don't  
24      remember the first Panel.

25   Q.   Okay. Where were you staying while that was going on?

1 A. Wallacewell.

2 Q. Right. So you report to the social worker and you are  
3 pretty much straight away put into Wallacewell?

4 A. No, they put me into a care home in the -- Easterhouse,  
5 first, for the one night.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. And then took me up to Wallacewell the next day.

8 Q. Okay. You talk a bit about that on page 6 of your  
9 statement, that there was a care home in Easterhouse  
10 that you can't remember the name of?

11 A. I can't remember the name.

12 Q. Okay. And at this stage you think you were about 13 or  
13 14?

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 Q. So this would be about 1986 or so?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You talk about your time at Wallacewell then, and  
18 I don't want to go into that in any detail. As  
19 Lady Smith explained, we are concentrating on this part  
20 of our --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- case study on particular assessment centres.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- including Cardross, which was the one that you ended  
25 up going to. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

And then they

12

moved me to Cardross.

13

14 Q. Mm-hm. During this time you tell us that there were

15

16 more Children's Panels?

17

18 A. Mm-hm.

19

20 Q. And how did you feel those went? I think you felt -- if

21

22 I am reading your statement correctly, I think you felt

23

24 that they weren't very satisfactory for you?

25

26 A. Well, I mean I just -- my dad was so angry at all the

27

28 Panels that we went to, and I was just always -- it was

29

30 just a stressful time. It was a scary time to be in the

31

32 same room.

33

34 Q. Your father was always there?

35

36 A. Yes.

37

38 Q. All right. Did you have any chance to speak to the

39

1 Panel with your father not there?

2 A. No.


3 Q. All right.

4 A. I was held in a room with my worker until the Panel and  
5 then took away again.

6 Q. All right.

7 And did you tell the Panel, or indeed anyone in  
8 social services, about [IGJ] ?

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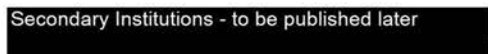
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17 Q. The time comes when you leave Wallacewell and you tell  
18 us -- this is page 15 of your statement, paragraph 79 --  
19 you thought they were going to put you into a place  
20 called Loaningdale; is that right?

21 A. Well, they took me to Loaningdale, my social worker,

22 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



23 . So they took me to  
24 Loaningdale. And she left me and went away to do  
25 whatever she was doing. And I says to her, 'Do not  
leave me here. You better not leave me here'. She

1           didn't leave me there, but ...

2    Q.   So how long were you actually at Loaningdale for?

3    A.   Just that day.

4    Q.   Okay. Was it a whole afternoon or a couple of hours?

5    A.   I think it was for a couple of hours. I think it was

6           a visit to get me to stay there.

7    Q.   Okay.

8    A.   And I told her, like, 'Don't leave me here'.

9    Q.   Oh, right, and why did you say that?

10   A.   Because it was like an orgy.

11   Q.   Can I ask you what was happening? What was going on

12           that I think shocked you so much?

13   A.   An orgy. It was like an orgy. Like, that's the only

14           thing I can describe it as.

15   Q.   Okay.

16   A.   It was one big ginormous room with beds along the walls,

17           and it was guys and lassies that were lying in bed

18           together and some of them were clearly having sex. So

19           it wasn't a place I wanted to be left.

20   Q.   How many children were in this room?

21   A.   Oh, 70, at least, I would say. It was a lot of people.

22   Q.   How many beds were there?

23   A.   The room was huge. Maybe 11, 12 beds.

24   Q.   All right. And was it the size of this room? Was it

25           half the size of this room?

1 A. It was a huge room, but not this kind of shape. It was  
2 just a big, square room.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. I think, that I can remember.

5 Q. And you think about 11 or 12 beds, maybe?

6 A. Aye.

7 Q. Did you have an understanding of what room this was?  
8 Was it a dormitory?

9 A. I thought it was a dormitory, because there were people  
10 walking about everywhere. It wasn't just in that  
11 bedroom. But I thought it was a dormitory that people  
12 were just allowed to come in and out and sit in your  
13 room, which wasn't allowed in other places that I had  
14 been.

15 Q. Were you put into that room? Did your social worker  
16 take you?

17 A. No, I think somebody I knew was there.

18 Q. Right.

19 A. And I was walking about talking to them while the social  
20 worker was --

21 Q. Do you remember what day of the week this was?

22 A. No idea. I just remember her driving there and  
23 thinking: I am not going to be able to escape, because  
24 this is in the middle of nowhere.

25 And I said to her, 'Don't leave me here. You can't

1           leave me in a place that's so far away from everything'.

2    Q.   Yes, it is quite far out in the country, isn't it?

3    A.   Mm-hm.

4    Q.   What was the rest of the place like? Did you see much

5           of it?

6    A.   No. It was just a horrible place. It really was

7           a horrible place and I just didn't want to be left

8           there.

9    Q.   You say that you knew someone there or some people

10          there --

11   A.   Mm-hm.

12   Q.   -- did you have a chance to speak to them when you were

13          there?

14   A.   I spoke to -- there was a boy [REDACTED], I spoke to

15          him, wandered about. But I knew he had been in there

16          for a while. I knew him for years.

17   Q.   What did he say about the place?

18   A.   He hated it. He hated it. But he got out at the

19          weekends to go home to his ma's. So -- I think his ma

20          and da were alcoholics, so I think it was the only place

21          him and his brother could be.

22   Q.   Did he say why he hated it?

23   A.   No, I don't remember.

24   Q.   Okay.

25   A.   I don't remember. It was just -- Loaningdale was just



1 a place nobody wanted to go. Before I even went into  
2 care I knew about Loaningdale.

3 Q. You had heard about it?

4 A. There was lots of people that had been in and out of  
5 Loaningdale, but Loaningdale wasn't a place anybody  
6 wanted to go.

7 Q. Why was that? What was its reputation?

8 A. I have no idea. I don't know. I just know that when  
9 I walked in I wasn't staying in a place like that.

10 Q. Yes. You say, at paragraph 82, that it was like walking  
11 into your worst nightmare.

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. Is that how it felt?

14 A. It was horrible. I can feel the anxiety on my shoulders  
15 just picturing -- just remembering walking in. It just  
16 wasn't a nice place.

17 Q. You say you don't remember even seeing one staff member?

18 A. Not that I seen. I never seen any staff.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. These weans were going nuts, so ... it wasn't just the  
21 ones that were in bed together. There were people  
22 battering each other and jumping about, and it was  
23 crazy.

24 Q. It sounds as if it was pretty wild; is that right?

25 A. It was like as if she was putting me there out the road.

1 It was just the last ditch effort to put me somewhere  
2 that I couldn't run away from and this is somewhere  
3 where all the bad weans went.

4 Q. You are not then left at Loaningdale and you are back at  
5 Wallacewell for a little while?

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they took me to Cardross.

12 Q. Right. Was there a Panel before you went to Cardross?

13 A. No, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

15

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later they took me straight to

17 Cardross.

18 Q. Right, okay. Was there a Panel after you arrived at  
19 Cardross?

20 A. I don't remember ever going to a Panel from Cardross.

21 Q. Okay. So, paragraph 85 of your statement, you think you  
22 were 15 when you went to Cardross?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you know anything about Cardross before you went  
25 there?

1 A. No.

2 Q. It didn't have a reputation like Loaningdale?

3 A. Never heard of it before.

4 Q. Okay. You were told that Cardross was just  
5 an assessment centre; were you told what that meant?

6 A. I didn't know what an assessment centre meant and  
7 I don't think I cared at that point. But I was just  
8 told it was a six-week assessment centre.

9 Q. Right. So it was meant to be for six weeks. You say  
10 that they kept 'resetting' it every time you ran away;  
11 what do you mean by that?

12 A. So I think you had to be in there -- well, I thought you  
13 had to be in there for six weeks. So, when I would run  
14 away, they would take me back and they would say: that's  
15 you, you need to start this again.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. So ...

18 Q. Did that -- well, what did they tell you about that?  
19 Was that, as it were, a punishment or was it just to get  
20 a --

21 A. The punishment was they took all my clothes. They took  
22 everything, my shoes, my clothes, and there was bars on  
23 the window and in the room, anyway. But they took  
24 everything, except a nightie and a house coat and a pair  
25 of slippers. And I had to get a pair of trousers off

1           somebody, so I could run away again.

2   Q.   Right.  And so you run away, the punishment then is to

3           have your clothes taken away?

4   A.   Yes.

5   Q.   And are you shut in your room then?

6   A.   They let you out, like, four times a day.  They let you

7           out for a cigarette or they will just keep your room

8           door shut and tell you you can't come out.

9   Q.   How long would you they keep you in the room?

10  A.   A couple of hours.

11  Q.   Okay.  Well --

12  A.   Until dinnertime or to lunchtime, or school.

13  Q.   Right.  So it would generally just be for a day.

14  A.   Mm-hm.

15  Q.   Or was it for more than a day?

16  A.   Well, I would run away, so ...

17  Q.   Right.  As soon as you got out you would run away?

18  A.   As soon as I got the chance, I would go.

19  Q.   You tell us a bit about the building itself.  You say it

20           was a beautiful building; was this a new building or was

21           it an older one?

22  A.   I think the home was a newer building, but the school

23           was a beautiful building because it was like an old

24           thing.

25  Q.   Right.

1 A. And the school was a wee bit away. You had to walk out  
2 of the building to get to the school.

3 Q. Mm-hm. But you did get lessons when you were there?

4 A. Mm-hm, yes.

5 Q. What were the lessons like?

6 A. Erm, woodwork, things like that.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Making things.

9 Q. Were there any subjects, school subjects, like maths and  
10 English?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Anything like that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. No. It was all practical things, was it?

15 A. Mm-hm. Just woodwork, things like that, and sitting  
16 about. Nobody told you to do anything. I just liked to  
17 do the woodwork, so I done it.

18 Q. Okay. So that was optional, was it?

19 A. No, you had to go to school.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. You had to go to school, but when you were in school you  
22 didn't really do anything.

23 Q. Oh, right?

24 LADY SMITH: What did you make in woodwork?

25 A. A seagull that flew, that could move.

1 LADY SMITH: You could hang it up and pull on a string to  
2 make its wings move?  
3 A. Mm-hm.  
4 MR SHELDON: You say, this is paragraph 87:  
5 'Cardross looked lovely, but it was terrible.'  
6 A. Mm-hm.  
7 Q. 'It was strict ...'  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. '... and nobody cared.'  
10 What do you mean when you say it was strict?  
11 A. The woman in it was like a linebacker. She was scary.  
12 Quite intimidating, but --  
13 Q. I am sorry to interrupt, but a linebacker, like in  
14 American football, you mean?  
15 A. Mm-hm. She was huge and scary.  
16 Q. Okay.  
17 A. Intimidating. But there was a lot of rules that you had  
18 to follow. Obviously, you couldn't go into each other's  
19 rooms and a boy and a lassie, say, couldn't be in the  
20 same room, things like that. You could only smoke four  
21 times a day in a designated area. Some of the staff  
22 were nice, but it was very, very strict.  
23 Q. Okay.  
24 A. And they watched you all the time.  
25 Q. Were you allowed out of the place?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Not at all?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. Did you ever go on trips or anything like that?

5 A. I think we went to salmon leap or something like that.

6 Q. What's that?

7 A. To watch the salmon leaping back upriver.

8 Q. Oh, right. Where was that?

9 A. I cannae remember. I can just remember that it was

10 boring. But it was to get out, so you had to -- either

11 that or stay in. I think they done horse riding too.

12 Q. When you were in Cardross; did you have a dormitory or

13 a single room?

14 A. A single room.

15 Q. Did everyone have single rooms?

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. Okay. Should we understand it was a mixed place, boys

18 and girls?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. You tell us, at page 17 of your statement, the food was

21 great?

22 A. It was.

23 Q. What was great about the food?

24 A. It was just home cooked food. Food I had never tasted

25 before. They did theme nights, like a Chinese night or

1 a Mexican night and things like that. It was the only  
2 thing I hated running away from, the food.

3 Q. So there were some good things about it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you said some of the staff were nice?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. In what way were they nice?

8 A. They would give you fags.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Or they would pay attention to you if you needed, you  
11 know, help with -- somebody was annoying you or  
12 something.

13 Q. I was just going to ask you: were there staff that  
14 listened to you?

15 A. Erm, if we were making a fuss, aye, like, they would --  
16 there was staff that would listen.

17 Q. Okay. You tell us that there were more Children's  
18 Panels, and you tell us again, really, that was pretty  
19 stressful --

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. -- because your dad was still coming to them?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And he would deny -- you say he denied everything, he  
24 denied hitting you?

25 A. Mm-hm.



1 Q. And did he continue to do that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did the Panel tell you -- because I think it's clear  
4 that the Panel kept you, certainly, in Cardross for some  
5 time?

6 A. Mm-hm.

7 Q. Did they tell you what the reasoning for that was?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did they tell you anything about it?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. All you knew was you were being kept in?

12 A. Mm-hm. I was never, ever told anything and my social  
13 worker never told me anything either. I just went where  
14 I was told to go and ran away when I had the chance.

15 Q. Okay. I want to ask you now about discipline and,  
16 particularly, about restraint, because you talk about  
17 that quite a bit in your statement. It is paragraph 100  
18 in your statement, if you want to look at it. I think  
19 we really just want to understand how they were using  
20 restraint, in what sorts of situations, and what the  
21 restraints were like; can you tell us about that?

22 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
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14 Q. Thinking particularly about Cardross; was it quite  
15 a frequent occurrence to be restrained?

16 A. There was a lot of fighting, boys fighting and lassies  
17 fighting, there was a lot of fighting that went on. So  
18 the staff would stop the fights with restraining.

19 Q. Okay. How did they restrain people? What were the  
20 restraints like?

21 A. On the flat, on the ground, with your arms up your back  
22 and sometimes your legs would be folded back, and  
23 somebody would be sitting on you or kneeling on you,  
24 just to hold you down.

25 Q. Right, so legs folded up towards your bottom; is that

1 right?

2 A. Mm-hm, to stop you kicking.

3 Q. And staff on top of you?

4 A. Yes. Or leaning on you, leaning on the top of you, and

5 somebody with your arms.

6 Q. How many staff would generally do that?

7 A. Four, two. It just depended on how many staff were

8 there.

9 Q. Oh, right?

10 A. And how wild the person was.

11 Q. You tell us that you would see people pushed up against

12 a wall with staff holding onto the back of their necks?

13 A. Yes, oh, plenty of times, plenty of times.

14 Q. Okay, so with one hand or with two hands?

15 A. No, just one hand, just holding them or -- and maybe

16 holding the other arm, just to -- I guess if it is only

17 one staff member that's there they will do that.

18 Q. You talk about staff restraining kids by putting their

19 knee in the kids' backs?

20 A. Mm-hm, if they were on the ground, yes.

21 Q. So the kid's on the ground?

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. And they are being held?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. All right. And then a knee goes into the back?

1 A. Mm-hm.

2 Q. That's how it works?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. This may strike you as being a daft question,  
5 but: were the kids crying out? Were they complaining  
6 about that?

7 A. Well, they were going mental. I mean, some of them were  
8 younger than me that got restrained. And when you are  
9 getting restrained it makes you worse, do you know what  
10 I mean, because somebody's holding you. It would make  
11 me worse, anyway. But it does make you worse when  
12 somebody's restraining you, when somebody's holding you  
13 down, so you can't calm down.

14 Q. How long would these restraints, these holds last?

15 A. Just until you stopped shouting --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. -- and calmed down.

18 Q. But I think you have told us it is difficult to stop  
19 shouting if you are being held?

20 A. Mm-hm, it really is.

21 Q. So could it take some time for that to happen?

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
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2 Q. Okay. Were you restrained in Cardross?

3 A. No.

4 Q. But you saw this happen to other children?

5 A. Mm-hm. Being restrained was a normal thing you seen  
6 everywhere.

7 Q. Would you say it was an everyday kind of event?

8 A. Mm-hm. That's how they managed you.

9 Q. Yes, you tell us, at paragraph 100, that's how they  
10 controlled the situation?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. So just so that we understand: was this something that  
13 was happening not just because children were  
14 misbehaving, running wild, but just because they  
15 wouldn't do what staff wanted them to do?

16 A. If they didn't go to bed and they were causing an uproar  
17 and everybody was joining in or whatever, then it would  
18 be a problem.

19 Q. Okay. So these are children that are not causing  
20 a danger to anyone?

21 A. No, they were just wild. They were just jumping and  
22 laughing, and jumping on the bed and not going to bed,  
23 sneaking out the room and ...

24 Q. Okay, and not causing a danger to themselves?

25 A. No, they were just being pests.

1 Q. Okay. So they were being restrained for being a bit  
2 wild?

3 A. If they don't calm down -- they would be held down until  
4 they calmed down.

5 Q. You talk about a member of staff who would take you and  
6 another girl to the shops, so you could smoke. I think  
7 you say something happened with him and this other girl;  
8 is that right?

9 A. I think it did.

10 Q. You think it did?

11 A. Aye, I think it did.

12 Q. All right. What makes you think it did?

13 A. Because she would just go with him quite a lot, know  
14 what I mean? I would tell her: don't.

15 You know, he was a pervert, know what I mean? But  
16 aye, I think it did.

17 Q. Did she tell you anything about what was happening?

18 A. I don't remember.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I don't remember.

21 Q. What age was he? Just roughly.

22 A. I don't know. He could have been between 30 and 40.

23 Q. Okay. She would be, what?

24 A. She was younger than me. She might have been about 13.

25 Q. You tell us in your statement that you think that she

1           had oral sex with him?

2   A.   Aye, I do.

3   Q.   And just to be clear: what makes you think that's what  
4       happened?

5   A.   I think she told me that she gave him a blow job.

6   Q.   Okay.

7   A.   She ran away with me that night, so ...

8   Q.   Mm-hm. And you do talk in the next paragraph there,  
9       paragraph 105, about grooming. You say you weren't  
10      familiar with that term at the time, but do you think  
11      that's what he was doing?

12  A.   To take us away when we weren't supposed to be going to  
13      the shop and smoking, because it was -- you could only  
14      smoke four times a day, I think that's what he was  
15      doing. I mean, he was quite noticeably a pervert. You  
16      could just tell.

17  Q.   Again, what makes you say that?

18  A.   You can just -- when you have been abused you can just  
19      tell the way guys are round you, the way they look at  
20      you, and the way they interact with you. You can just  
21      tell. Unfortunately, it is just something that you can  
22      tell.

23  Q.   Would he buy cigarettes for you?

24  A.   Mm-hm, oh aye.

25  Q.   And anything else?

1 A. No, I don't think there was a place for alcohol around  
2 about there, so ...

3 Q. All right. You also say -- and I am sorry I am perhaps  
4 going back on myself here -- still talking about  
5 restraint, you tell us that there were children in  
6 Cardross that were clearly mentally unstable?

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Could you tell that?

9 A. Well, we called one wee boy '██████████', just as  
10 a nickname, because that's what you do when you are  
11 young. You are cruel.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And he was clearly -- there was something wrong with  
14 him. And he got restrained quite a lot.

15 Q. Yes. And you say that would make these children worse?

16 A. Mm-hm.

17 Q. How did it make them worse?

18 A. Because they would act out more. It would just be  
19 a vicious circle. It wouldn't make them better.

20 Q. Mm-hm.

21 A. Treating them like that wouldn't make them better; it  
22 would just make them worse.

23 Q. It was making them more distressed; is that right?

24 A. More distressed and more disruptive.

25 Q. Mm-hm. What age were you when you finally left



1 Cardross? Do you remember?

2 A. I ran away from Cardross and went to London. And the  
3 police got me in London and took me straight to Kerelaw,  
4 so I think 15, still.

5 Q. Okay. And I think you say that you were at Kerelaw, in  
6 Stevenston, very briefly; is that right?

7 A. Mm-hm. Just the weekend.

8 Q. Okay. What do you remember about Kerelaw?

9 A. I mean, I was locked up from a certain time at night  
10 until the next morning. But, in the rec room, it was  
11 two people having sex on the couch. It was a big couch  
12 and it was a big rec room and there was lots of people  
13 just playing about. So obviously this lassie and guy  
14 were boyfriend and girlfriend, they had a cover on them,  
15 but it was so uncomfortable. And I couldn't get out;  
16 I was locked in.

17 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 111, that it was pandemonium;  
18 is that what it felt like?

19 A. Mm-hm, yes.

20 Q. It just felt chaotic?

21 A. It was horrible. I have never felt so unsafe in a place  
22 in all my life. There was murderers. And it was just  
23 crazy and there was fights constantly and staff having  
24 to jump in front of each other to grab people. It was  
25 horrible.

1 Q. Did you see more restraints in there?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But they could lock you -- you had a cell, so they could  
5 lock you in.

6 Q. I was going to ask you that: did you have your own --  
7 well, I was going to say your own room, but you  
8 described it as a cell?

9 A. A cell, because they locked you in.

10 Q. How long were you in the cell for? Was it overnight or  
11 was it --

12 A. I think it was from 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock at night to  
13 the next morning.

14 Q. Okay. But you were just there for about a weekend, you  
15 think?

16 A. Aye, it was just a weekend.

17 Q. You say that you said to the staff just to let you go  
18 home, you would rather have to deal with your father  
19 than with Kerelaw; is that what happened?

20 A. Yes. I went to a Panel on the Monday and said, 'I will  
21 just go home'. I says to my social worker, 'I will just  
22 go home'. Like, I would -- I thought by that time  
23 I could have handled my dad, but I just was horrified by  
24 that time. I just thought: I can't take this. I can't  
25 stay in these places.

1 Q. But I think your time with your father then didn't last  
2 very long and you actually asked to be put back into  
3 care; is that right?

4 A. Mm-hm, aye.

5 Q. Because your dad was still being abusive?

6 A. He started locking me in the house.

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. He didn't hit me again, but he started locking me in the  
9 house.

10 Q. Okay. And was [GJ] still --

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. -- on the scene?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And he was still abusing you?

15 A. Mm-hm.

16 Q. And you tell us a bit more about that. You were back in  
17 Wallacewell, I think, for a bit and then you managed to  
18 get a job. But I think by this stage there were drugs;  
19 is that right?

20 A. I didn't start taking drugs until I was, um, 19, 20.

21 Q. Mm-hm.

22 If you feel comfortable doing it, could you tell us  
23 a bit about that, about the drugs, about what happened?

24 A. Well, my life was obviously turbulent, especially when  
25 I went back home. And I just left my dad's. I had to

1 run away from my dad's and then I went from place to  
2 place and stayed wherever I could. And then I went to  
3 Govanhill, where my granny stayed, and I got a boyfriend  
4 and he was taking drugs.

5 And when I had my first daughter, at 18, he gave me  
6 some methadone because I must have had post-natal  
7 depression and didn't know or something, but he gave me  
8 some methadone one day, 5 ml, and it made me feel  
9 better, and that's where it started.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. He started giving me some of that every day. And then  
12 when I left him, I didn't have any of that, so I went on  
13 to drugs to come off that.

14 Q. How did that affect your life, at least for a while?

15 A. I mean, my life is still affected. To a certain extent,  
16 my life is still affected. I have obviously settled  
17 down and been clean 20 years, but my brain's still the  
18 same and everything else is still going on in my head.  
19 I am paying for -- health things, for just being on  
20 drugs.

21 Q. Yes. What effect do you think all your experiences in  
22 your childhood and in care had on you?

23 A. I am messed up. Definitely messed up. Aye.

24 Q. Again, just if you feel comfortable talking about it:  
25 how does it feel? How do you feel it has messed you up?

1 A. I mean, it has messed me up in lots of ways. I think if  
2 I had been cared for I could have done better at school  
3 and I could have been a better person. And I could have  
4 known not to go towards bad people and bad boyfriends,  
5 bad guys. And it took me a long time to fix certain  
6 things.

7 I ended up -- when I left my ex, I left my two  
8 daughters, because I was on drugs at that time. So  
9 I done to my daughters what my ma done to me, when she  
10 left me at 2, so that kind of repeated itself. And then  
11 I had two boys, one's 20 just now, and one's 22, and  
12 I think I have went the opposite and wrapped them in  
13 cotton wool too much and probably mollycoddled them  
14 a wee bit too much.

15 Q. Yes, I think you tell us at one point, because you  
16 didn't have any control in your young life, you felt you  
17 wanted to control things --

18 A. Mm-hm. I am definitely a control freak, definitely.

19 Q. -- as an adult.

20 Do you think your time in care has impacted on your  
21 ability to be in a relationship?

22 A. Well, I have been in a relationship for 20 years now, so  
23 that's probably kept me a bit sane.

24 Q. Good.

25 I just want to take you to one part of your

1 statement. It is paragraph 140, and you say:

2 'I think when you are younger and you are constantly  
3 being blamed by your family, when you are being abused  
4 and you are going back to the abuser, then it is viewed  
5 as being your fault. That made me feel dirty and  
6 ashamed, but it was not my shame.'

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is that how you feel?

9 A. Well, when my dad found out that [GJ] was abusing me,  
10 he took me down to Easterhouse Police Station and he  
11 says to me, 'Tell them, tell them', and I was so scared  
12 that I told them that he had touched my boob, and the  
13 police didn't believe it and sent us away, and that's  
14 when he took me home and battered me. So I think after  
15 that I just kept everything to myself and didn't --  
16 there was no point in telling anybody else after that.  
17 It was always my fault.

18 I think my granny seen it as my -- I think everybody  
19 in my family seen it as being my fault, because I could  
20 have just not went to see him, you know what I mean?  
21 But I think he was the only person I thought that cared,  
22 and that would be there if I phoned, do you know what  
23 I mean? The only person that I thought I had to rely on  
24 was my abuser.

25 Q. Just finally, 'Margaret', obviously we want to be able

1 to help prevent abuse happening in care, for children in  
2 care; what lessons do you think we can learn from your  
3 experiences that might help us do that?

4 A. I think, like, having staff members that cared and that  
5 could maybe -- I mean, my woman was supposed to be  
6 a one-on-one woman for me that I could go to and turn  
7 to, that -- I could never do that. So I think kids need  
8 somebody that they can go and get a cuddle off and feel  
9 a bit of love.

10 Q. Can I just ask you about that? This is your first  
11 social worker you are speaking about?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Oh, sorry.

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24 Q. What do you think would have helped, Secondary Insti  
25 Secondary Institutions - to be published later to have someone that you

1           could have spoken to?

2   A.  I think if I'd have had somebody that I could have  
3       spoken to, if I'd have had someone that would have took  
4       me to the doctors and took me to the dentist and got the  
5       things that I needed for life, like, instead of the  
6       problems that I later had and then to be diagnosed with  
7       ADHD late on in life, and I think maybe if somebody  
8       would have recognised the way I was back then, instead  
9       of just seeing me as an abscondee, and somebody that's  
10      just a pain, if somebody would have recognised the way  
11      I was, maybe my life would have been different.

12  Q.  People weren't just twigging on to what was really going  
13      on for you?

14  A.  They were just in to do their job and that was it.

15  Q.  Okay.  Thank you, 'Margaret'.  I don't have anything  
16      else to ask you.  Is there anything else you would like  
17      to say that you haven't had a chance to say?

18  A.  No.

19  MR SHELDON:  Thank you very much.

20  A.  Thanks.

21  LADY SMITH:  'Margaret', can I add my thanks.  I am really  
22      grateful to you for being able to come today and speak  
23      so frankly and openly about your time in your younger  
24      life.  It has been an enormous help to me to hear it  
25      from you --



1 A. Okay.

2 LADY SMITH: -- and aid my very real understanding of what  
3 it was like. Leave it with us, and we will put it to  
4 good use.

5 A. No problem.

6 LADY SMITH: And I am now able to let you go --

7 A. Okay.

8 LADY SMITH: -- and take a break. Have a rest for the rest  
9 of the day.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Just one name, which I think was the name of another  
13 child in care -- [REDACTED]: his identity is  
14 protected, and he is not to be identified outside this  
15 room. It is 2.55. I think we should take the afternoon  
16 break and then some read-ins?

17 MR SHELDON: Read-ins, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Good, thank you.

19 (2.55 pm)

20 (A short break)

21 (3.07 pm)

22 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes, where next?

23 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
24 who is anonymous and known as 'Alex'.  
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'Alex' (read)

MS FORBES: The reference is WIT-1-000001189.

'Alex' was born in 1960 and he was born in Cumbernauld and lived with his parents and five brothers and two sisters. He says that they had a normal childhood and they were always running about. He talks about the fact that his dad was a [REDACTED] just after the war and then worked for [REDACTED] on the night shift.

He went to Cumbernauld Primary School until Primary 6 and it was all right. This was a small village, so everyone knew everyone. Then his dad died and his mum couldn't look after them all, so the five youngest children were put into care. He was put into a children's home. At that time he was about 9 or 10 years old. That part of his statement is redacted.

He says that he was there for three years. The question he -- this is paragraph 30 -- had at the time of giving the statement was: why did he get chucked out of the place?

And he says he still doesn't know why. He says he was 13 years old at that time and came back from school and was told that he was leaving the next day. And then [REDACTED] put into Cardross Park the next day.

His sister was put down to an auntie's house in

1 Devon and the others stayed in the children's home. So  
2 he says he has no clue why he was sent to the Assessment  
3 Centre. However, we do have records, my Lady --

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 MS FORBES: -- and we know there were, at that time, some  
6 behaviour issues [REDACTED], but also that [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] over the age for the children's home. We know from  
8 the records that they were transferred to Cardross Park  
9 [REDACTED] 1974.

10 LADY SMITH: So he would be 13/14 by then, wouldn't he?

11 MS FORBES: Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes.

13 MS FORBES: So he was 14, because of his birthday, and his  
14 brother was 10 years old.

15 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

16 MS FORBES: So it is a little bit older than he thought he  
17 was in his statement.

18 He says, at paragraph 33, KCZ [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]  
19 and also names staff members, GMS [REDACTED], ILC [REDACTED], Malloch  
20 and ILD [REDACTED]. It was mixed boys and girls, with more  
21 boys than girls. The ages were 8/9 years old up to 15,  
22 but the girls were a bit older. There was a time when  
23 his sister came back from Devon and she was put into  
24 Cardross as well, at some point.

25 So, as he thought then, 'Alex' says as far as he

1 knew he was in there for care and protection, and that's  
2 what they called it. And they were locked in, as it was  
3 a secure unit.

4 He then goes on to tell us about the routine and  
5 this is something we have already heard about, my Lady.  
6 They would be put into this room and were locked in  
7 there every day in between meals. But he says it helped  
8 that [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED].  
10 When they first arrived, they just followed everyone  
11 up to the dorms that night and there were a couple of  
12 empty beds, so they were just told to grab one. He said  
13 they weren't locked in their dorms and the doors in them  
14 were wedged open.

15 Again, he goes on, at paragraph 38, to say that,  
16 really, they were just locked up in a big reception room  
17 between meals and it would be the boys that were locked  
18 up together. Sometimes, in the evening, they got out  
19 for a game of football, if it was nice, and then they  
20 were back up to their beds. Weekends were exactly the  
21 same.

22 He goes on, at paragraph 42, in relation to leisure  
23 time, just saying they were locked in that room all day  
24 and would only be let out to use the toilet.

25 In paragraph 42, he says:

1           'There were about 15 or 16 of us and we used to roll  
2 up socks and play crab football. We had to make up our  
3 own games. We had piggyback fights and things like  
4 that. You had to stand up for yourself. There was  
5 a television we could watch at night. We could not just  
6 go and put it on. The staff had a two pronged key to put  
7 it on. There was absolutely nothing else. There was no  
8 supervision. It was quite a shitty place.'

9           He says that there was a bit of schooling and he  
10 went to Hermitage Academy for about four or five months.

11           Then he goes on to, paragraph 46, say that, in  
12 relation to bed wetting:

13           'there was only really one boy that had a problem  
14 with it.'

15           He doesn't think he was abused or anything, but may  
16 have been called names by the other children.

17           In relation to family contact, at paragraph 49, he  
18 says his brother used to come down on the train and take  
19 them home for the weekend, but that was near the end of  
20 their stay and that happened once a month.

21           He talks about the fact, at 51, that if you were  
22 over 13 you got four fags a day. He was over 13, so he  
23 got them, but wishes he hadn't. He then talks about  
24 running away, from paragraph 52, and says:

25           'Fourteen of us ran away one day. I threw a chair

1 at the window of the room we were kept in all day and it  
2 cracked. It was just that toffee glass, so we were able  
3 to push it out and we were all away. I did it because  
4 of the staff.'

5 He says he [REDACTED] and his cousin stayed  
6 together, but they all got caught in Helensburgh by the  
7 police and were taken back to Cardross. He says he ran  
8 away a second time on his own, because of the staff  
9 again, and was caught by the police.

10 At paragraph 53, he says:

11 'The police did ask why I was running away, but  
12 I did not tell them.'

13 In relation to discipline, at paragraph 54, he says:

14 'When we ran away, the next day the lassies were  
15 brought in and I was put over a table and belted on my  
16 bare arse. I had never seen the belt before or heard of  
17 it. I think the lassies were brought in to humiliate  
18 me. My sister was one of them.'

19 And he says [REDACTED] had the same the night  
20 before. He says:

21 'It was KCZ [REDACTED] that did it. We got four of the  
22 belt and were marked after. My cousin was moved and  
23 never got the belt. He was a bit older, about 15.'

24 LADY SMITH: So that sounds as though the lassies, as he  
25 calls them, the girls, were brought in as observers.

1 MS FORBES: Yes. And then he says the second time he ran  
2 away he never got the belt.

3 At paragraph 55, he says:

4 'We also got put in the Cooler the first time we ran  
5 away, which was a dark room beside the dining hall with  
6 a leather mattress in it. There were wee holes drilled  
7 at the top of the door to let light in and we used to  
8 stand on the bed to try and see through them. This was  
9 the main form of discipline in there. You got it for  
10 misbehaving or being cheeky.'

11 He then has a section about abuse at Cardross Park  
12 from paragraph 56, and says:

13 'There was a staff member called ILC who once  
14 tried to grab my balls and that was when I was in the  
15 shower room. I did not see him trying this with anyone  
16 else and it happened to me the once with him.

17 'The worst one though was the staff member called  
18 GMS, who would flick us on the knob with his nails  
19 when we were naked. It was sore. We had tears in our  
20 eyes. It happened to everyone. I think he just liked  
21 seeing us in pain. He later got caught sexually abusing  
22 a wee guy.'

23 And names him. [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

He says:

1           'It was because of these two staff members that  
2 I ran away. [He goes on] There was also a member of  
3 staff called [ILD], who used to ping us with elastic  
4 bands on the legs when we were running about in the  
5 cold. That was sore. When I was in Cardross I started  
6 glue sniffing. I saw a boy doing it in a classroom one  
7 time and asked him what he was doing. After trying it  
8 for the first time, I ended up addicted for about  
9 four years. Everyone was doing it. I don't know if the  
10 staff knew it was going on. I never saw anyone being  
11 pulled for it.'

12           Then he says he never reported what was happening to  
13 him to the staff at Cardross, because it was the staff  
14 that were doing it. And he doesn't know why he didn't  
15 tell the police.

16           He thinks he was in Cardross Park for about a year  
17 and a half, but I think we have seen from the records  
18 that those dates are different. He said that he ended  
19 up running away and got put into Bellfield Remand Home.

20 LADY SMITH: Do you have the date that he left? You gave me  
21 1974, when he went in.

22 MS FORBES: It was [REDACTED], I think, of 1974. That's  
23 what was in the records. But then he was moved to  
24 Bellfield at the end of [REDACTED] 1975.

25 LADY SMITH: Right, so about 1974 to 1975, about a year he



1           was in Cardross?

2   MS FORBES: About a year. A little bit less, yes.

3           He says that he ran away and got put into Bellfield  
4           and was then told he was getting moved. The next day he  
5           was gone and [REDACTED] didn't come with him. Again,  
6           from the records, my Lady, we can see that the reason he  
7           was moved to Bellfield was because there were  
8           allegations and suspicions of theft within  
9           Cardross Park, and he was the one accused and suspected  
10          of these thefts. And then he was found with an air gun.  
11          So he was moved as an emergency to Bellfield until  
12          a place was found for him. Also, the general feeling  
13          seemed to be at Cardross that he was out of hand, but  
14          also over age.

15          So, at the end of [REDACTED] 1975, when he was moved to  
16          Bellfield, he was 14 years old.

17          He then goes on to tell us about his time in  
18          Bellfield --

19   LADY SMITH: He would be 15 in 1975, wouldn't he? He was  
20          born in 1960.

21   MS FORBES: Sorry, my Lady, it might be my maths. Yes, his  
22          birthday is [REDACTED] 1960, so I think he was just about to  
23          turn 15.

24   LADY SMITH: Okay.

25   MS FORBES: So he's maybe still 14.

1           He then goes on to tell us about Bellfield. Again,  
2           he describes it being an old mansion on the top of a wee  
3           hill. Again, there is a reception room and a television  
4           room with the dorms being up the stairs. He says that  
5           it had the same layout as every other place, really.

6           At 63, he says:

7           'I am sure it was a guy, KFT , who SNR .  
8           He was in a car accident and always had a wee ball in  
9           his hand to exercise it. I also remember GVZ  
10          and Mr Malloch. I was in Barlinnie Prison later on and  
11          Mr Malloch was a prisoner there, too, so I don't know  
12          what he got up to.'

13          He says it was all boys in Bellfield, between the  
14          ages of 12 and 16 years old. He says that on his first  
15          day he was shown around and then put into the TV room  
16          and 'you weren't allowed to move around in there'.

17          In relation to routine, at paragraph 66, he says:

18          'It was the same again, really, meals and into the  
19          TV room for the day.'

20          If it was nice day, they would be able to get out  
21          into the tennis court. In the evenings they just sat  
22          and watched television. At the weekends it was exactly  
23          the same.

24          At paragraph 69, he said clothes were provided.

25          There was no uniform, but you had a number on your

1 clothes. So, after it was washed, you got it back.

2 At paragraph 70, he says:

3 'There was a tennis court. They used to lock us in  
4 during the day. If you wanted to get out, you had to  
5 climb over it. It was more or less the same as  
6 everywhere else.'

7 In relation to running away, at paragraph 73, he  
8 says:

9 'I ran away once from Bellfield because of the  
10 staff. It was me and another guy from Cumbernauld [and  
11 he names him]. We didn't get out of Dumbarton and the  
12 police caught us and took us back to Bellfield. Nothing  
13 happened, we just got put back in the television room.  
14 We did get asked why we ran away, but I did not tell  
15 anyone. You would get a cuff on the lug if you were  
16 cheeky or didn't do what you were told. All the staff  
17 would do it. They also had a wee Digger that you were  
18 put in if you ran away. I was never put in there. It  
19 was like an isolation room with only a bed in it and you  
20 were in there on your own for days.'

21 In relation to abuse, at paragraph 75 he says:

22 'One time I was through the back at the toilet and  
23 GVZ came through and tried to touch my balls  
24 and masturbate me. I managed to get him away from me  
25 and said no, it wasn't happening. I was crying because

1 of that, but I didn't tell anyone. I was asked by other  
2 staff why I was crying, but I just couldn't say  
3 anything. It was embarrassing. GVZ [REDACTED] was  
4 a staff member and a wee, fat baldy guy with gold rimmed  
5 glasses. It just happened that one time. I don't have  
6 a clue if it happened to anyone else.'

7 'Alex' then says he thinks he was in Bellfield for  
8 five or six months. But, actually, we can see from the  
9 records it was two months he was there. He says:

10 'It was just a shite hole. I don't know why I was  
11 moved from there. There was no Panel or anything and  
12 I hadn't done anything wrong.'

13 I think, my Lady, he was there waiting for a place  
14 at a List D School and then he was moved to Kibble. The  
15 records show he was moved to Kibble on [REDACTED] 1975,  
16 so, by then, he was 15.

17 He tells us about Kibble, from paragraph 77. He  
18 says there was no abuse there and he was there for  
19 two years and was released from there a month after his  
20 16th birthday. His mum said she wanted him home and  
21 they said he was 16 now, 'so take him'. So he went up  
22 to his brother's house in Cumbernauld and says: 'it felt  
23 brilliant'. 'Alex' says, at paragraph 79:

24 'It wasn't until I got out of approved schools that  
25 I started getting into trouble.'

1           He says he started to fight a lot and moved to  
2           Falkirk. He says he got caught stealing out of a car  
3           and was taken to Airdrie Sheriff Court in [REDACTED] 1977,  
4           and was given three months' detention at Glenochil.  
5           There was one charge and the first time he was ever in  
6           trouble. He says he was 16 at that time. That evidence  
7           about Glenochil was read in to the Inquiry on  
8           17 November 2023.

9           LADY SMITH: Yes.

10          MS FORBES: That was on Day 392. He tell us about that from  
11          paragraph 81 onward. He says, 'Glenochil was hard  
12          core'. He talks about the Digger being the discipline  
13          in Glenochil and being in there a few times, and he also  
14          talks about an assault by a member of prison staff and  
15          seeing assaults by prison staff. He was in Glenochil  
16          for six weeks. He was out for a month and a half and  
17          convicted for car theft and then he was sentenced at  
18          Falkirk Sheriff Court and given two years in borstal,  
19          and that's when he went to Polmont. That was read in on  
20          the same date as before. He tells us about that from  
21          paragraph 94. He says Polmont was one of the better  
22          places he was in and it was all right.

23          He talks about life after he left care and  
24          institutions, from paragraph 97. He says he started  
25          going downhill after leaving Polmont, and says he was in

1 and out of prison until about 20 years ago. His  
2 grandchildren were coming along then, so he thought he  
3 had better get his act together. The longest sentence  
4 he did was about 30 months.

5 He had some work at a tyre factory and some jobs in  
6 scaffolding, but ended up on heroin for 18 years. At  
7 the time of the statement, he said he was all right now  
8 and hadn't been near it for seven years. He said he has  
9 four children with the same mother, albeit they didn't  
10 get married. At that time he said he had eight  
11 grandchildren and was about to become a great grandad.

12 In relation to impact, paragraph 100, 'Alex' says:

13 'Being in care has fucked up -- my life up.'

14 There are two ups there.

15 LADY SMITH: There is a redundant 'up' somewhere.

16 MS FORBES: Yes:

17 'That's the only way I can put it. There is nothing  
18 else I can say.'

19 He thinks he just shouldn't have been in secure  
20 care. He says he has never had any counselling and  
21 didn't speak to anyone about it. He has never reported  
22 what happened to him to the police.

23 In relation to lessons to be learned, at  
24 paragraph 104, he says that someone should explain to  
25 children what's going on:

1           'I never got one thing explained to me. It was just  
2           "You are going there", and that's it.'

3           In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, at  
4           paragraph 105, he says:

5           'I just hope the Inquiry can help everyone that  
6           needs to be helped. I think you are doing a brilliant  
7           job.'

8           He has signed that and it is dated 3 February 2023.

9   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10   MS FORBES: My Lady, I think now Mr Sheldon has a read-in.

11   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12   MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this is an applicant, parts of  
13           whose statement have been read in already. His name  
14           is William Bauros and he has waived anonymity. His  
15           evidence in relation to SPS establishments was read in  
16           on Day 390. That's TRN-12-000000022.

17                           William Bauros (read)

18   MR SHELDON: His evidence in relation to Balgowan was read  
19           in on Day 420. That's TRN-12-000000052.

20           So I can take this relatively short, my Lady.

21           William was born in 1963.

22           He was in a children's home, Mugdock Bank, in  
23           Glasgow for some time, and from there sent to

24           Cardross Park. That seems to have been [REDACTED]

25           1974, my Lady.

1 This is page 5 of his statement, paragraph 19:

2 'Cardross Park Assessment Centre looks like a really  
3 big house. There is a long driveway up to it, with  
4 trees all the way up and round the side. When you go in  
5 the front door, there is a seating area to the left and  
6 a playroom to the right. The dining hall was downstairs  
7 and the dorms and bedrooms were upstairs.

8 'The home was for boys and girls between the ages of  
9 8 and 15. I think there were around 14 girls and 22  
10 boys. The boys and girls were always kept apart, except  
11 at meal times, when we ate together. The girls sat at  
12 one table and the boys at another. We used the same  
13 toilets, but at separate times. So we used to leave  
14 notes for each other in the toilets.'

15 My Lady, he says he was 9 years old when he arrived  
16 at Cardross, but I think he may have been --

17 LADY SMITH: 10 or 11, perhaps.

18 MR SHELDON: Yes, something like that.

19 LADY SMITH: Depending on when exactly in the year he got  
20 there.

21 MR SHELDON: Yes:

22 'I remember going in and being met by [REDACTED]  
23 ... and a member of staff.'

24 He says that they sat in the seating area next to  
25 the front door for about half an hour, before:



1           'We were taken upstairs and shown where we would be  
2           sleeping. We all slept in dorms, but I can't remember  
3           exactly how many there were. There were around 7 or 8  
4           kids to a dorm. In each of the dorms were the beds,  
5           some lockers and a pot in the middle of the floor which  
6           we used to pee in during the night because the dorm  
7           doors used to be locked. I remember the pot always  
8           smelled like disinfectant.

9           'I don't remember much about the morning routine.  
10          I assume we got up, dressed and went to school. After  
11          school, we would be locked in the playroom, let out for  
12          dinner, then locked in the playroom again, until it was  
13          time to go upstairs. We went upstairs around 7.30 or  
14          8.00 pm. We had to strip off in our dorms, fold our  
15          clothes and put them in the lockers. We were then  
16          walked along the corridor to the shower room to wash  
17          before bed.

18          'A member of staff called Mr **GMS** would supervise  
19          the showers and he would come up and flick your willy  
20          with the back of his hand. He obviously found it funny  
21          and would just laugh, but it was actually quite sore.

22          'The food at Cardross was fine. We were well fed.  
23          Mr Davis was the main cook. He was a wee guy with white  
24          hair. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** They  
25          would try to make me eat my cooked vegetables. If

1 I didn't, they would put me in what we called "the  
2 Cooler" for hours on end. It was a room with no  
3 windows. The only thing in there was a couch, a bit  
4 like a psychiatrist's couch, but there was no blanket or  
5 toilet. I could be in there from lunchtime to  
6 dinnertime, then I would get the vegetables I hadn't  
7 eaten at lunch served to me again. If I didn't eat them  
8 again, I would be put back in the Cooler. This mainly  
9 happened at weekends because during the week I ate lunch  
10 at school.

11 'When we weren't at school we were put in the  
12 playroom. It was just a room with chairs and the TV.  
13 There was nothing else in it. We would be locked in  
14 there, sometimes all day. The staff wouldn't be in the  
15 room with us and it was just fighting all the time.

16 'I went to Cardross Primary School. It was just  
17 a normal school. It wasn't too bad and I got on fine  
18 there. It was only a five-minute walk from the  
19 assessment centre, so we walked to and from school.

20 'The assessment centre provided us with clothes and  
21 I think we might have had some of our own clothes too.  
22 We didn't have to wash our clothes ourselves. There was  
23 a laundry, but I don't remember how that worked.

24 'We had to do some chores at Cardross. I remember  
25 mopping the toilet floors, but that's about it. I think

1           there was a chore rota and we got a little bit of pocket  
2           money for it. The staff would keep the pocket money for  
3           us. If we wanted to buy something, we would write  
4           a list and the staff would go to the shop and get it for  
5           us. You would were allowed to smoke if you were 13 or  
6           older. The staff would buy the kids fags with their  
7           pocket money.'

8           He says he didn't get to go home for birthdays or  
9           Christmas:

10           'I remember one Christmas, just before I left, there  
11           were only three of us boys in Cardross and we were taken  
12           into the play room. There was a present in there for  
13           each of us.'

14           He says that he remembers there were some boys who  
15           wet the bed, but:

16           'I wasn't one of them. The ones who were bed  
17           wettters would be woken up and taken to the toilet during  
18           the night. I don't remember much else about bed  
19           wetting. My mum didn't come to visit us in Cardross  
20           Assessment Centre'.

21           But they did eventually get home leave. And he says  
22           he thinks he went home for one weekend every three or  
23           four weeks. Reading again:

24           'My mum had got a flat in Falkirk.'

25           And they would stay with his mum from Saturday until

1 Sunday night:

2 'It was excellent getting to go home to stay with my  
3 mum.'

4 Reading short to paragraph 34:

5 'There wasn't much in the way of discipline at  
6 Cardross. The staff just let the boys fight and bully  
7 each other. There was fighting every day about  
8 anything, like what was on the TV or what seat someone  
9 was sitting in. If the staff heard a fight, they would  
10 come in and break it up. But then there was the odd  
11 member of staff who would just stand there saying we  
12 should just fight it out. Mr Malloch was one of the  
13 members of staff who would do that. I think he was in  
14 his late 40s and I remember he played the banjo.

15 'I ran away from Cardross once. I didn't know where  
16 I was running to and nothing specific happened to make  
17 me run away. I got to Helensburgh and ended up handing  
18 myself in to the police. I got put in the Cooler  
19 overnight when I got back.

20 'While I was Cardross, I witnessed another boy being  
21 sexually abused by a member of staff. One Saturday  
22 morning, a member of staff called Mr GMS asked five of  
23 us if we wanted to play hide and seek. He told us that  
24 we weren't allowed to hide upstairs because it was out  
25 of bounds. I was seeking and I found everyone, apart

1 from a boy [who he names] and Mr [GMS]. I knew that  
2 place like the back of my hand, but I couldn't find  
3 them. So I thought they must have gone upstairs to  
4 hide. I went upstairs and went into our dorm. I could  
5 see, in the back left corner, that someone was  
6 underneath the covers of the bed. I remember I laughed  
7 because I thought I had found them. I sneaked up  
8 towards the bed and pulled the cover off. The boy [who  
9 he has mentioned] and Mr [GMS] were under the cover.  
10 Mr [GMS] jumped up and started pulling his trousers up.  
11 I have a vague memory of seeing blood. The boy was just  
12 lying there on his bed on his belly. He looked upset.  
13 I can't remember if he had trousers on or not. I walked  
14 out of the dorm, and the next thing I knew I was giving  
15 evidence in Dumbarton Sheriff Court. I don't know who  
16 reported what had happened. A member of staff from  
17 Cardross [who he names] drove me to court. I think  
18 I was 10 at the time. The boy [who he has mentioned as  
19 the possible victim of this] was a year older than me.  
20 I remember standing in court and having to point to  
21 Mr [GMS], and a member of staff told me that Mr [GMS]  
22 got a two-year sentence for that.'

23 He describes Mr [GMS], and he says:

24 'Another member of staff I remember is Mr [GMU],  
25 the night watchman. He would come into the dorm at

1 night. He would put his hand under my covers and rub my  
2 private parts. He would say he was checking to see if  
3 I had wet the bed, but I wasn't a bed wetter. He also  
4 took me to the toilet in the middle of the night. It  
5 was usually only bed wetters who were taken to the  
6 toilet during the night. I was half asleep and I didn't  
7 need the toilet. While we were in the toilet and I was  
8 trying to pee, Mr GMU tried to hold my willy. That  
9 happened two or three times.'

10 Again, he describes Mr GMU. On another occasion,  
11 he took some boys to his brother's house, Mr GMU did,  
12 to watch a football match, but he doesn't remember  
13 anything bad happening there.

14 He says:

15 'I hated being at Cardross. It was an Assessment  
16 Centre and most of the kids were there because they had  
17 been in trouble. Some were going to Children's Panels,  
18 some were going to court. Most of them were only there  
19 for five or six weeks. I had no idea why I was there.'

20 He was there, he says, for about two years, although  
21 I think it is probably less than that, my Lady. It is  
22 probably about a year, and:

23 'I had no idea why because I hadn't done anything  
24 wrong and no one ever explained this to me. I didn't  
25 see a social worker the entire time I was in Cardross.

1           'I left Cardross when I was about 12 years old.'

2           And he was moved to Balrossie:

3           'No one told me why I was being moved or how long  
4           I would be at Balrossie.'

5           Now, my Lady, William was then in Balrossie,  
6           Balgowan, Longriggend, Geilsland, Glenochil and Polmont.  
7           He was also at Devonvale Assessment Centre.

8   LADY SMITH: How old was he when he was moved to Balrossie?

9           Do we know?

10   MR SHELDON: He would be, I think, nearly 10. It was about

11           1975 --

12   LADY SMITH: Okay.

13   MR SHELDON: -- my Lady. So, yes, he would be -- about 12.

14   LADY SMITH: About 12.

15   MR SHELDON: He reports a lot of aggression and fighting  
16           between the boys at Balrossie and remembers there wasn't  
17           a lot of education. He doesn't remember being taught  
18           any subjects, apart from doing a bit of drawing and  
19           carrying on, as he describes it, but doesn't report any  
20           significant abuse by staff, other than being given the  
21           belt for fighting. As I say, he was also at Devonvale  
22           Assessment Centre, Geilsland and Kerelaw. He doesn't  
23           report any abuse at the first two, Devonvale and  
24           Geilsland, but he does report being seriously physically  
25           abused by Matt George, at Kerelaw, before he then went

1 on to the SPS establishments.

2 I think I can leave it there, my Lady. Just to say  
3 that he has made the usual declaration and signed the  
4 statement.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MR SHELDON: I am sorry, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: And the reference?

8 MR SHELDON: I seem to have a mental blank about that,  
9 today, my Lady. It is WIT-1-000001039.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you. While you are changing over, just  
11 let me catch up with names, because we have used quite  
12 a number. These are the names of people whose  
13 identities are all protected by my General Restriction  
14 Order and mustn't be identified as referred to in our  
15 evidence outside this room, and that's KCZ  
16 Mr GMS, Mr ILC, Mr ILD, GVZ,  
17 Mr Malloch, and a Mr GMU.

18 Yes, Ms Forbes.

19 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next read-in is from an applicant  
20 who is anonymous and known as 'Peter'. His evidence was  
21 read in during the De La Salle Chapter on 25 April 2024,  
22 and that was Day 439. His statement reference is  
23 WIT.001.002.7258.

24

25



1

'Peter' (read)

2

MS FORBES: A lot of his information about life before going into care and in relation to impact was read in verbatim during that chapter, but I will just highlight some of the points, just so we can understand his journey.

6

'Peter' was born in 1965, in Paisley. He says his mother was pregnant with his older brother when she was 14, and he was born 19 months later. Their standard of living was very poor, in a tenement flat. They slept -- when his younger brother came along, there were three boys and they all slept in the same bed while his mum and dad slept in a recess in the living room. They were always cold and he wet the bed and the sheets were rarely washed. They didn't have any hot water and were always hungry.

16

He talks a lot about physical and emotional abuse from his mother that he sustained. That started with a fractured skull when he was only 18 months old, and continued as he got older. She also tried to strangle him with a belt once and would hold -- try to drown him by holding his head under the tap. She would also assault him with implements, like a pole from the carpet cleaner, and call him names.

24

His father was a drinker and gambler. He was always working, but kept the money he earned for himself.

25

1           'Peter' says he has seen in his records from his  
2           time in List D schools, his situation was described as  
3           'total parental rejection'.

4           He would steal food when he went to school in  
5           Paisley, steal it from the lunch boxes of other children  
6           because he was so hungry. He never wanted to go to  
7           school and he used to steal broken biscuits from  
8           Woolworths. He would break into cars. He said that he  
9           was seen by a child psychologist when he was 6, who put  
10          wires on his head, which he thought was quite barbaric.

11          They moved, in 1972, to another area in Paisley,  
12          which was a nicer house, with hot water and a garden,  
13          and his sister came along in 1972. He was about 7 when  
14          they moved there. He was stealing a lot, though. He  
15          stole a bike, was caught by the police, and he said that  
16          he took an overdose of his mother's tablets one day, and  
17          fell off a bridge into mud and was found and taken to  
18          the police station. He was put into a psychiatric unit  
19          for a short period of time, but then a social worker  
20          turned up and took him from hospital, dressed only in  
21          his pyjamas. He was taken to Cardross Park at that  
22          time. But he says he tried to escape from the car when  
23          they got to the first set of traffic lights, but he  
24          didn't get away.

25          He then talks about Cardross Park, from

1 paragraph 27. He says when he got there he was given  
2 a variety of clothes, including rubber sandals. He  
3 talks about being shown to a dorm with eight to ten beds  
4 and lockers. The beds were all nicely done and he was  
5 immediately worried because he was still wetting the bed  
6 and was concerned about ruining it.

7 He describes downstairs in the home having a room  
8 for the boys and a room for the girls.

9 At paragraph 28, he says:

10 SNR [REDACTED] was Mr KCZ [REDACTED], a big  
11 tall man, and other staff he recalls are Mr GMU [REDACTED],  
12 Mr Davis, Mr Blue and Mrs McColl, who he says was a  
13 lovely woman. He says he remembers the first morning  
14 when he went down to get breakfast, and it looked  
15 amazing, all the places were set and there was  
16 cutlery for everyone and the food was good. He had  
17 never seen anything like it.

18 The boys and girls in Cardross were kept separate in  
19 general, but there were more boys than girls.

20 LADY SMITH: He thinks he was about 9 when he went to  
21 Cardross; is he right about that?

22 MS FORBES: I don't think we have records about his time, my  
23 Lady, unfortunately, but he certainly thinks he was  
24 quite young.

25 LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

1 MS FORBES: He says that he thinks he was only 9.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MS FORBES: He thought somebody told him he would be there  
4 for about three weeks, but he ended up being there for  
5 about a year.

6 He then talks about the routine. Again, this is  
7 similar to what we have heard, this straightforward  
8 routine that never changed. In between meals they would  
9 be in a big room.

10 However, he does say, at paragraph 31, that after  
11 breakfast there were various tasks to do and his job was  
12 to clean Mr KCZ 's office. Apart from that, they would  
13 be in this big room.

14 He says, at paragraph 33, the weekends were  
15 basically the same, with a couple of exceptions. On  
16 a Saturday they could go down to the local shop, where  
17 they could spend their pocket money. However, he goes  
18 on to say:

19 'The other thing about Saturday was that the staff  
20 would organise boxing matches between any of us they had  
21 caught fighting. All the boys and some of the staff  
22 would be present during these boxing matches, which took  
23 place on a carpet in the big room. The thing about it  
24 was that whoever won the boxing got the loser's pocket  
25 money. And:

1            'If I beat an older boy that meant I got what was,  
2            to me, a lot of money. During the good weather we would  
3            go outside into the grounds and play football. The food  
4            in Cardross was actually quite good, but it was never  
5            enough, and if there was anything left, it was the older  
6            boys who would get it. The only thing I wouldn't eat  
7            was fish and I still don't like it to this day. If  
8            I didn't like something I would just swap it under the  
9            table with another boy for something he had. I don't  
10           recall anybody ever being punished for not eating  
11           something.'

12           He talks about there being separate washing areas  
13           for the boys and girls and he said he tended to have  
14           a bath in the morning because he wet the bed.

15           The clothes they had, he talks about at  
16           paragraph 38. There was something from a jumble sale,  
17           and he recalls rubber sandals, which were useless for  
18           playing football in, because you ended up sliding all  
19           over the place. There was no such thing as a uniform,  
20           but the clothes were clean.

21           Paragraph 39, he says:

22           'There was absolutely no academic education given to  
23           us in Cardross. We were simply put in that big room  
24           every day. The exception was a boy ... [who he names],  
25           who was quite smart and went to a school outside.'

1           The only trips they got was to the local shop on  
2           a Saturday, he talks about that at paragraph 40.

3           At paragraph 42, he talks about pocket money. He  
4           would get 50p a week and the older boys would get 75p.  
5           He reiterates that if he was able to beat an older boy  
6           at boxing he would get the boy's pocket money. He  
7           doesn't recall having any personal possessions, other  
8           than cigarettes and matches, or having any books or  
9           comics, but said he wouldn't have any interest in those  
10          things, anyway.

11          Paragraph 44, he says:

12          'I was in Cardross for a year and the only visitor  
13          I ever got was one visit from a social worker. In those  
14          days you got told very little about your circumstances.  
15          The officials would have a meeting about you, but you  
16          would only be invited in at the end and told what was  
17          happening. You had no actual input. Nobody from my  
18          family ever visited me during my time at Cardross.  
19          I wrote a letter home every week which was censored by  
20          the staff. Quite a few of the boys were told to rewrite  
21          their letters and were encouraged to be more positive  
22          about their time there. I never did receive any letters  
23          in reply.

24          'Lots of the other boys got visitors and many of  
25          them would be taken out for a few hours by their

1 parents. It always annoyed me that the other boys were  
2 in there for committing crimes and I was only there  
3 because my parents didn't want me, yet it was the others  
4 who got visitors. I don't recall any medical staff.  
5 I recall fighting [and he names a twin who he fought  
6 with, who he said surprised him with a punch]. I had  
7 a bleeding nose and didn't receive any medical treatment  
8 for it. I don't remember any of the boys receiving  
9 medical treatment for any of the injuries picked up  
10 during the fights.

11 'I have no recollection of ever brushing my teeth  
12 when I was at Cardross or even using soap.'

13 He talks about running away, at paragraph 49:

14 'One day I was in the big room as usual and was just  
15 sick of the place. I picked up a bench and put it  
16 through one of the windows.'

17 I should say, my Lady, we do have information that  
18 he was admitted to Cardross on [REDACTED] 1975.

19 LADY SMITH: Right.

20 MS FORBES: So he is correct. He was only 9 on admission.

21 LADY SMITH: That would fit, yes.

22 MS FORBES: And he says --

23 LADY SMITH: And with his particular circumstances and the  
24 crisis intervention that took place, that would explain  
25 why he was taken in a bit younger than most of the boys

1           there.

2   MS FORBES: Yes. He says, going on then at paragraph 49:

3           'I picked up a bench and put it through one of the  
4           windows. My intention was to escape. But as soon as  
5           the window was smashed, every boy in the room fled out  
6           through the broken window and we all ran away. I was  
7           one of the first to be picked up by the police. This  
8           was probably because I was simply walking about the  
9           streets. Whereas the older boys had the sense to stay  
10          in the fields, where they had less chance of being  
11          caught. The police who caught me told me I had to give  
12          them a hand rounding up the other boys. They even  
13          bought me some chips and a can of coke. I got taken  
14          back to what was called the Cooler and it was pitch  
15          black. I was terrified, and to this day I still suffer  
16          from claustrophobia because of this incident. As the  
17          others were caught, they were also put in the Cooler.  
18          I was there for a few hours. We all got six of the belt  
19          and I think I forfeited my pocket money and fags. They  
20          used to give us all four cigarettes a day. Can you  
21          imagine that? I was 9 years old and the staff gave me  
22          cigarettes every day.

23          'I wet the bed throughout my childhood. At  
24          Cardross, when I got up in the morning I had to strip my  
25          bed each morning. It had a rubber sheet on it. I then



1 had to carry my wet sheets down past everybody, which  
2 was humiliating, and put them in a basket. There were  
3 some mornings when the staff on duty would make me have  
4 a bath in the morning, which was always difficult to do,  
5 while still sticking to the routine that we all had.  
6 I tended not to get picked on by the other boys for  
7 wetting the bed because everybody knew that I would  
8 simply erupt if anybody picked on me. There was no  
9 punishment from the staff for wetting the bed.'

10 He then talks about abuse at Cardross from  
11 paragraph 56 onwards:

12 'In winter we were in a locked room nearly all day  
13 with about 20 guys, some of whom were 14 or 15. I was  
14 only 9. The only thing there was a TV and benches. The  
15 floor was marble and there were two radiators. There  
16 was no supervision as the staff stayed outside smoking.

17 'At 9 years old I wasn't sexually active, but I was  
18 aware of what was going on. I saw the older boys  
19 masturbating and getting involved in sexual activity.  
20 Nothing was done by the staff to stop this.

21 'There were a lot of fights and I had to learn to  
22 bare knuckle box. If the staff caught you fighting they  
23 would make those they caught bare knuckle fight on  
24 a Saturday. I'm not sure which members of staff  
25 organised this. As I said earlier, the winner of these

1 fights got the loser's pocket money.

2 'There could be several of these bouts on  
3 a Saturday. The girls weren't allowed to watch them,  
4 but all the boys and some of the staff did. I didn't  
5 fight every week, but there were fights every week.

6 'It was bare knuckle fighting. There were no gloves  
7 or head protection and no rules. There were lots of  
8 black eyes and the odd broken nose, but nobody was ever  
9 taken to hospital.

10 'On one occasion an older boy [he names him] came up  
11 to me and said "You clean Mr KCZ's office don't you?  
12 I want you to do me a favour. There's ten cigarettes in  
13 it for you". Cigarettes were the currency we used. He  
14 added "I want you to steal a key for me".

15 'I got the key for him and later that night I was in  
16 bed and thought I saw an angel. In fact it was a girl  
17 running across the mantelpiece. When I woke up in the  
18 morning, all the older boys had girls in their beds. It  
19 turned out the key I had stolen was for the girls' dorm.  
20 I was given six of the belt by Mr KCZ for stealing the  
21 key.'

22 If I could just pause there, my Lady, to say that we  
23 do actually have a record of the boy we are referring to  
24 being suspected of stealing a key to -- and having the  
25 key to the girls' dorm at that time.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MS FORBES: He goes on to say:

3 'When you were given the belt it was always by  
4 Mr KCZ . You had to bend over a chair and he hit you  
5 on your bottom over your trousers.

6 'I once took an illness. I think it was flu.  
7 Mr GMU was, to me, a big guy. He came into the dorm,  
8 picked me up and wrapped me in a blanket. He then  
9 carried me downstairs to a room where there was a fire.  
10 Mrs McColl was in the room.

11 'I think it was only because Mrs McColl was in the  
12 room that GMU didn't sexually abuse me. I heard from  
13 others that he sexually abused some of the other boys.  
14 I recall at the time that I thought it was a nice thing  
15 to do, but I was only 9 years old. Looking back as  
16 an adult, I suspect he had ulterior motives.

17 'There was another occasion during the summer of  
18 1974, when the World Cup was taking place in Germany.  
19 It was a lovely sunny day and me and four others were  
20 taken by car to GMU 's house. I can't recall who  
21 drove us there.

22 'GMU had a colour television and it was the first  
23 time I had ever seen one. I sat and watched the TV.  
24 Nothing happened to me, but I look back and can't help  
25 but wonder if me and the other boys were getting

1 groomed. I don't recall the names of the other boys.

2 'There was no affection in Cardross. Even if you  
3 took a beating at one of the fights, there was nobody  
4 who would come up to you and ask if you were all right.  
5 I had to learn to stick up for myself from a very young  
6 age because if you showed any weakness, or were thought  
7 of as soft, you would be bullied constantly. While in  
8 Cardross it was embarrassing for me as I was told I was  
9 in for CP, care and protection. The other boys used to  
10 say I was in there because my parents didn't want me.  
11 I suppose the fact I never got any visitors reinforced  
12 that impression.

13 'I have no recollection of any of the staff  
14 physically abusing me or any of the other boys, other  
15 than when we got the belt.'

16 He then says that one day a social worker showed up  
17 at Cardross and took him to Bellfield, and no  
18 explanation was given as to why he was getting moved.  
19 He felt it was because he had been in Cardross for  
20 longer than they intended. He said Bellfield was very  
21 similar to Cardross, but he was only there for a month.  
22 He doesn't recall any abuse or anything like that.

23 He says, though, he continued in the way that he  
24 always had and felt he had to to look after himself and  
25 never appear soft.

1           At paragraph 73, he said:

2           'The nearest I came to a problem was when one of the  
3 other boys threatened me with a garden fork because he  
4 wanted the strawberries that grew in the garden. I do  
5 remember all the other boys there were criminals, whilst  
6 I was still just under care and protection. After about  
7 a month, I would be 10 or 11, I was sent to live with my  
8 uncle and his wife. I heard years later that my uncle  
9 might actually have been my real father. I think that  
10 was maybe why I was sent there. Looking back now,  
11 I think my dad had said to his brother, "He is yours,  
12 you look after him".'

13           He then describes the fact his uncle lived in  
14 a lovely house and he was given his own bedroom and they  
15 were quite wealthy and he was given new clothes and  
16 a bike. At first it was lovely staying there and he  
17 went to primary school. However, they were both  
18 alcoholics and there was often violence, so he once saw  
19 his uncle's wife drunk, naked, black and blue at the top  
20 of the stairs. He describes his uncle as being a cruel  
21 man and he describes being assaulted by his uncle. He  
22 also describes seeing his gran help his aunt give birth  
23 to a baby and comments that he was only 10 and he  
24 shouldn't have been seeing such things.

25           His uncle had a stepson who he was forced to box

1 with, but he comments, at paragraph 79:

2 'Mind you, at least he let us wear boxing gloves and  
3 it wasn't bare knuckle fighting the way it was at  
4 Cardross. My uncle was a fearsome man.'

5 He doesn't recall how he came to leave his uncle's  
6 home, but he went back to his mum's in Paisley for  
7 a short time and was then placed in a boarding school in  
8 Newton Stewart and was there for about two years, from  
9 about 1976/77 to 1978. And he talks about that from  
10 paragraph 81 in his statement.

11 He does talk about running away from there a couple  
12 of times. He says that there was physical assault,  
13 inappropriate conduct and unfair corporal punishment.  
14 He says that he was then moved after that to -- after  
15 reporting one of the members of staff, he was moved  
16 a few days later by a social worker and was taken to  
17 a children's home in Bridge of Weir. That was 1977 or  
18 1978. He says he was 13 or 14 at the time. Then he  
19 tells us about that from paragraph 115 onward.

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

That led

to him leaving the children's home and he was taken to Geilsland. That evidence was read in during the CrossReach Chapter on 25 April 2024, and that was Day 439.

He says he was 14 years of age when he went there. He talks about that from paragraph 144 onwards.

In relation to that, then, he says that the discipline at Geilsland was harsh and he says that the film 'Scum' was a good representation of what Geilsland was like and that he learned that on his first day there.

He at one stage, then, had managed to stay out of trouble and was moved into what he calls the Chapel Cottage at Geilsland, where he stayed on his own for a time, living independently. Then he goes on from paragraph 194 to talk about that. Again, that was all read in during that chapter.

LADY SMITH: Yes, I remember that.

MS FORBES: In relation to leaving Geilsland, he talks about that from paragraph 206 onwards. He said he left when he was 16 and he went to his mum's house, but she had left and it was just his 17-year old brother that was there. He decided to stay with his brother.

1           He then talks about the headmaster of Geilsland  
2 helping him obtain work at a hotel and he did a lot of  
3 things there, almost everything, he said, except working  
4 behind the bar because he was too young.

5           In relation to life after being in care, he talks  
6 about that from paragraph 210 onwards. He initially  
7 stayed with his brother and worked in the hotel. He  
8 ended up being a waiter. Again, he talks about the  
9 headmaster from Geilsland helping him with different  
10 things over the years, when he got into trouble.

11          He went to stay with an aunt, and then he got a job  
12 after that changing tyres, and then in a restaurant as  
13 a silver-service waiter, then as a commis waiter. He  
14 said he ended up going down to Bournemouth for work at  
15 one point, and stayed there before heading back to  
16 Paisley. He then had a girlfriend and went back down  
17 again and got a flat down there. However, she got  
18 homesick and went back to Scotland with their daughter,  
19 and they both went their own way. He hasn't seen his  
20 daughter since she was about six.

21          After that he lived homeless for a year and he says  
22 he ended up unwell. It was in Carlisle.

23          He then says that he met a girl and they were  
24 together for 17 years and had three children. They  
25 ended up in Eastbourne, where he worked in hotels and



1 then got a job cutting grass for the Council. Later  
2 they got a three bedroomed house in Kilbirnie where he  
3 stayed for 21 years, and there was, I think, another --  
4 altogether with his wife, he later had three children.  
5 So I think it was two daughters and a son, my Lady, but  
6 at least two daughters, in any event. He said that when  
7 he became a father it was important for him to break the  
8 cycle of a child in care, and he is proud of how his  
9 kids turned out. Again, all this was read in, I think,  
10 from 226 onward, read in verbatim.

11 He does talk about SNR [REDACTED] at Geilsland  
12 giving him a reference to get a placement and he was  
13 able to do that and he worked as a caretaker for  
14 a building. That was in, yes, Kilbirnie. He said that  
15 he got offered a job then [REDACTED] and took it on,  
16 the night shift, and he worked there for nine years,  
17 with juvenile offenders as a residential care officer.  
18 He set up a football club for under-privileged boys. He  
19 does say, though, that job ended up being detrimental to  
20 his health and he ended up being what they called  
21 'contaminated', because he was working with sexual  
22 offenders and that led to him being overprotective of  
23 his own kids.

24 He said his marriage broke up in 2000 and he  
25 developed mental health problems. He said he always had

1           these, but they became more pronounced after the  
2           breakup. He had a court case which led to him losing  
3           his job [REDACTED]. He worked in a distillery and  
4           then on buses, and was diagnosed with ME, chronic  
5           fatigue, in 2010, and hasn't worked since.

6           The impact section was read in, and a lot of it is  
7           about Geilsland.

8   LADY SMITH: Yes.

9   MS FORBES: In relation to lessons to be learned, at  
10          paragraph 235, 'Peter' says:

11                 'One of the frequent things I think this Inquiry  
12                 should be looking at is that no person in care should  
13                 share a room with another person.'

14                 At paragraph 236, he says:

15                 'People who were abused as children should be  
16                 listened to and believed. People working with children  
17                 should be vetted and those who went through the system  
18                 should be asked for their opinion, for their input, as  
19                 they understand the issues.'

20                 Then he has made the usual declaration at  
21          paragraph 239 and it is signed and dated 22 July 2019.

22   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

23   MS FORBES: My Lady.

24   LADY SMITH: Well, it is after 4 o'clock.

25   MS FORBES: Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: I think we have to leave it there for today.  
2 The plan for next week?  
3 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady. So, on Wednesday, we have,  
4 I think -- I will just check. Again, we have live  
5 witnesses on Wednesday, my Lady.  
6 LADY SMITH: That's right, yes.  
7 MS FORBES: In relation to the timings for that, there are  
8 three live witnesses on Wednesday.  
9 LADY SMITH: Very well. I will rise now until 10 o'clock on  
10 Wednesday. Thank you very much.  
11 (4.05 pm)  
12 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday 10 July  
13 2024)  
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