

Thursday, 11 July 2024

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(10.00 am)  
LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return, of course, to evidence in Phase 8, Chapter 7, in which we are looking into the residential care of children at Calder House, Bellfield and Cardross Park.

I think I am right in saying today we will particularly look at Calder House; is that right, Mr Sheldon?

MR SHELDON: That's right, my Lady, we have two oral witnesses this morning who will speak to their experiences at Calder House.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

MR SHELDON: The first of those is here. She is anonymous and her chosen pseudonym is 'Jessica'.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Jessica' (sworn)

LADY SMITH: 'Jessica', do sit down and make yourself comfortable.

'Jessica', the red folder on the desk has your written statement in it. Thank you for providing that to the Inquiry. It is, of course, evidence already lodged with the Inquiry and it has been really helpful to me to have it in advance. But of course what's also enormously helpful is to have you here in person, and

1 I am grateful to you for agreeing to do that so that we  
2 can discuss particular parts of your statement with you  
3 today.

4 As we do that, please let me know if there is  
5 anything I can do to help the whole process of giving  
6 evidence at a public inquiry more comfortable than you  
7 might anticipate it is going to be. I know it is not  
8 an easy thing to do, and even although, as you will be  
9 aware, we are interested in what you can talk about from  
10 your own professional perspective, we are also  
11 interested in what you can tell us about your own  
12 experiences as a child, and that's where your own  
13 emotions may take you unawares. I get that.

14 I understand that. So if you need a break, whether just  
15 sitting where you are or leaving the room, don't  
16 hesitate to tell me; or if you want something explained  
17 better than we are explaining it, that's our fault, not  
18 yours, so you speak up.

19 A. Okay.

20 LADY SMITH: If it works for you, whatever it is, it will  
21 work for me, okay?

22 A. Thank you.

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

25 Mr Sheldon.

1 Questions by Mr Sheldon

2 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

3 Good morning, 'Jessica'.

4 A. Good morning.

5 Q. As Lady Smith has said, you have the statement in front  
6 of you in the red folder. Perhaps you could just open  
7 that for me at the last page, the very last page, and  
8 there is a paragraph at the foot there, paragraph 312,  
9 and I think it says there:

10 'I have no objection to my witness statement being  
11 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
12 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
13 true.'

14 Is that still the case, 'Jessica'?

15 A. Yes, it is.

16 Q. Have you signed the statement at the bottom there?

17 A. Yes, it is my signature.

18 Q. That's your signature, all right, thank you.

19 If you could just turn back to the start of the  
20 statement. A couple of bits of housekeeping for our  
21 purposes. The first is that there is a statement  
22 reference, which I will read in for our records. The  
23 reference is WIT-1-000001410. 'Jessica', I don't need  
24 your date of birth, but I think you were born in 1962,  
25 is that right?

1 A. I was, yeah.

2 Q. All right.

3 'Jessica', we will just go through the statement,  
4 your statement, together --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- but there are a lot of issues and points that I think  
7 perhaps we can explore further, and we are very  
8 interested to get your evidence about a number of  
9 things, as Lady Smith says, concentrating particularly  
10 on your time at Calder House?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You tell us in the first, really the first few  
13 paragraphs of your statement about your early life.  
14 I think you were born and brought up in the Hamilton  
15 area, is that right?

16 A. [REDACTED].

17 Q. [REDACTED].

18 A. I was born in Hamilton.

19 Q. Right. And you lived with your mum and dad, and I think  
20 you ultimately had, well, four sisters, is that right?

21 A. I had four and then an extra one came later, when we  
22 moved from there. So in total I had five sisters.

23 Q. All right, thank you.

24 You tell us that you really weren't very well off,  
25 but you felt that there were a lot of good things about

1           your early years, is that fair to say?

2   A.   Yes, my early years were pretty insignificant, no  
3           different to the people who lived in the same estate, or  
4           close, that I lived in.

5   Q.   Right.  It was initially quite a happy family?

6   A.   Yeah, I would say so.

7   Q.   Okay.  But I think things started to change for you and  
8           the family generally when you were about eight.  You  
9           tell us that your uncle moved in with you.  It was quite  
10          a small flat, so it was quite a crowded living space, is  
11          that right?

12  A.   Yes, it was, it was only two bedrooms.

13  Q.   You tell us that he became a significant part of your  
14          trauma.  We will ask a little bit more about that later  
15          on.

16                 But then two very significant things happened.

17                 One of your sisters was in a serious accident --

18  A.   (Nods)

19  Q.   -- and I think there were fears for her life at one  
20          point?

21  A.   Three of my sisters were in the same accident.

22  Q.   Right.

23  A.   Two had minor injuries and one had serious injuries.

24  Q.   When you were about ten, another of your sisters became  
25          very unwell, and she had quite a long illness, and very

1           sadly died?

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   And I think that was perhaps particularly difficult, and

4           you tell us that at that time you weren't really able to

5           go and visit her, because there was an age limit for

6           visiting in the hospital?

7    A.   Yes, you had to be 12 to get in to the Yorkhill

8           Children's Hospital to visit, and I would have been

9           about 10 at the time.

10   Q.   And because of the way your sister was being treated,

11           your mother had to spend long periods --

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   -- in the hospital as well.  So she would be away from

14           home, and is that, really, around the time when your

15           uncle started to abuse you?

16   A.   Yes, it would have been within the first few months of

17           my sister first being admitted to hospital.  When she

18           was first admitted to hospital, I think she spent the

19           first three months without coming home.

20   Q.   Right.

21   A.   She had quite radical treatment, and chemotherapy, and

22           infection control was an issue with her health.  My

23           mother also was the only one that could donate platelets

24           to her, so my mum had to spend quite a significant

25           amount of weeks in infection control circumstances and

1           couldn't come home, so maybe every 12 weeks my mum spent  
2           three full weeks not coming home at all.

3   Q.   Yes.  I suppose doubly traumatic for you because,  
4           firstly, you weren't seeing your mum and, secondly, you  
5           had less protection against what might have been  
6           happening with your uncle?

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   You tell us, I am looking at paragraph 17 of your  
9           statement in particular, page 4, you tell us you tried  
10          to confide in someone about what was happening to you.  
11          How did that go, 'Jessica'?

12  A.   Erm, it was quite traumatic.  We were practising  
13          Catholics, so the Church played a significant part in  
14          our life.  And at that time, when my sister was ill, the  
15          local Catholic priest was also a support to the family,  
16          and would visit.  So over that period of time I got to  
17          know him more than I would have at school, or going to  
18          chapel on the Sunday.  And I felt I could confide in  
19          him, but it took me a long, long time to get the courage  
20          because my uncle was also significantly linked to the  
21          Church, he was a St Vincent de Paul man, and I knew it  
22          was a risk to share that information; but you can see  
23          from my evidence there that that didn't go too well.

24  Q.   Yes, you tell us that the priest, well, he said he would  
25          cut out your tongue --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- if you repeated what you had told him?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. It is perhaps an obvious question, 'Jessica', but what  
5 effect did that have on you?

6 A. Um, I think any hope that I had of this ending was gone,  
7 because I didn't feel I could tell, if the priest wasn't  
8 going to believe me, and I suppose at that time I didn't  
9 have the context or understanding that it wasn't that he  
10 didn't believe me, it was probably just that he was just  
11 trying to cover it up. But when you are 11, I believed  
12 his actions, to me, meant that he didn't believe me.

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. So if he didn't believe me, who else was going to  
15 believe me?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. So I never told another soul for a long, long time.

18 Q. You tell us that, really, this abuse went on for quite  
19 some time. A number of years?

20 A. Um, I would say for about three years, maybe from the  
21 age of 10 to 13.

22 Q. All right.

23 A. When we moved home.

24 Q. Again, perhaps an obvious question, but what effect did  
25 that have on you?



1 A. Um, I was the oldest in the family and I grew quite  
2 a protectiveness around my younger siblings. I had not  
3 only physically or emotionally, had moved into a kind of  
4 caring role for my siblings, because of the family  
5 circumstances, my mum not being available.

6 I would like to stress that I had quite a big  
7 extended family who supported us, but they weren't  
8 living with us. And a lot of the time my dad would go  
9 straight to the hospital from work at night, or come  
10 home and get ready and go in to the hospital, so it was  
11 my uncle that was our main carer. So after tea time at  
12 night when my granny went home, and things like that, it  
13 was my youngest siblings.

14 So the effect it had on me was that -- I suppose  
15 throughout the whole time, and particularly after  
16 I spoke to the priest, was I was going to try and ensure  
17 it was never going to happen to any of my younger  
18 siblings. So I felt it was my job to keep them  
19 protected. So I was always on high alert if he went  
20 into a room that I wasn't in that maybe one of my  
21 sisters was in, so I would always make sure I was trying  
22 to be around for them.

23 Q. So the burden, really, fell on you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You tell us, this is paragraph 21 of your statement,

1           that your sister, very sadly, died in 1974.

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   And so you would be about 12 at that stage?

4    A.   Yeah, I would have been, um, turned 12 [REDACTED].

5           I started high school [REDACTED]

6           [REDACTED].

7    Q.   Still clearly something that's very fresh in your

8           memory?

9    A.   Oh yes.

10   Q.   You go on to tell us that, I think, this really had

11           a pretty awful effect on your family, particularly your

12           mother and father, and that your father started

13           drinking. Your mother, I think, became quite depressed?

14   A.   My mum's mental health was the first significant impact.

15           I think I say in my statement that, as a 12-year old

16           going through the trauma of her sister dying, there was

17           a relief that came with that, not that I was happy my

18           sister had died, because it was horrific, but I kind of

19           thought the family would go back to the way it was.

20   Q.   And it didn't?

21   A.   And it never went back to the way it was. It was

22           a completely different make up of our family after that.

23   Q.   Yes, you say that there were extreme arguments -- sorry,

24           I beg your pardon, initially I think you said there

25           weren't extreme arguments, or violence, but I think that

1 developed at a later stage, is that right?

2 A. Yeah. Life just became -- my mum's mental health was  
3 really poor. She had been -- the year before my sister  
4 was diagnosed with cancer was the year my sisters had  
5 the accident, and my mum was prescribed sleeping tablets  
6 and Valium, and there was no exit plan for anybody going  
7 onto any medication, such as that, so she became  
8 prescription dependent and I suppose it wasn't  
9 until years and years later that I reflected and  
10 realised that that is who she became. And my father  
11 became alcohol dependent.

12 And, you know, this was a couple who I don't think  
13 had reached their 30s. They had five children, two  
14 significant massive traumas and the death of their  
15 daughter. And there was no support network, there was  
16 family support networks but there was no professional  
17 support network. My sister died [REDACTED], was  
18 buried [REDACTED], and then the [REDACTED] afternoon,  
19 my sisters and I, my mum and dad, went to Ayrshire to  
20 family for a few days, and when we came home the Women's  
21 Guild had come into the house and cleared everything  
22 apart from photographs of my sister, anything, whether  
23 it be toys, bedding, clothes, everything was gone. And  
24 that was the way people dealt with grief then, you  
25 didn't speak about it. So we came home to this

1 emptiness in this house with these two parents that  
2 didn't know how to cope.

3 And then the impact of my dad's drinking and my  
4 mum's mental health meant that they still both were  
5 unavailable for us.

6 Q. I think we understand, that, in your later life, you  
7 have had a chance to reflect and to think about your  
8 parents' journey and their experiences, what might have  
9 led them to behave in the way that they did, but  
10 I suppose, as a 12-year old, all you knew was that  
11 things had changed so radically?

12 A. Yes, I never made sense of any of this until I started  
13 to address -- probably when I came into working in the  
14 care system, and started to realise that I needed to  
15 address these issues, because of the impact it was  
16 having on me.

17 So no, at the time I certainly didn't, I couldn't  
18 make sense of it. At the time it was further confusing  
19 me that we couldn't go back to being normal.

20 Q. You tell us in paragraph 25 that you became quite, well,  
21 you describe it as 'destructive' and  
22 'anti-authoritarian'. Do you think that's the effect  
23 that all this had on you?

24 A. Yes. When I was in primary school, I was quiet; shy.  
25 I was an average student. I wouldn't have come to the

1 teacher's attention. I wouldn't have, you know, I would  
2 have been an unassuming child, probably. And then  
3 I remember, almost within months of my sister dying, the  
4 anger, and that was the first that I really felt this  
5 level of anger about everything. Um, yeah.

6 Q. You tell us over the page, page 6, that violence and  
7 physical abuse then became an issue in the household --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and indeed that you yourself -- was a victim of that  
10 on at least one occasion?

11 A. Yes. I mean, I describe the first ten years of my  
12 childhood as quite, quite insignificant, but we were  
13 brought up in the west of Scotland with a strict west of  
14 Scotland dad, where physical chastisement was the norm.  
15 It was no different from the other five neighbours in  
16 the close but, when I say physical chastisement, it  
17 would be a slap or shouting at. But then, on this  
18 occasion, that was the first time that I remember being  
19 injured.

20 Q. This drew blood, did it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So things -- and this is when you were about 14, you  
25 think, so --

1 A. No, I would have been younger than that --

2 Q. Right.

3 A. -- because that happened when I still lived in [REDACTED],  
4 so I would have been between about 12 and 13. It would  
5 have been within months of my sister dying.

6 Q. Oh, right. Yes, I was just going to ask you about that,  
7 in terms of fitting that in with when you were at  
8 Calder House, which obviously we will come to.

9 Yes, you tell us later, paragraph 36 actually, that  
10 when you were 13 or so you started to run away. Why do  
11 you think you were doing that?

12 A. Erm, at the time I couldn't have given you an answer to  
13 that. Now, with the years' experience, lived experience  
14 that I have got and the understanding of trauma, I can  
15 clearly tell you it was about bereavement, it was about  
16 sexual abuse, it was about physical abuse, it was about  
17 the change in my whole family dynamics and the  
18 realisation it wasn't going to go back to the way it  
19 was.

20 Q. There was a lot going on?

21 A. There was a lot. But at the time I couldn't have told  
22 you what that was, I couldn't tell you why I was  
23 behaving the way I was behaving, I couldn't tell you why  
24 I didn't want to be in school.

25 Q. Was this about the time that there started to be some

1 social work involvement for you?

2 A. Not right away, no. We moved, probably around my 13th  
3 birthday we moved [REDACTED] to Blantyre, and that was  
4 another massive change that I wasn't prepared for,  
5 because I lost my peer group, I lost my, I had two or  
6 three really good friends, I lost them. I was further  
7 away from my mum's family, who were my, apart from my  
8 uncle, who were the closest external family, towards my  
9 father's family, who were probably less close to us. We  
10 didn't have our own house, we had to move in with my  
11 grandfather, and he was a drinker, so him and my dad  
12 together were pretty volatile. Domestic violence  
13 increased. And my need to escape it increased at the  
14 same time. And the only way that I could escape it was  
15 absconding.

16 Q. Did anyone ask you why you were doing that, at that  
17 time?

18 A. Erm, I think people formed opinions rather than asking  
19 me why. You know, if I had a pound for every single  
20 time that either a family member or a professional in  
21 the legal aspect around my care history will tell you  
22 that I was deemed to be outwith parental control.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. But nobody, as far as my perception of the whole thing,  
25 ever tried to understand why I was outwith parental

1 control, if that's how they deemed me to be.

2 Q. Well, we will come back to that theme, because I think  
3 it is important, 'Jessica'. But for the moment you tell  
4 us, I am looking at page 9 of your statement, but you  
5 say that you did start to rebel quite a lot.

6 Paragraph 45, you were running away, not to your  
7 friends, but on the street, and running further and  
8 further away.

9 You tell us about a particular occasion you hitched  
10 a lift to Manchester, and is that really when problems  
11 started to arise for you, in terms of social work  
12 involvement?

13 A. Yeah, yeah. I probably had a few, erm, one off, police  
14 bringing me back to the house, and my mum reporting me  
15 missing. But I don't recall very much social work  
16 intervention prior to round about that time. And that  
17 was the first kind of real social work intervention,  
18 I think, that I had.

19 Q. Yes, you tell us a little earlier about a local police  
20 officer who you tried to confide in, and you say he  
21 seemed sympathetic, but didn't do anything?

22 A. No. I lived in what was probably the worst street in  
23 town, and the level of deprivation... deprivation,  
24 poverty and abuse that was going on, it was a powder  
25 keg, really. So I don't suppose I was any different



1 from anybody else in that street. But I know that each  
2 time that he located me, or I was taken back to the  
3 police station, he was on, he was, I can't even remember  
4 his name, but I did confide a lot in him about things at  
5 home. Not the sexual abuse, I don't think I confided  
6 about the sexual abuse, but certainly about the domestic  
7 violence and what I was being exposed to.

8 Q. You tell us about running away to Manchester, and  
9 ultimately you handed yourself in, actually, to the  
10 police station. And were you taken back to Glasgow by  
11 someone?

12 A. Erm, I have full recollection of that. So, erm, I was  
13 taken overnight to an Assessment Centre in Bolton.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. And they didn't have a bed for me, so I spent the night  
16 on a kind of gurney in a medical room at first, because  
17 it was late at night. And I understand that, you know,  
18 trying to transport me home was quite difficult.

19 And then the following day, I believe it was the  
20 following day, it might have been two days later, within  
21 two days anyway, I was transported -- I believe it was  
22 staff from Bolton took me halfway, I think, to Carlisle,  
23 and then I was met by two social workers and I was  
24 handed over to them. Erm, but unfortunately -- and they  
25 told me where I was going -- and Calder House was in

1 Blantyre, where I was living, so I knew Calder House,  
2 and Calder House was always known as a place for bad  
3 people.

4 Q. It had that reputation, did it?

5 A. Yeah. Anybody around about where I was brought up would  
6 have known what Calder House was, and it was often  
7 people from outside of Lanarkshire that would come to  
8 Calder House, it wasn't always people from my town that  
9 was in Calder House, but if you had seen a group of  
10 people out with Fair Isle jumpers, jeans and gutties or  
11 big orange jackets, you would know that was them out on  
12 a trip out from Calder House and you would avoid them,  
13 because you always were told that they were bad. And  
14 when I instantly knew I was going there, because by that  
15 time I had already spent, I think, several small periods  
16 in local children's homes, maybe overnight or a week or  
17 something like that, so I absconded from that motorway  
18 service station and hitched a lift back down.

19 Yeah, so that was quite difficult.

20 LADY SMITH: Back down to Manchester?

21 A. I don't know if I got that far. I think I was picked up  
22 at another service station, if I am not mistaken.

23 I think, yeah, did I get back to Manchester?

24 MR SHELDON: This time you were taken back and they put you  
25 in handcuffs; is that right?

1 A. So they put me in handcuffs, and my handcuff was on the  
2 handle of the door all the way up. This time the  
3 workers from Scotland came down to England and got me  
4 and brought me up, I wasn't transported by two lots and  
5 they took me all the way to -- I mean we stopped at  
6 motorway services to go and have something to eat, for  
7 a comfort break, and I had to stay in the handcuff.

8 Q. Right, is that how you arrived at Calder House?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You tell us at that stage that you were allocated  
11 a social worker, but that in your view he was actually  
12 very ineffective. He appears later in your statement as  
13 well, but briefly can you just tell us why you feel  
14 that, that he was ineffective?

15 A. He was quite -- he was a friendly enough -- Cameron his  
16 name was, and he was friendly enough and, you know, he  
17 would always ask questions about how I was, and listen,  
18 but he never seemed to do anything, he never seemed to  
19 act on what I wanted. And I think on reflection, one of  
20 the biggest things was he witnessed a lot of the verbal  
21 abuse that I took from my father at home, you know, if  
22 I was going home for leave and he was taking me home and  
23 my father would be laying down the law, and my dad, he  
24 was and is quite a difficult man.

25 Q. So your social worker would be there at your home?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Seeing your dad's behaviour towards you?

3 A. Yes, and he would hear my dad swearing and calling me  
4 names, and saying really derogative things towards me,  
5 because my dad believed that all the trouble in the  
6 family was mine, it was caused by me and he never, ever,  
7 let me forget that. You know, despite the fact of all  
8 the years, at what had happened prior to that, that was  
9 all tragedy, but my behaviour had led to my mum wanting  
10 to [REDACTED], coming in from school and  
11 seeing my mum trying to gas herself.

12 So, yes, my dad had horrendous blame towards me for  
13 that. And he made that known in front of professionals,  
14 and nobody ever challenged him.

15 Q. No. We have heard from other witnesses that, in similar  
16 circumstances, they were made to feel like they were the  
17 problem. Does that chime with your experience?

18 A. Yeah. Yeah. Absolutely.

19 Q. You start to tell us about Calder House, then, at  
20 page 10 and 11 of your statement. And in paragraph 52  
21 you say that there were a lot of people who had either  
22 been sentenced or were awaiting sentence for offending.  
23 They were youth offenders awaiting a place at Polmont,  
24 or other units for the girls. Should we understand that  
25 to mean that there were children who were over 16 at

1 Calder House?

2 A. Erm, I think there were. I remember predominantly,  
3 I mean there may well have been people who were there  
4 for similar -- I wasn't there for offending, and there  
5 may have been other people there with chaotic  
6 lifestyles, and absconding was one of the reasons to be  
7 in Calder House. But offending was the highest reason  
8 for being in Calder House. So my memory of Calder House  
9 was that predominantly people in Calder House were there  
10 for offending reasons.

11 Q. Yes, but you were not?

12 A. And I was not.

13 Q. You were there for care and protection, is that right?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. In theory.

16 A. Loosely, in theory, yes.

17 Q. You tell us in paragraph 52 that Calder House was  
18 a scary, horrible place to be, and indeed, in  
19 paragraph 56, that it felt like a prison. Can you just  
20 tell us a bit more about that, please?

21 A. I think my first experience of arriving at Calder House  
22 was horrific. I arrived in handcuffs. And looking back  
23 now, the female that was with the social worker must  
24 have been a police officer, because I can't imagine two  
25 social workers having handcuffs. I was upset.

1 I expected my mum to be there. Because whenever  
2 I absconded and was picked up, my mum was always there,  
3 and she wasn't, so that was confusing.

4 I was anxious that my dad would be there, because  
5 I knew I was likely to get the wrath of his verbal,  
6 which I always had in the past, and he wasn't there, so  
7 that felt odd, so that was the first time I had ever  
8 experienced arriving back from an absconding period and  
9 my parents not being there. I was told both of them had  
10 signed a voluntary agreement for me to come into care,  
11 so right away I thought that was the end of my life with  
12 my family. That wasn't fully explained to me.

13 I was then taken to a cell and given -- I don't  
14 think I was given the uniform to wear right away, I was  
15 told to strip, was the first thing that I remember.

16 Q. Well, I was going to ask you about that.

17 First of all, I think you are told, this is  
18 paragraph 59 of your statement, you were told that you  
19 had to spend your first night in a cell to help you calm  
20 down?

21 A. Mm-hm.

22 Q. What did you think about that?

23 A. I was crying, because I was scared. I was a child. And  
24 I was frightened. I wasn't aggressive. I mean when  
25 I talk about the behaviour when I was at school, it was

1 behavioural issues about not wanting to connect to  
2 education at one point. But I was never aggressive,  
3 I was never volatile, I don't think I was difficult to  
4 manage. I was scared.

5 Q. To use the colloquial phrase, you weren't 'kicking off'  
6 at this stage?

7 A. No, no, I was crying and upset.

8 Q. In fact you were put in the cell, I think, is that  
9 right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Can you describe the cell for us, please?

12 A. I have got a vague memory of the cell. I know it had no  
13 windows. I have no memory of any windows being in it.  
14 And, as I said in my statement, these are the memories  
15 that I have, but there is a long, long distance between  
16 the reality --

17 Q. Yes, of course, it is a long time ago.

18 A. I think there may have been a toilet in the cell, or  
19 connected to the cell, I am not quite sure. It was  
20 a padded mattress with, if I recall properly, plastic  
21 around it, but there was a sheet on it and there was  
22 bedding there. I can't remember what the bedding was.  
23 And that's all that was in the room as far as I am  
24 aware. There might have been a kind of built-in desk  
25 type thing, I have a vague memory of that.

1 Q. All right. You started to tell us about what happened  
2 when you were put into the cell and I cut across you and  
3 asked you another question. But can you just tell us  
4 about what happened on that occasion?

5 A. I think initially they had asked me to strip and  
6 I couldn't understand why. And I suppose the only thing  
7 I was thinking was do they think I have concealed  
8 something, and I kept saying I don't have anything on  
9 me.

10 Q. They didn't explain why they wanted-- ?

11 A. No, there was no explanation of it. And when the  
12 workers had picked me up in England, they had already  
13 searched me and anything that I had they had taken from  
14 me, so I had nothing on me, so I couldn't understand the  
15 need for me to be -- I could only imagine it was because  
16 they wanted to make sure I hadn't concealed anything.

17 And I remember one member of staff... Mrs HLP was  
18 definitely there, that was the first time I had ever met  
19 her, and she certainly stood back and watched, yeah.

20 Q. She was there?

21 A. She was there, and she stood back and watched, and then  
22 they gave me the uniform, and they told me if I wasn't  
23 going to strip they would strip me, so they did, and  
24 left me with the uniform to put on and shut the door.

25 Q. If you feel able to, can you just tell us exactly what



1           they did, and if I can put it this way, how far they  
2           went in stripping you?

3    A.   Everything, absolutely everything. I struggled. And  
4           I was quite, I am not even going to use the word  
5           'aggressive', because I think I was reactive rather than  
6           aggressive. And it went very quickly from me being told  
7           what they were going to do, to them doing it. There was  
8           no time for de-escalation, there was no explanation, and  
9           it was all over in a matter of minutes.

10   Q.   In order to do that, and you were reacting to it, did  
11           they have to also hold you --

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   -- as they were stripping you?

14   A.   I had one arm up my back and I was face down.

15   Q.   All right. And there was a man there?

16   A.   Yes.

17   Q.   One of the staff members was a man?

18   A.   Yes, I don't recall his name.

19   Q.   That must have been a pretty scary experience?

20   A.   It was horrific. It has stayed with me as clear as day  
21           from that day to this.

22   Q.   You said that another staff member, Mrs HLP, was  
23           present. And you have told us, paragraph 53, that the  
24           couple SNR Calder House were Mr BHN and  
25           his wife, Mrs HLP. We have records, 'Jessica', that

1 indicate that they were actually called BHN-HLP would  
2 that sound right?

3 A. Yes, I accept that.

4 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 53, a little bit about them  
5 and their daughter. I think you had some concerns about  
6 their daughter --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and what she knew about you, and perhaps other young  
9 people?

10 A. Yes, their daughter wasn't much older. I think she was  
11 still at school. I think I would have placed her about  
12 15/16 at that time. I had no real care experience, so  
13 I didn't know whether she should be in the unit or not,  
14 and it wasn't until years later when I started to work  
15 in this field that I actually realised that she should  
16 never have been. And I know that we've come a long way  
17 with data protection and things, but even some things  
18 back then that she knew or was aware of, and coming in  
19 and out freely to the unit. [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]

22 Q. Just to be clear, you felt, or found out that she knew  
23 things about, things that I think you would now say  
24 ought to be confidential about young people in the unit?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You also talk about the mum, is that Mrs HLP ?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Just shouting at everyone all the time?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Why was she shouting?

6 A. Why wasn't she shouting?

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Why wasn't she shouting? If she came on the floor, you

9 could hear her walking down the corridor, you knew it

10 was her. Mr BHN was completely different, he was

11 strict, but he also had kind words. Mrs HLP, I don't

12 ever recall having any kind words from her at all --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. -- in any shape or form.

15 Q. Her style was quite shouty?

16 A. Yes, mm-hm.

17 Q. Looking back on your experience with the benefit of

18 hindsight and your professional life, what would you say

19 about their leadership, their management, their approach

20 to childcare in Calder House?

21 A. It was abusive. It just compounded trauma. They maybe

22 didn't inflict all of the abuse, but they were certainly

23 condoning it and they were aware of it going on.

24 Q. Well, you said that Mrs HLP was present during this

25 strip search?

1 A. Yes, she was also aware, she was also present during the  
2 kind of, erm, overnight punishments that you would  
3 receive, you know, like scrubbing the barn with  
4 a toothbrush or ...

5 Q. I will ask you about those just in a moment or two, if  
6 that's all right --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- but just to get a little bit more detail on what you  
9 just said about their style, that it was abusive and  
10 compounded trauma, why do you say that?

11 A. The feelings that you had. You know, she would just  
12 walk into a room -- and there was a lot of people within  
13 that unit that weren't scared of her, because of their  
14 demeanour and who they were -- but I was certainly very  
15 frightened of her and I can only talk about my feelings,  
16 and certainly hearing her walking up a corridor, I used  
17 to think is she coming for me? Have I done something?  
18 If she walked into a room, you just knew if it was for  
19 you or not, because she would just shout at you to get  
20 up and come out and she would always refer to you as  
21 your surname, without your first name.

22 Q. Just going back to the occasion where you were stripped  
23 and searched and put in a cell, you say that no one came  
24 to see you?

25 A. I think there was -- I don't recall anybody coming to

1 explain things to me, or talk to me, or ask me how I was  
2 feeling, or tell me about my mum and dad or where they  
3 were. I recall getting meals on trays; I recall people  
4 coming in and out with food and things like that.

5 Q. You say that, this is paragraph 64, you think you spent  
6 two or three nights in the cell. Were you allowed out  
7 at all or were you in the cell pretty much all the time?

8 A. No, it was -- for the first day -- I mean I say two to  
9 three days... it is hard, when you were that age it felt  
10 like two or three days, maybe it was less, but it  
11 certainly would have been at least one or two overnights  
12 and two full days before I was brought onto the floor --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. And I don't have any recollection of coming out of that  
15 cell to go anywhere else in that building.

16 Q. All right, and certainly you have told us that you were  
17 brought meals --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- plural, so a number of meals while you were there?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. It certainly sounds as though it was an extended  
22 period --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- in that cell?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You say at paragraph 66, I just wanted to ask you about  
2 that, you say that you understand that there wasn't  
3 anywhere else to safely contain you as an absconder, but  
4 there was a high possibility that you would run away  
5 again. But I think we understand that Calder House was  
6 a secure or semi-secure place, that the doors were  
7 largely locked. Do you really feel that you had to be  
8 contained in the cell?

9 A. Erm, not in the cell, absolutely not. I understand now,  
10 on reflection, the level of my absconding and the risks  
11 that that posed for me. And there had been a few  
12 attempts at admitting me to local children's homes and  
13 that hadn't worked and I had continued to abscond. So  
14 I have always accepted that I probably needed some level  
15 of secure care for a period.

16 Q. You needed a place of safety?

17 A. Yes, a place of safety and a place to try and unpick  
18 what was going on for me. And I never got my head  
19 round... I still to this day, as a professional, cringe  
20 when I hear people talking about 'Assessment Centres',  
21 because they weren't. I have worked in secure. They  
22 were secure units. The only difference being that you  
23 would get out for your two hours on a Sunday afternoon,  
24 if... all being well and things like that.

25 But I had lost my liberty, my liberty was removed

1 from me completely. My freedom of choice of anything  
2 was removed, even what I wore, everything.

3 Q. Just thinking about the idea of Assessment Centres now,  
4 did you understand then what was meant by an Assessment  
5 Centre? You obviously have views about it now, but what  
6 was your understanding then?

7 A. My understanding from my social worker, Cameron, at that  
8 time was that they needed to keep me there until  
9 I calmed down, settled down, and they understood what  
10 I needed. There was an acceptance that going back home  
11 wasn't an option. So I don't think going back home was  
12 ever on the table at that point. And then there was  
13 discussions about where I would go. My understanding at  
14 that time, I think I talk in my statement about going  
15 for another assessment, a psychological assessment...  
16 that they were trying to figure out what was wrong with  
17 me.

18 Q. Mm-hm, so this was --

19 A. And that was part of it.

20 Q. -- perhaps reinforcing your feeling, your view, that  
21 there was something wrong with you?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Yes, you tell us about a particular occasion, it is  
24 jumping slightly forward in your statement, but when you  
25 were, I think, taken for an assessment by

1 a psychologist, and he seemed to have had a very odd way  
2 of trying to assess you. Can you tell us about that?

3 A. Yeah, I can remember it as clear as day. In fact it  
4 became a standing joke in my family that I was  
5 obstinate, because I told him if he would peel the  
6 plastic orange, I would eat it. And I was being  
7 sarcastic.

8 Q. He gave you a plastic orange and told you to peel it?

9 A. He was looking for reactions. I now know what that  
10 psychological approach was all about, but I didn't at  
11 that point. He would give me words and I had to  
12 instantly give him a word back at how that associated,  
13 and then he introduced this plastic orange, and I don't  
14 know what the theory behind that was, but it was a joke  
15 for me, then and now.

16 Q. Just going back to Calder House, and the routine there,  
17 for a bit. You tell us, paragraph 67, about the morning  
18 routine. And that sounds as if it could be pretty  
19 intrusive?

20 A. Mm-hm.

21 Q. Even brutal, perhaps, is that fair to say?

22 A. Yes. I said about 8.00, it might have been earlier than  
23 that, I don't know. If you were a bed wetter it was  
24 earlier, because the expectation was that you would be  
25 up and your bed would be changed before the day shift



1           came on, and that would be done by the night shift. And  
2           I was a bed wetter, so ...

3   Q. You tell us in that paragraph that they would sometimes  
4       spray water on you and even tip you out of bed?

5   A. Mm-hm.

6   Q. Is that right?

7   A. Yes.

8   Q. That was their way of getting you --

9   A. I don't think I was ever tipped out of bed. I remember  
10       witnessing it on a daily basis with people who wouldn't  
11       get out of bed. I think I was too frightened not to.

12   Q. Right. Just thinking about modern practice for  
13       a moment, if a young person in residential care is  
14       reluctant to get out of bed, how do you deal with that  
15       now?

16   A. I remember one of my first jobs in a residential unit  
17       before I became a qualified social worker, and it was  
18       a very good unit I have to say, on the whole, in  
19       practice, and I remember somebody getting a pot lid to  
20       go into a young person's room, and I was horrified,  
21       horrified. It would have only been about seven or  
22       eight years after I left the care system, it wouldn't  
23       have been that long after, and I challenged it. I think  
24       you will maybe get the gist of my statement that  
25       I challenged quite a lot in the care system, in

1 particular stuff that reflects similar practices to 30  
2 or 40 years ago. It is just not acceptable.

3 Q. Looking at page 15 of your statement, I think you are  
4 telling us that there were some good things about  
5 Calder House. You talk about some outdoor activities  
6 that you did enjoy?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. But that although these were perhaps nice things to do,  
9 you always felt you stood out because of the uniform?

10 A. Yeah, yeah. We would go to Strathclyde Park and they  
11 used to do a lot of outdoor activities. I remember  
12 doing a certificate in sailing, and things that I would  
13 never have had offered to me, you know, in my kind of  
14 lifestyle. And I did enjoy the activity. But the  
15 travel to and from, and when you were in the park,  
16 everybody knew who you were, everybody knew Calder House  
17 kids. You know, I think I said earlier on that I lived  
18 in Blantyre, so you would know Calder House kids stuck  
19 out like a sore thumb.

20 Q. You told us that everyone thought this was a place for  
21 bad kids?

22 A. Yes, I used to sit in the minibus with my head down and  
23 my hood up, because we had to drive through Blantyre  
24 Main Street and that was my home town and I just didn't  
25 want anybody to recognise me.

1 Q. You also tell us at paragraph 77 that getting out was  
2 behaviour dependent?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How did that work; were there clear rules and boundaries  
5 about that?

6 A. The consequences of behaviour often resulted in your  
7 home leave or visits being cancelled. So my  
8 recollection was a Wednesday night you would get -- your  
9 family could come and visit you on a Wednesday night.  
10 And that could be pulled at short notice, without  
11 explanation. And I remember my mum saying several times  
12 she turned up to the unit for contact and was told she  
13 wasn't getting it because of my behaviour that day, and  
14 my mum... then she would go home and tell my dad and the  
15 next time I was home I would get it from him, because he  
16 would say that I have upset my mum again and that cycle  
17 of 'it's your fault'.

18 LADY SMITH: You are telling me then, 'Jessica', that both  
19 being able to go home on leave --

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: -- and, for example, as you say, your mother  
22 coming to visit you --

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: -- were things that you wouldn't be allowed, by  
25 way of punishment?

1 A. Yes, that was sanctions, they were called sanctions.

2 LADY SMITH: Same thing.

3 A. Yes. All this time in Calder House, I only ever saw my  
4 siblings when I went home. And I never stopped worrying  
5 about them because I was their protector. So I knew  
6 they were still living at home, in these dire  
7 circumstances. I knew they had no social worker,  
8 because the social worker was focusing on my behaviour  
9 and nothing else in the family.

10 LADY SMITH: I saw from your statement that, by the time you  
11 were 10 years old, you were taking responsibility for  
12 a lot of the jobs around the house, and looking after  
13 your siblings.

14 A. Mm-hm.

15 LADY SMITH: Because your mum was having to be in the  
16 hospital with your other sister so much and your dad  
17 wasn't doing these things.

18 A. Yes. It wasn't that my dad -- my dad was good in the  
19 house, my dad was good with domestic chores, but my  
20 father was either at work, because it was the only  
21 income coming in, because my mum couldn't work, or he  
22 was at the hospital supporting my mum, or he was at the  
23 hospital when my mum was home for a visit. So it wasn't  
24 so much that he couldn't or wouldn't do it, it was just  
25 the fact that that role kind of left -- I had the help

1 of other aunties and grannies, and things like that, it  
2 wasn't just me but, I will give you an example, at 11  
3 I could cook a Sunday dinner from scratch. I could go to  
4 Asda and do a full shop without a shopping list.  
5 I could -- I knew the routines for the family home, the  
6 baths for my siblings, the uniforms to be ready for  
7 a Monday; I could do all of that.

8 LADY SMITH: Mm-hm.

9 A. But again that's part of my life that I don't see as  
10 abusive, I see that as just we all had to chip in and  
11 I kind of assigned myself that role, I suppose.

12 LADY SMITH: I get that, but as you say, that meant that by  
13 the time you were put in Calder House you still had in  
14 your head this feeling that you really should be  
15 there --

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: -- looking out for your siblings?

18 A. And when I had weekend leave and I went home, it just  
19 reiterated to me, each time I went home, that nothing  
20 had changed. Drink and domestic violence was still a key  
21 part of my family's life and it didn't moderate because  
22 I was at home. And I would come back and I would tell  
23 anybody that wanted to listen to me, but nobody ever did  
24 anything about it. And my youngest sister by that time  
25 would have been less than two, because she came along

1 after my five year old died.

2 LADY SMITH: She was the one after your sister had died?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 Mr Sheldon.

6 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.

7 I think you also tell us a little bit later, while  
8 you were still at home, you were sometimes having to  
9 clear up after violence that happened in the house?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I am looking at paragraph 40, but you don't need to look  
12 at it, I think, just that you believed that your role in  
13 all of that was just to let it happen, clear up  
14 afterwards and protect your wee sisters from it?

15 A. From a very, very early age, and still to this day, in  
16 my 60s, I have to choose the challenges with my father,  
17 because of my relationship with him. I have to choose  
18 when to intervene and when not to. And as a child,  
19 I learnt very quickly that intervening in the middle of  
20 a domestic incident with my mum and dad didn't bear well  
21 for me. And as long as he wasn't physically battering  
22 her, I would just stand back and let it evolve until it  
23 completed.

24 And, as I said, you know, my mum would be out of it  
25 on her sleeping tablets, and a lot of that caused a lot

1 of arguments, because my dad didn't agree with the  
2 sleeping tablets, so there was a lot of cycles of abuse.  
3 So yes, I became good at choosing my arguments with him,  
4 and knowing how far it would go. Sometimes it would  
5 just peter out, my mum would go to bed, he would carry  
6 on drinking, I would go to bed, get up early in the  
7 morning and clear up before my sisters got up, or during  
8 the night, or whatever. So I suppose I learned to play  
9 the game.

10 Q. It is a lot --

11 A. Absolutely.

12 Q. -- for a really quite young girl to take on.

13 Back to Calder House, and at paragraph 78 you start  
14 to tell us about schooling in Calder House. I just want  
15 to get your description, perhaps, of what that was like.  
16 You tell us at paragraph 80 that schooling was a big  
17 part to you, and you were probably more affected by that  
18 than the physical part. You just can't forgive the  
19 Local Authority about that chapter. Perhaps you can  
20 tell us about that, 'Jessica'?

21 A. It is really odd, because out of everything that has  
22 happened to me in my lived experience, that's one thing  
23 that I can't resonate with; I just can't accept that  
24 that was acceptable.

25 Yes, in first and second year of high school,

1 immediately in the aftermath of my sister dying, I was  
2 maybe disruptive and not connected to the education.  
3 But when I went to Calder House, she sticks out in my  
4 head, Mrs Vernon, to this day. I probably don't know  
5 what I thought when I first came into Calder House about  
6 education. And I suppose I never really -- I always  
7 wanted to be a nurse, so I knew I needed to get some  
8 qualifications for it and I didn't know how I was going  
9 to get them, because I had missed so much school.

10 But bearing in mind I had the first ... all of  
11 primary school with no disruption to my schooling, so  
12 I already had a baseline of education, a decent  
13 baseline.

14 LADY SMITH: Remind me, when you went into Calder House, you  
15 would have been third year senior school --

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: -- stage. You had completed your first  
18 two years?

19 A. No, I was going into fourth -- I was fourth year,  
20 because I sat my standard, my O-Levels, so I would have  
21 been fourth year.

22 LADY SMITH: Okay, right.

23 A. 15.

24 MR SHELDON: Sorry, just to take you to paragraph 82, you  
25 started to tell us about Mrs Vernon, we will perhaps



1           come back to her, but you say, paragraph 82:

2           'Everyone in Calder House was provided with the  
3           same, extremely limited, education.'

4   A.   Yes.

5   Q.   This was a sort of one-size-fits-all approach, is that  
6           fair to say?

7   A.   Yeah. We had classroom time, and sometimes it was  
8           practical things like woodwork, and things that were of  
9           no interest. I remember making a stool and a keyring  
10          holder for my mum that I was very proud of. But when  
11          I -- they had to get a baseline of your education,  
12          I suppose, and Mrs Vernon was quite taken aback with my  
13          level of understanding and thought that I had the  
14          potential to be able to sit my exams, and that was the  
15          first time in a long time that anybody had told me I was  
16          good at anything.

17   Q.   Was there any attempt, generally, for you and the other  
18          children, to assess your capabilities and adjust the  
19          education that you received accordingly?

20   A.   No. No. I remember her bringing in books, extra books  
21          to me. I don't know if they would be past papers back  
22          then, or whatever they were, but she would bring in  
23          extra books, because I got a lot of slagging from my  
24          peers because, outside the classroom, I would be reading  
25          these books and writing thoughts about them. She would

1 set me some exercises outside of it, and I suppose  
2 I started to believe then, because she told me, and it  
3 was the first time anybody had told me in a long time,  
4 that I had potential, and I was responding to that  
5 positiveness. I didn't know that was what that was at  
6 the time. I know now, looking back, that was what that  
7 was. She fought very hard for me to sit my exams.

8 Q. You tell us that she tried to arrange for you to have --  
9 to sit some mock exams, probably in order to see where  
10 you were and to give you a chance to progress?

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. But, again, I think you tell us that that effectively  
13 was thwarted by the way that Calder House was run, is  
14 that how you would put it?

15 A. That's how I perceived it at the time, yes. And  
16 I suppose by that time, just to emphasise, I was already  
17 at that stage of having home leave at the weekend and  
18 I wasn't absconding, where I could have. So I think  
19 that part of her risk assessment of me was that it  
20 wouldn't be a risk for me to go to school.

21 Q. You tell us about some of the aspects of Calder House  
22 that perhaps, some of the other aspects you found  
23 difficulty with. I am looking at page 20 of your  
24 statement, that there were children in the home who had  
25 issues with drugs, and that you felt... you found it

1 quite hard to fit in at times.

2 You also talk about occasions when males got into  
3 the females' rooms, and a couple of inappropriate things  
4 happened. Can I ask you a little bit about that. You  
5 say you are talking about sexual contact. Would you  
6 describe this now as coercive, abusive, physical --  
7 sexual contact?

8 A. I think some of it was, and some of it was probably  
9 mutual... consent.

10 LADY SMITH: What sort of ages were these young people?

11 A. Probably 14/15/16. Yeah.

12 MR SHELDON: Was anyone younger than that involved in that  
13 sort of activity, as far as you are aware?

14 A. I don't recall specifically anybody younger than that --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- but it is highly possible.

17 Q. All right.

18 You have told us a bit about family contact and  
19 about your dad's behaviour on those occasions; that he  
20 saw all of this as being your fault, your problem. You  
21 did start, I think, then to get some overnight stays at  
22 home. But things hadn't really changed at home --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- there was still the same old problems?

25 You also talk about reviews, and I am looking at

1 page 22 of your statement. We would be really  
2 interested to hear about your experiences at Children's  
3 Hearings, and how that went for you during these  
4 reviews, I guess, of your detention, your being kept at  
5 Calder House.

6 A. My understanding of my legal order at that time was that  
7 my mum and dad had consented, so I think it was under  
8 the auspice of section 15, voluntary care?

9 LADY SMITH: How did you get that understanding?

10 A. I don't know, it stuck in my head and I never looked it  
11 up, or even considered... section 15, or 25, I am not  
12 quite sure.

13 LADY SMITH: I just wondered whether somebody had told you  
14 they had signed whatever had to be signed to agree to  
15 you being there.

16 A. The first day that I arrived at Calder House I was told  
17 my mum and dad had signed me in, because I remember the  
18 devastation of feeling that my mum had given up on me on  
19 that day, but then I had to go to a Children's Hearing  
20 every, I believe it to be every three weeks I was at  
21 a Children's Hearing, and that was in the county  
22 buildings in Hamilton, in the kind of round building.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes, you would have had to go to regular  
24 reviews, hearings, or 'the Panel' as people call it  
25 also.

1 A. Yes.

2 MR SHELDON: You tell us at paragraph 113 that the procedure  
3 was you would go in with a member of staff, confirm your  
4 name, but then you were always asked to leave?

5 A. Yes, I sat in a corridor outside with a member of staff.

6 Q. Right. Did anyone ask you for your views, or your --

7 A. I don't ever recall being asked.

8 Q. -- wishes?

9 A. I don't ever, ever recall being asked. Although  
10 I did -- what I would emphasise is that I know that  
11 Cameron always visited me the week before every review  
12 and spoke to me.

13 Q. Mm-hm.

14 A. So I suppose he would have had my views, but whether he  
15 put that across or not, I don't know.

16 LADY SMITH: That's Cameron the social worker allocated to  
17 you?

18 A. Yes, he visited me regularly in Calder House and he  
19 would be writing updated reports and things like that,  
20 and he would share that he wasn't ready to recommend any  
21 changes and that was the kind of gist of it. And once  
22 he said that I disengaged with the rest of the  
23 conversation. There was no point in giving my view as  
24 far as I was concerned, because nobody was really  
25 hearing what I was saying.

1 MR SHELDON: You were saying clearly, you tell us that, that  
2 you didn't want to go back to Calder House.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did anyone ever tell you, or give you any goals, any  
5 objectives, which would mean that you wouldn't have to  
6 go back to Calder House?

7 A. Erm, what I now know to be an exit plan, you know --  
8 what is your exit plan from this unit to the next unit,  
9 or the next place, or to home -- I have no recollection  
10 of any perception of having any exit plan. I knew they  
11 were looking for a unit for me. They told me that  
12 I wouldn't be going to any local children's units.  
13 Family was never discussed, and it wasn't until years  
14 later that I realised that family had asked for me to go  
15 and live with them, but my dad had kiboshed that one.

16 All I remember is Cameron talking about various  
17 units that were being considered, and he was going in to  
18 visit them. So I knew I was going to be going to  
19 another unit, but I didn't know when or where.

20 Q. Right.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Jessica', when you say that you discovered  
22 that the family had asked to have you go and live with  
23 them, are you talking about members of your family  
24 outside your immediate mum and dad?

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Other members of the family?

2 A. Yes. Prior to going to Calder House, the year before,  
3 I had stayed with a paternal aunt and her family for  
4 about eight weeks after a fallout with my dad. But that  
5 was a family arrangement, it wasn't brokered by social  
6 work. And I remember, when I came to Calder House,  
7 asking if I could go back and live with her and I was  
8 told it wasn't an option.

9 And it wasn't until I was probably married and had  
10 my kids, in a conversation with my granny, and one of my  
11 mum's sisters, being told -- because I think in the  
12 conversation I had said I feel just let down by all of  
13 you, you left me there -- and I remember my granny  
14 being really upset, and my granny was a beautiful woman,  
15 and I remember her being really upset at that, saying,  
16 'we didn't, we asked'. None of them came to visit me  
17 either. But that was my dad controlling that, because  
18 he believed I was the problem, and if I went to live  
19 with them I would continue to be a problem, and he  
20 didn't want to have the headache of that. So he would  
21 rather I was in the Local Authority care, I believe.

22 Q. As far as you were aware, did the Children's Hearing  
23 know what things were like at home?

24 A. Erm, unless it was written in reports, and I am going to  
25 assume that there is some... I mean I am waiting on my

1 records just now and I haven't sighted my records,  
2 I didn't want to see my records before this. I did try  
3 once to go through that process and bottled it, so  
4 I will do that, but I don't know what was in those  
5 reports.

6 Q. Your social worker, Cameron, clearly must have known the  
7 way things were?

8 A. Yes, absolutely. Each time I returned home from weekend  
9 leave, the first thing I would do on a Monday morning  
10 was ask to phone him at 9 o'clock. I would report  
11 everything that was happening at home with the hope and  
12 the understanding that he would maybe do something about  
13 it.

14 Q. I want to move on now, 'Jessica', to another heading in  
15 your statement. It is bed wetting, and I think you tell  
16 us that you did have a problem with that when you were  
17 at Calder House?

18 A. Mm-hm.

19 Q. And that you were given plastic sheets, but I think also  
20 that led to something else that you felt was abusive?

21 A. I have to say, that this realisation is fairly new to  
22 me, this acceptance that it was abuse. And I think it  
23 was because I spent many years comparing and contrasting  
24 the abuse my uncle perpetrated on me, and never really  
25 put that into any context of sexual abuse, and it



1 probably wasn't until I was preparing or giving my  
2 statement that I realised actually, if you are feeling  
3 the bed to see if it is wet, you don't need to touch my  
4 body, you just need to feel that sheet. Did you even  
5 need to do that? You know, could you give me the  
6 dignity of getting up in the morning, taking the sheet  
7 and putting it in the washing machine? Did you really  
8 need to come in at what felt like the middle of the  
9 night and feel my bed to see if it was wet?

10 Q. This was a staff member, or more than one staff member?

11 A. More than one staff member, but one staff member in  
12 particular would always avoid the sheet and touch me,  
13 and that was the night watchman, but it was a practice,  
14 whoever was on night shift would always go round the bed  
15 wetters, because they wanted the sheets off the bed and  
16 in the washing machine before the day shift came on. And  
17 I don't know what time that was, I am going to assume it  
18 would have been about 6 o'clock in the morning, or  
19 something.

20 And it was funny, because I was in the room next  
21 door-- I don't sleep well, and I can get by on two hours  
22 sleep, as I did last night, to function perfectly well  
23 the next day, and I think a lot of that's about my  
24 heightened awareness of everything around me. And you  
25 would lie awake for hours waiting for that to happen,

1 knowing it was going to happen. But then that was  
2 already a thing that was happening in my life through my  
3 abuse that I had suffered as a child at home, because  
4 when you know something is likely to happen, you try to  
5 predict when it is going to happen and try and avoid it.

6 Q. You also tell us about a girl, a young person, that you  
7 shared a room with --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and someone that you got on with pretty well?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But you say that -- the way you put it is that she was  
12 having an affair with a member of staff at Calder House,  
13 but she was 15, you tell us?

14 A. She would probably have been the same age as me, or  
15 maybe a couple of months older than me, but she wouldn't  
16 have been much older than me.

17 Q. Right. How old was he?

18 A. It is hard to put an age on somebody when you are 14/15,  
19 you are looking -- maybe 40s. And I have got some vague  
20 recollections, but for the life of me I can't tell you  
21 the name of the person. I can't tell you her name, but  
22 I have given you a description of her, I know who she is  
23 connected to and it is in my statement --

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. -- and that sticks out for me.

1 Q. Yes. You tell us I think a bit about how that worked;  
2 she would get up in the middle of the night?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was she fetched by anyone or did she seem to go --

5 A. There was always somebody that would come to the door,  
6 and where my bed was I never saw who that person was.  
7 You would always hear the whispers and she would get up  
8 and go. For a long time I pretended to be asleep and  
9 never -- I think for a long time I assumed that she was  
10 going to do some of the punishments, then I realised  
11 actually she wasn't hauled out of bed the way we were to  
12 go and do the punishments. So I realised, quite early  
13 on, there was something else going on, but I didn't know  
14 what it was until she then maybe trusted me enough to  
15 share it with me.

16 LADY SMITH: So she told you about it?

17 A. Yes, she called it an 'affair'. I now know that was not  
18 an affair.

19 MR SHELDON: That was my next question: I think you use the  
20 word, and I think rightly, that this was 'abuse'?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did she actually tell you the name of the member of  
23 staff, do you recall?

24 A. I believe I knew who it was, but for the life of me  
25 I can't recall, I honestly can't.

1 Q. Okay.

2 You talked a little bit before about punishments,  
3 being put on a punishment, and you tell us that there  
4 were perhaps different sorts of punishment. That one of  
5 them... if someone had kicked off, as you put it, and  
6 became obnoxious, you could be put on a punishment, and  
7 one of them was just to be made to stand in the  
8 corridor. Can you tell us a bit more about that,  
9 please?

10 A. Yeah. I suppose at the time that felt like the better  
11 punishment than cleaning dirty walking boots or  
12 scrubbing the barn floor, as big as this room, with  
13 a toothbrush. But looking back now, I now know that not  
14 to be okay, not to be the lesser of all three. So it  
15 might have been if you were up and down through the  
16 night, and you weren't settling, and I wasn't a good  
17 sleeper, you would get, I am saying dragged, that is  
18 metaphorically, you would be taken out the room and told  
19 to shut up, or maybe it was something you had done  
20 earlier on in the night and you would be told to stand.

21 The night watchman, there were two night watchmen,  
22 one up the stairs and one down the stairs, and the one  
23 down the stairs always sat in a chair. I was in the  
24 first room along the corridor, I can't remember how many  
25 rooms there was, but I was in the first room, and

1 I think there was four beds in that room, and he would  
2 always be outside on a chair, or sitting at the bottom  
3 of the stairs. And he would just sit there and you  
4 would have to stand in the -- the first wall, where  
5 there was a corner, and stand there for what felt like  
6 hours. I don't know how long it was, but as a child it  
7 felt like hours. Sometimes the light would be coming in  
8 the windows.

9 LADY SMITH: Did you get cold?

10 A. Yes, freezing, absolutely freezing.

11 LADY SMITH: Did you have anything on your feet?

12 A. Nothing on my feet. And it was a nightie, and it would  
13 be a cotton, flimsy nightie.

14 MR SHELDON: This could be for most of the night.

15 A. Hours.

16 Q. Hours?

17 A. Yeah, hours and hours.

18 Q. Facing, you describe, I think standing in a corner, is  
19 that right, and facing into the corner?

20 A. If I remember right, going down the corridor, I think it  
21 was cupboards and a bathroom and there was a bit of  
22 a wall, and then the rest of the corridor, and you would  
23 be standing in that bit there.

24 Q. You tell us a bit about having to clean boots, dirty  
25 boots, and you mentioned also, a moment ago, about

1           having to go and scrub, to clean a barn, and we have  
2           seen records of children having to scrub. It doesn't go  
3           into details about what the scrubbing was, so perhaps  
4           you can tell us about what the scrubbing involved?

5    A.   So the barn was used for sport activities, five-a-side,  
6           netball, things like that, and it was just a barn, it  
7           was a massive big --

8    Q.   You say it was the size of this room?

9    A.   Maybe not, when I looked round and seen the size of  
10           that, maybe not the size of this room. Certainly it  
11           felt like the size of a football pitch maybe, and there  
12           was often two at a time, and that could be two girls, or  
13           a boy and a girl, you know, sometimes I would be with  
14           another girl or another boy, and one would have to start  
15           at that end and one at this end. And it was a bucket  
16           and a toothbrush, or these wee small nailbrushes  
17           sometimes, if you were lucky, because that got you  
18           through it quicker than the toothbrush.

19   LADY SMITH: You say this was in the middle of the night?

20   A.   Yeah, it was certainly after bedtime and after you had  
21           been in bed for a significant period. I couldn't tell  
22           you the time of it, because we didn't have clocks or  
23           watches.

24   LADY SMITH: After you had actually gone to bed?

25   A.   After you had gone to bed.

1 LADY SMITH: They would get you up?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: And take you outside?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: In your night things to do this scrubbing job?

6 A. Yes, you would put boots on and your nightie. The barn  
7 was just across from the main building, it was just  
8 outside and across, but it was freezing, absolutely  
9 freezing. Yeah.

10 MR SHELDON: I think I have a good idea of what the answer  
11 to this question is, but how long would that generally  
12 take you?

13 A. It felt like hours, probably was hours.

14 Q. If you are scrubbing something the size of a football  
15 pitch with a toothbrush, that's going to take a while,  
16 presumably?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. At paragraph 131, you say that these were punishments  
19 that were imposed on you through the day, but then the  
20 person that saw them through was the night watchman at  
21 night. Are you telling us there that this is a delay in  
22 the actual punishment being imposed, as it were?

23 A. Yeah. The night watchman was the person -- I am saying  
24 the night watchman, sometimes it was members of staff  
25 that were doing night shift. You would be told through

1 the day, normally, you know, if -- I don't know whether  
2 it was written down, or whatever, but you know, my  
3 recollection is your name's in the book, but I don't  
4 know if that's metaphorically or whether there was  
5 a book, but in my head it's, 'Your name's in a book'.

6 So you have done something wrong through the day and  
7 you are told, 'You will pay for that tonight, you will  
8 get the punishment'. So you knew it was one of the  
9 three things that you were going to get.

10 Q. So you knew it was coming?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But you didn't know exactly --

13 A. Nine times out of ten you would know it was coming, yes.

14 Q. But you didn't know exactly when, or exactly what you  
15 would have to do?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: But it was hanging over you until somebody came  
19 to your bed and got you out?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR SHELDON: Were punishments imposed by all of the members  
22 of staff? I mean, were they imposed, for example, by  
23 Mr and Mrs BHN-HLP?

24 A. Yes. Imposed by them, facilitated by them very rarely,  
25 but observed by them, yes.



1 Q. Yes, you tell us about an occasion where Mr and  
2 Mrs BHN-HLP were actually in the barn when you were doing  
3 the toothbrush scrubbing thing?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. So they obviously knew what was going on?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Did they make any attempt to stop it?  
8 A. No, no, absolutely not. My perception of that was that  
9 they were condoning and supporting that method of  
10 chastisement and punishment.  
11 Q. You have also told us already about an occasion when you  
12 were stripped, and I think searched, and put in a cell.  
13 First of all, was being put in a cell a regular  
14 occurrence?  
15 A. It happened. It wasn't a daily or a weekly occurrence  
16 for me. For a lot of other people there, that maybe  
17 would have been, and sometimes you would see people  
18 going into a cell for an hour or two until they calmed,  
19 maybe they had been restrained.  
20 For myself it was probably less frequently, but over  
21 the period of time that I lived in Calder House there  
22 were numerous occasions when that happened.  
23 Q. What about this stripping and searching, did that happen  
24 regularly?  
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did it happen to you regularly?

2 A. Yes. Yes, erm, often, so I think I say in my statement,  
3 and it was touched on earlier on, it was very hard to  
4 fit in with your peer group when that wasn't the peer  
5 group who would have been your peer group had you not  
6 been in Calder House, and you went along with a lot of  
7 things with young people to try and fit in. And one of  
8 them, and I am just aware my daughter's here, and  
9 I haven't shared this, was that I participated in  
10 solvent abuse, but I'd pretend at times I was doing it,  
11 just to be part of the group. So when you got caught  
12 you had to pretend to be under the influence, as well,  
13 and it was like playing that game, you learn what you  
14 need to do to the audience that you have, whether it is  
15 my father, or whether it is, you know, I couldn't then  
16 say oh, I haven't had anything, when two of my pals are  
17 sitting there thinking that I am one of them. It was  
18 very, very difficult. And that would usually be the  
19 times where I would get taken to it, because I would  
20 kick off when they touched me.

21 One of the things that really, really, really sticks  
22 with me, if I was sitting on the floor when we were  
23 doing that, and a member of staff caught us and came in,  
24 I would just ask for a moment to stand up. And you were  
25 never given a moment to stand up, you were dragged up,

1 pulled up by your arms, and as soon as someone put their  
2 arms on me, and I didn't realise until years and years  
3 later in therapy, actually it was often, nine times out  
4 of ten, it would be males and having had the traumatic  
5 experience that I had had of being sexually abused, any  
6 male putting their hands on me uninvited in that manner  
7 did incur a reaction from me.

8 So I would be kicking off, two of my pals would be  
9 off their faces and I would be getting dragged to the  
10 cell, but I would be kicking off but I couldn't tell  
11 people what I was kicking off about.

12 Q. I was going to ask you about that, 'Jessica', because  
13 you mentioned that, when you were first strip searched,  
14 that at least one of the members of staff was a man, and  
15 was that generally the case when this did happen to you?

16 A. Most of the staff within Calder House were male, and  
17 most of the females that were there were either attached  
18 to the education part of it, or the day care, or evening  
19 care. But very seldom through the night.

20 So when these incidents were happening, they tended  
21 to be kind of late at night. So my recollection of it  
22 is a lot of the times it would be males, but Mrs **HLP**  
23 would be part of that at times as well, she would always  
24 get called down when there was an incident.

25 Q. Right. You told us about being dragged to the cell, and

1           once you get to the cell are you then strip searched?

2           Or at least --

3    A.   No, not all the time.

4    Q.   Okay.

5    A.   Definitely not all the time.  If you were already in

6           your nightwear, because it was late at night, then that

7           would be fine.  But if you were in your daywear and you

8           were going to spend the night in the cell, then you

9           would be asked to get into your nightwear and, nine

10          times out of ten, I would refuse to strip in front of

11          anybody.  I wanted my privacy.

12   Q.   Okay.

13   A.   And when I refused, that was perceived as me being

14          aggressive, so therefore that would result in

15          a restraint.

16   Q.   That was my next question.

17   A.   Yes.

18   Q.   As you perhaps guessed.  So you were restrained, again

19          was that a regular occurrence?

20   A.   It was a regular practice within the unit, and a daily,

21          daily practice that I witnessed all the time.  For me,

22          not regular.  But certainly in the scale of going to the

23          cell, that seemed to be the trigger for me.  I don't

24          know, looking back now, whether that was about that

25          being my first experience of Calder House and what the

1 loneliness of being in that cell was for me. I don't  
2 know if it was about that, or the physicality of people  
3 touching me, maybe a bit of both. So it did prompt  
4 a reaction from me.

5 Q. Did you see other children being restrained?

6 A. Yes, yes, that was a regular thing.

7 Q. What were the restraints like? How did they do it?

8 A. Erm, I was always frightened when I saw restraints, it  
9 was like watching domestic violence all over again.  
10 Quite a lot of the males, particularly the male  
11 residents -- but there was a lot of male residents that  
12 were quite violent as well, and quite aggressive, and --

13 Q. Violent in what way?

14 A. I witnessed a lot of fights, or male residents going for  
15 members of staff when they were having disagreements  
16 about things. And maybe, on hindsight, some of those  
17 restraints were required for safety, I don't know, but  
18 it felt overkill at times, and I remember watching up to  
19 three/four members of staff holding one person down.

20 Q. On the ground?

21 A. On the ground.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. I remember one boy, he had been sat upon on a sofa, they  
24 had kind of pounced on him on a sofa, and being pinned  
25 down and then another member of staff getting us all out

1 of the room, trying to get us all out of the room,  
2 because some of these things happened in seconds, there  
3 was no time to --

4 LADY SMITH: Can you remember whether the person who was  
5 being restrained, if they were put down on the ground,  
6 for example, was face up or face down?

7 A. Mostly face down. My recollection of people being  
8 restrained was that one of your arms was up your back  
9 and you were face down. That's my recollection of it.  
10 I don't know if that was all the time, but certainly  
11 that's my main memory of it.

12 LADY SMITH: You say you have at least one recollection of  
13 three or four members of staff on one boy --

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: -- in a restraint?

16 A. Yes. I also have recollections of male staff trying to  
17 remove, if the restraint had went on for too long,  
18 trying to remove them and having their feet in their  
19 arms, and lifting them bodily out of the room. I am  
20 assuming to the cell.

21 MR SHELTON: You say that was because that had gone on for  
22 too long, so what did you understand had happened to the  
23 young person?

24 A. After a while he stopped reacting. After a while he  
25 stopped shouting at them. Looking back, and I suppose

1 with hindsight and my knowledge of therapeutic  
2 interventions now, is that actually when he was calm was  
3 the opportunity for you to try and use other skills to  
4 get him out of that, and I never witnessed any of those  
5 skills being deployed anywhere.

6 Q. All right. Did you see staff being violent towards  
7 young people, other than in the context of a restraint?

8 A. Erm, a lot of verbal stuff would be given, but  
9 physically, I knew of young people who would say that  
10 a member of staff had hit them, that I hadn't witnessed.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. But most of the context of the physical stuff that I saw  
13 was in the context of incidents, or the context of  
14 restraining, that looked as if it was beyond restraining  
15 for me.

16 Q. Right. It was going too far --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- for you? What kind of things were -- you said that  
19 a lot of the interaction with staff was verbal. What  
20 sort of verbals were there?

21 A. Staff would swear at you. I remember the first member  
22 of staff that swore at me, thinking you cannae do that  
23 to me, and then I thought well, that's what my dad does,  
24 so maybe he can do it to me. I had no experience of  
25 this level of care.

1           There was a lot of belittling, a lot of belittling.  
2           A lot of derogatory comments. My experience was, you  
3           know, I talk in my statement about not getting -- that  
4           hurts me more than anything because of what it deprived  
5           me of in terms of my education, when I went on to  
6           realise what I could have done.

7           And I talk about the disappointment I felt, and the  
8           comments that came back to me was, 'Och, you wouldn't  
9           have passed them anyway'. You know, just constant  
10          bringing you down. You know, I had this one woman that  
11          I can recall in that whole place, out of I don't know  
12          how many staff there was in that place at any given  
13          time, but one woman who would beef me up and tell me  
14          I was good enough, for another ten to come in and tell  
15          me I wasn't, and it didn't matter that I didn't have  
16          a uniform to go to school and it didn't matter that  
17          I didn't sit the rest of my exams, because I wasn't  
18          going anywhere anyway, and I began to believe that.

19        Q. You tell us earlier in your statement that it was  
20          a common thing to hear staff and teachers telling you  
21          that you were getting ideas above your station. Is that  
22          right, is that what they said to you?

23        A. Yes.

24        Q. You tell us a little bit about reporting of abuse. You  
25          say you didn't formally complain, this is page 27, but



1           that you did tell your social worker about the  
2           punishment regimen?

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   This was the standing out, scrubbing, that kind of  
5           stuff?

6   A.   He knew of all of that.

7   Q.   All right. Did he know about the strip searching?

8   A.   Yes, he knew of all of that. What he didn't have,  
9           probably, in fairness to him at that point, was he  
10          wouldn't have the context of me having been abused  
11          sexually. So he probably wouldn't have the context of  
12          why I reacted the way that I did. But then did that  
13          really matter, because I was the fault anyway?

14  Q.   Well, I was just about to ask you that. You describe  
15          what happened to you when you were forcibly stripped as  
16          abuse, abusive?

17  A.   Yes.

18  Q.   Well, I think you have said yourself that it doesn't  
19          really make any difference that you were reacting to  
20          it --

21  A.   (Nods)

22  Q.   -- because it was abusive?

23  A.   Yes.

24  Q.   You then go on to talk about leaving Calder House, and  
25          there was a plan, I think, of moving to a place in

1           Edinburgh?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   You don't remember where that was, but I think on the  
4       whole that was a relatively good experience, is that  
5       right?

6   A.   Yes.

7   Q.   Certainly a better one?

8   A.   Yeah, the house that I was in was called 'The Neuk', but  
9       I can't remember the overall name, it was different  
10      cottages within the -- it was the Catholic church.

11  Q.   Might this have been Woodfield Ladymary?

12  A.   Do you know, that rings a bell, yes, absolutely, yes,  
13      thank you for that.

14  LADY SMITH:  In the Colinton area of Edinburgh, south side.

15  A.   Thank you for that, I have racked my brain for the name  
16      of that.

17  MR SHELTON:  As I say, I don't want to go into detail about  
18      that, the focus that we have is on Calder House.  It  
19      doesn't mean that this isn't interesting and important  
20      evidence for us, 'Jessica'.

21            You then talk about coming, I think, back to Glasgow  
22      and I think probably having quite a difficult time for  
23      a while.

24            My Lady, I am conscious of the time, and I was going  
25      to move on to 'Jessica's' experiences after care --

1 LADY SMITH: 'Jessica', I normally take a 15-minute break at  
2 11.30 am. Would it work for you if we took that just now  
3 and returned to your evidence afterwards --  
4 A. Yes.  
5 LADY SMITH: -- and have a little bit of a breather?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 LADY SMITH: All right, let's do that.  
8 (11.30 am)  
9 (A short break)  
10 (11.50 am)  
11 LADY SMITH: 'Jessica', are you ready for us to carry on?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.  
14 Mr Sheldon.  
15 MR SHELDON: Thank you, my Lady.  
16 'Jessica', we had reached the point where you had  
17 left Calder House, and I think it is fair to say that  
18 you then went through quite a difficult period, where  
19 you were back at home at times, and actually homeless at  
20 times?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. You describe some very difficult things during that  
23 period of your life, including one where someone who you  
24 thought was trying to help you actually sexually  
25 assaulted you?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But there was one thing that you describe, which was  
3 a good thing, and that was you got a ticket for  
4 a Frankie Miller concert?

5 A. Yes, that was probably one of the highlights of my life,  
6 and still remains one of the most special moments in my  
7 life.

8 Q. And you actually got to meet the great man?

9 A. I did, who played a part in my road back to my own  
10 power.

11 Q. You tell us that after, I think, perhaps one of the  
12 lowest points that you had, you got in touch with  
13 a social worker, a man called Neil Kelly, and he got you  
14 back into the system and you were back in a children's  
15 unit for some time. That was in Uddingston, I think, is  
16 that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You then left that. You were back home for a little,  
19 but that was still a difficult place to be?

20 A. Nothing had changed.

21 Q. You got the chance to go and work in a hotel, I think in  
22 Arran initially, is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You then worked, I think, in a number of hotels, and  
25 during that period you met someone who became your

1 husband?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you then went on to have some family?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Would this be in your 20s by this stage?

6 A. Yes, I got married the day after my 20th birthday.

7 Q. Right. You tell us that after your second daughter was  
8 born, you started doing some voluntary youth work. Can  
9 I just ask why you went into that line of work?

10 A. I don't know if I had a conscious plan. I have been  
11 quite clear throughout my statement that I always wanted  
12 to be a nurse. I left school with no qualifications and  
13 therefore I thought that was never going to be an option  
14 for me. Education, further education, wasn't what it is  
15 now, then. And anyway, I had found a new happiness, and  
16 that was the birth of my two daughters.

17 I think it kind of started, my youngest daughter was  
18 friends with a wee boy in school, and she had to bring,  
19 she wanted to bring him home, she was a wee bit of a  
20 tomboy, and she wanted to bring him home for playdates  
21 and things like that, and outings with us, and I had to  
22 be checked out for that, because he was in the care  
23 system. And I suppose that was my first real connection  
24 back to the care system, and it was only a matter  
25 of years after I had left the care system, so not a long

1 time had elapsed. And he also was in the children's  
2 home that I had been part of, I had lived in as well.

3 So I think that was the impetus for -- I was cleared  
4 for that and then I started to do some voluntary work  
5 with [REDACTED], and I just kind of found a new  
6 direction thereafter.

7 Q. You tell us that you started producing some written  
8 material, and at that stage you had the realisation that  
9 really you could, you could do this sort of thing, that  
10 you did have ability, and you tell us that you were  
11 working in the residential setting, this is  
12 paragraph 225, watching practices that weren't too  
13 distant from the practices that you had experienced --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and did that make you determined to get into the  
16 system and try to change it?

17 A. Yes. Yeah. I have never, ever made a secret of my  
18 drive for working in the care system, and every job  
19 I have ever encountered, I have always went at it  
20 wholeheartedly and always with... carrying the voice of  
21 any child that I have been responsible for, either as  
22 a residential worker, a social worker or a manager. And  
23 trying to change the system.

24 Q. I suppose, in a way, carrying your own voice, and your  
25 own experiences, and with a consciousness of what had

1           happened to you?

2    A.  I am not sure if I would have said that that was clear  
3           at the time to me.  I don't think -- I never, ever  
4           anticipated there would be a way to right any of the  
5           wrongs that happened to me.  By this time I am married,  
6           I have two children, I spoke about it at the break  
7           there, I have -- the first ten years of my life were  
8           uneventful, with lots of adversity but not trauma.  So  
9           I believe that I had that early attachment and  
10          resilience that once I came out of the care system, and  
11          I also don't underestimate my husband's part in that,  
12          and the person that he was, who loved me  
13          unconditionally, and then my two girls who love me  
14          unconditionally, and I had never really experienced that  
15          in my life.

16                 So I suppose, for me, going into the care system,  
17                 I fell into it, but subconsciously, maybe I didn't.  
18                 I don't really know.  But I kind of landed there some  
19                 way anyway, through the back door.

20  LADY SMITH:  What you had was a base of knowledge and  
21                 understanding --

22  A.  Yes.

23  LADY SMITH:  -- that you probably took for granted, if I can  
24                 put it that way --

25  A.  Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: -- that people who hadn't been in that system  
2 wouldn't have?

3 A. No, they wouldn't have. No.

4 And I always said you don't have to be knocked down  
5 by a bus to know how hard it feels. So therefore there  
6 is no excuse for the practice that I experienced, if  
7 those people never experienced the care system. They  
8 were human beings, and they should never have abused me,  
9 and they should have listened, and it doesn't matter if  
10 it was 40 years ago. I don't think that's too long ago  
11 to have had the common sense to know that this girl was  
12 in trauma.

13 Q. You tell us at paragraph 227 that you felt you had to go  
14 and get yourself educated --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- in order to be in a better position to change the  
17 system, and in fact you did that. I think you first got  
18 a HNC in social care --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and then a social work, ultimately a social work  
21 qualification?

22 A. I did, yes.

23 Q. And indeed went on to work in social work for --

24 A. Until I retired, yes --

25 Q. -- a number of years?



1 A. -- last year.

2 Q. I will come on to ask you about that in a bit more  
3 detail in a moment. I just want to look at the section  
4 in your statement about impact. You say at  
5 paragraph 243 that your experiences massively impacted  
6 on you when you were in your 20s and 30s?

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. I just want to go back to ask you about one particular  
9 passage. You talk about an incident where there was,  
10 I think, a visit from your uncle, the one who had abused  
11 you, this was back when you were still at, I think,  
12 Calder House, is that right?

13 A. Yes, mm-hm.

14 Q. You tell us that, understandably, you had real anger  
15 about that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And, at paragraph 238, ultimately took an overdose and  
18 passed out.

19 You tell us, 239, the staff at Calder House asked  
20 you why, and had you fallen out with your boyfriend.  
21 I think you tell us that you told them that your uncle  
22 was at home, and that it was [REDACTED] that you had  
23 taken, and you were hoping that they would join the  
24 dots.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That they would realise that there was abuse from him?

2 A. Yes, that was quite significant, because I think I had  
3 done everything but say the words. In my head I am  
4 telling them what's happened to me, in my head I am  
5 telling them why I took the overdose, it was a very  
6 serious overdose, which I almost died from. And again,  
7 the same response from the people around me was it was  
8 my fault.

9 Q. That's what I wanted to ask you about, because at  
10 paragraph 240 you say that there was a psychiatrist  
11 involved in your treatment. That was perhaps  
12 an opportunity to give you help, to provide you with  
13 help and support, but in fact all that happened was that  
14 your home leave was cancelled?

15 A. (Nods)

16 Q. So rather than trying to get to the truth of what was  
17 behind this, in essence were you being punished again?

18 A. Yes. And it almost, if it is okay if I can say, it  
19 almost felt like it was the closest I had ever come to  
20 saying what had happened to me, since I told the priest,  
21 and yet again nobody was accepting it.

22 In my opinion, my perception at that time was I was  
23 telling them, maybe not explicitly, but I think it was  
24 clear to everybody, and I think I say in my statement it  
25 was very clear later on when I went back to Neil Kelly,

1           who was my social worker, who told me he knew I was  
2           abused.

3    Q.   I think you tell us later that you did have  
4           an opportunity to talk to Neil Kelly about some of the  
5           things that were in your records, is that right?

6    A.   Yes.

7    Q.   And it emerged then that he did know about what was  
8           happening?

9    A.   Yes.

10   Q.   And yet nothing was done about that?

11   A.   I thanked Neil Kelly for his honesty, and we met several  
12           times over a period of time, and I talked about what had  
13           happened, in fact I wrote a letter, I wrote a four-page  
14           letter about the things that happened to me, that  
15           I wanted him to have, to open up the conversation.

16           And one of the things that shocked me was him  
17           telling me that he knew. I expected him to tell me he  
18           knew something was going on, but they didn't quite  
19           understand what it was, but when he told me that he knew  
20           that's the core of my trauma, that didn't give me  
21           anything but more pain, because that wasn't just  
22           a missed opportunity, that was an ignored opportunity,  
23           and that's different from missed opportunities.

24   Q.   It is a very difficult thing to hear?

25   A.   Yes.

1 Q. If I can move on in your statement, 'Jessica', at  
2 paragraph 243 you do say more about the effect of all  
3 this on your mental health, particularly in your 20s and  
4 30s. You told us earlier on about trying to understand  
5 your mother and father's journey, as you put it there,  
6 their own position in all of this.

7 I think you then really had your own journey, and  
8 you had some counselling yourself, is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That was thanks to the good offices of a particular  
11 clergyman that you knew?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You then went on to do a diploma in counselling?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. As well as your work as a social worker, did you work  
16 separately as a counsellor, or was this work that, as it  
17 were, fed into your work as a social worker?

18 A. I, as part of my training in my diploma for counselling,  
19 I had to do so many hours, hundreds of hours, of  
20 counselling, which I did, I done that through student  
21 counselling, initially, and then I done it through  
22 a person-centred counselling co-op, and that was people  
23 who couldn't afford counselling, so for about a year and  
24 a half I offered so many hours a week of my time to do  
25 that for people, and a lot of that was traumatised

1 people coming through the door from the care system, who  
2 couldn't afford counselling and who needed to start work  
3 on themselves.

4 As part of that training I needed clinical  
5 supervision, and the clinical supervision brought with  
6 it an added layer of my own counselling, and that was  
7 the first time when I really looked at my own trauma at  
8 that point.

9 Q. Right.

10 You have told us, powerfully, earlier about being,  
11 I think, led to believe fairly consistently that there  
12 was something wrong with you, that you were the one that  
13 was at fault.

14 A. (Nods)

15 Q. What impact did that have on you, do you feel?

16 A. I always felt as if I was on the outside looking in.  
17 I didn't fit, I didn't belong. And that was in all  
18 aspects of my life. I didn't make friendships very  
19 well, I didn't sustain friendships very well. I didn't  
20 have good relationships with my siblings. Bearing in  
21 mind that they all continued to be brought up in the one  
22 household, good or bad, they were never sent away. And  
23 I still had an opinion about everything, and I was still  
24 the person who would go into my mum and dad's house, in  
25 my 20s with my two kids, telling my dad that it wasn't

1 acceptable, and being asked by my mum not to rock the  
2 boat.

3 And I continue to do that today, you know, if I see  
4 something that's wrong, I can't not acknowledge it. So  
5 for a long time in my early 20s, whilst, you know... it  
6 almost felt like two lives. I had to put 'Jessica' the  
7 child here, who had never really recovered or even  
8 looked at her trauma, and then I threw myself into first  
9 of all being a wife and a mum, and they were two of my  
10 biggest achievements, because the family I created was  
11 bipolar to the family that I came from, and still is  
12 today, and my daughter, who won't mind me saying, who is  
13 in her 40s today, is testament to that, along with my  
14 other daughter, and my five beautiful grandchildren, who  
15 all have stable and loving and nurturing homes, who have  
16 never, thankfully, experienced anything that I have  
17 experienced.

18 So that was one part of my life, and I suppose for  
19 me that part of my life was easy to live, because it was  
20 instant, it was there, but there was another part of my  
21 life here that was dark, and even my husband... it was  
22 probably seven years into our marriage before he knew  
23 that I had been sexually abused. He knew I had come  
24 from the care system, he knew there was a lot of  
25 dysfunction in my family -- he was part of it by that

1 time -- but he didn't know the impact. So when I was  
2 working through that, I also had to work through  
3 difficulties in my marriage, because that was hard for  
4 somebody who had never signed up for that.

5 I have traits of my behaviour that I still have to  
6 work very hard on today. I have, you know, my mental  
7 health has been up and down over the years, often  
8 triggered by instances of trauma that takes me back to,  
9 you know -- what I had at a recent psychiatrist in the  
10 last ten years telling me is that I have an initial  
11 trauma base, with secondary traumas, and the secondary  
12 traumas are when life is hurtful, or painful,  
13 I struggle, because I can't marry the two of them  
14 together, and I still in my 60s, with all those years of  
15 experience as a social worker, I still have to work on  
16 those bits.

17 The impact was huge on my emotions. My husband was  
18 the most placid -- he died 11 years ago, and he was one  
19 of the most placid, kindest men you could ever meet, who  
20 was the opposite of everything my dad represented, he  
21 didn't drink, he didn't smoke, he worked hard, he was  
22 a fantastic husband and father, a bit laid back, maybe  
23 too much, but he was never going to cause me any pain,  
24 but I brought a lot to that, a lot of pain to that  
25 relationship that he never understood. And as a result

1 of that, my two girls couldn't understand that, so my  
2 mental health was affected by that and there were times  
3 where I would walk out on the marriage, I would  
4 constantly say I couldn't go on like that, and then  
5 I would go back again, because I knew I still loved him,  
6 but I was still working through things.

7 A lot of my peers would have ended up -- one of the  
8 things that I am very proud that I avoided was the drug  
9 lifestyle, that was very much the norm for people coming  
10 from my background, and I avoided that. However,  
11 I replaced it with other addictions. There were times in  
12 my life where alcohol was a good escape. There were  
13 times in my life, significant times in my life, where  
14 gambling was a part of my life. And I now know what  
15 addictions are about, addictions are about escaping from  
16 the reality in your head.

17 Q. They were coping mechanisms?

18 A. They were coping mechanisms. Those addictions and  
19 impulses impacted on my family at periods in their life  
20 and it took a long, long time and self recovery for me  
21 to -- 25 years ago I went into recovery, and fully  
22 addressed why I have those traits in my life, and I now  
23 fully understand them, but it took a long time.

24 Q. Sure.

25 'Jessica', I just want to move on now, if I can, to



1 look, perhaps, to the future, as it were. In the  
2 section about lessons to be learned, which starts at  
3 page 51 of your statement, there is a comment about  
4 records. You told us a bit about looking at your  
5 records, or thinking about them, with your former social  
6 worker.

7 At paragraph 273, you tell us that the understanding  
8 that the Social Work Department and the care staff knew  
9 and did nothing, this was about your childhood abuse:

10 '... that was painful for me and that still happens  
11 today, people miss things.'

12 Just from your own professional experience, what can  
13 you tell us about the importance of records and the  
14 Social Work Department using records to help with  
15 residential practice?

16 A. Erm, I think that was, record keeping is an absolute  
17 bearbug for me; it is really, really, really horrendous.  
18 I've watched social workers who are burnt out, who  
19 struggle to keep the front line going, who struggle to  
20 keep children safe, and recording records, I understand,  
21 for them, looks like a secondary part of the job, but if  
22 you are employed for 35 hours and you are working  
23 50 hours a week keeping children safe, where are you  
24 going to find the next ten hours to write these records?  
25 And I don't know what the answer to that is... more

1 staff on the ground? I don't know.

2 For me, I always approached the teams that I managed  
3 with: you need to write this record believing this child  
4 is coming back to read her story, or his story; you need  
5 to write this record with true and accurate facts, not  
6 opinions, not what you thought their behaviour was  
7 about, but how they were presenting and what have you  
8 done to address that, because there will be gaps in the  
9 child's life, and when that child comes back to read the  
10 records you will be telling their story, at some point,  
11 it might only be for a few months or a few years, but  
12 you will have a part to hold.

13 Q. I suppose even at the time the social worker is  
14 involved, and dealing with the child's care, there is  
15 also a piece about reading the records, understanding  
16 them, and joining dots?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Would that be a way to put it?

19 A. Yes. I think if you are a younger child coming into the  
20 care system, from my experience, you have a much better  
21 probability of having more accurate records, because  
22 permanent reports need to be written about you, and we  
23 know that they are lengthy documents, and that has to  
24 hold not only your history, but your parents' history,  
25 your grandparents', everything with it. So there is

1 a good clear boundary of what is expected for a younger  
2 child coming through the care system who does not return  
3 home.

4 For a child over the age of 12, often it is about  
5 containment.

6 And if you are over 15, you have no hope, because  
7 it's just to get you out the other end. And I don't  
8 think that's coming from a place of badness. I don't  
9 think there is one social worker that I have ever  
10 encountered who wants to come in and not do their best  
11 for a child, and I don't think there is one residential  
12 worker who has not wanted better outcomes for their  
13 children, but the system that they are operating and  
14 working in today prevents them from getting those better  
15 outcomes. Lack of resources, et cetera.

16 Q. I just want to ask you a bit about that. You say quite  
17 a bit more about the resource issue, but I just want to  
18 ask you about a paragraph in -- sorry, bear with me. It  
19 is paragraph 282. This is about the care system,  
20 I think, more generally. You have just been talking  
21 about your own experiences, and you have told us how  
22 abusive they were for you. You say at paragraph 282:

23 'I understand a huge part of this is about the  
24 Inquiry understanding what went on, but I think, from  
25 the other side of the fence, that the systems are still

1 wrong. The Promise will never happen, it will never  
2 embed itself in practice ... weans will always  
3 experience not being listened to if we continue to do  
4 more of the same and more of the same.'

5 First of all, can I just ask you what your  
6 understanding of The Promise, and the idea generally of  
7 The Promise, is?

8 A. I think the general principles of The Promise are ideal,  
9 and, if you worked and operated in an ideal world,  
10 I think that's what we need. But in a realistic world,  
11 in social work, working in the system, I don't see where  
12 the delivery of those services are going to be, if there  
13 is no change to funding and no change to resources.

14 I think fundamentally, if I compare and contrast  
15 that to my family experience, it is about early  
16 intervention, it is about helping families at the time  
17 when help is needed. It is about going in and  
18 supporting families to stay together, to reduce the  
19 amount of children that are coming into our care system.  
20 I can honestly tell you, in the last ten years as  
21 a service manager, I have done very little child in need  
22 assessments, or held very little child in need cases in  
23 my teams, because when you are running at 40 per cent  
24 staff shortages, the child protection overloads that.  
25 And if you are doing the child protection, then you are

1 not going to get the early intervention and the front  
2 door will always be running with a two legged donkey,  
3 really.

4 Q. You tell us at paragraph 293, this is page 55:

5 'If you want to see a reflection of what The Promise  
6 should look like, you should look at some of the private  
7 foster carers who are better supported than Local  
8 Authority foster carers. They are better informed and  
9 trained to the highest level in trauma-informed  
10 practice. They understand what it is they are working  
11 with in young people.'

12 Perhaps you could just tell us a bit more about that  
13 and what you mean by that, and what you mean by the  
14 contrast?

15 A. Yes. So I spent 27 years working for Local Authority,  
16 both as an unqualified social worker and as a qualified  
17 social worker, and in an overlap I have also done some  
18 independent work, and I have been independent for the  
19 last ten years.

20 Q. You work as a safeguarder still, is that right?

21 A. I am still a registered safeguarder today. I am just  
22 coming to the end of that, because I am retiring fully,  
23 but I am still a registered and practising safeguarder  
24 today.

25 I also am an independent reviewing officer for two

1 private fostering agencies, and I sit on foster and  
2 adoption panels.

3 I also do, you know, not as much now, but up until  
4 last year I was doing independent risk assessments,  
5 independent kinship assessments, independent fostering  
6 and adoption section 11 reports. So I have got a wide  
7 range of independence in the last ten years, and I know  
8 what The Promise looks like in practice.

9 For example, one of the organisations I work for on  
10 a monthly basis [REDACTED]. I review  
11 their foster carers and I sit on their foster panel. As  
12 part of that overall scrutiny of those carers, I have to  
13 look at what their training needs are, what training  
14 they've received, what financial support they get, what  
15 practical and emotional support they get, and they are  
16 working with some of the most difficult, damaged  
17 children, because these are spot purchased from the  
18 Local Authority when they don't have a bed for a young  
19 person. So they are often the most damaged young people  
20 that are in these private placements.

21 And the success rate and the outcome for those  
22 children is far, far, better than a Local Authority  
23 child in a foster placement.

24 Q. In your view, what is the secret to that?

25 A. The investment in the foster carers. The training. The

1 understanding of the child, the individual child's  
2 needs. It is not one-size-fits-all. It is not 'that's  
3 a bed, we will keep you there until we find something  
4 more suitable'. It is an absolute 'we will hold on to  
5 you no matter how much you throw at us'. And that  
6 includes -- I don't work as part of the residential part  
7 of [REDACTED], but that also goes for the kids in the  
8 residential part of that, I know that through my  
9 experience.

10 I saw foster carers for the Local Authority, three,  
11 four children over their numbers and absolutely  
12 exhausted for £60-odd a week per child. Now, it is not  
13 about the money, but it is about the affordability of  
14 investing in the foster carer and the training, and  
15 freeing them up to do the training, and understanding  
16 the behaviours and the needs of these children. So  
17 that's one aspect that I see.

18 The other part of [REDACTED] is that where there is  
19 a possibility of a child returning home, they have  
20 a team that will go out there and work to rehabilitate  
21 that child with the family, and that also includes  
22 building fractured relationships with siblings, and  
23 really fostering the change in the law in the last  
24 few years that we have got that we can't do in the Local  
25 Authority. And it is about resources. There are small

1 teams and small numbers of foster carers, so they have  
2 much more time to invest in them.

3 I could go on all day, so I will stop.

4 Q. We are interested in everything that you have to say,  
5 really, about this.

6 Just one, I think, last thing about The Promise, and  
7 I should have said this is the result of the Independent  
8 Care Review --

9 A. Yes, I am aware of that.

10 Q. But you say at paragraph 309:

11 'The Promise will not succeed through care and  
12 aftercare.'

13 First of all, is there something missing from that  
14 sentence? Should there be another word there, perhaps?

15 A. Probably just with the throughcare and aftercare kind of  
16 remit.

17 Q. All right. Perhaps you can tell us then, what you  
18 intend by that, please.

19 A. Erm, if I can draw on an example of practice very  
20 recently.

21 Q. Please.

22 A. I was contracted to work with [REDACTED] for  
23 four years as a senior manager. I only finished that  
24 last year when I retired. I worked in a very small,  
25 rural setting, and I was never... I never, ever got



1 above 40 per cent vacancies -- or below 40 per cent  
2 vacancies for social workers. We couldn't do early  
3 intervention, we just had no space to do it. We  
4 couldn't deliver on excellent practice for teenagers  
5 coming into the care system. We contained them until  
6 they came out the other end, whatever way they came out.

7 And in this small, rural setting, in the space of  
8 eight months, four young people, who had all at one  
9 point spent time in the care system, committed suicide,  
10 who all fell between the 16 and the 18 age gap, between  
11 CAMHS and adult mental health services. And I had  
12 social work assistance holding those young people up in  
13 the weeks and the days before they died, and we were all  
14 aware that each and every one of those young people had  
15 the potential, and each and every one of them, just  
16 before or during Covid, committed suicide.

17 And two and a half years later, of being part of the  
18 Skylight Review for one of those young people, I still  
19 haven't seen a produced report for that.

20 Q. If I am understanding you correctly, 'Jessica', and  
21 forgive me for summarising very briefly, but what you  
22 are telling us is that there are problems in  
23 recruitment, in training and resources?

24 A. Yes. If I can expand a wee bit on my point for these  
25 four young people?

1 Q. Please.

2 A. All of these four young people came through the care  
3 system. All of these four young people at some point --  
4 two of the four young people experienced secure  
5 accommodation and one was a failed adoption. The  
6 throughcare services for those young people, and the  
7 whole [REDACTED] had one worker, and at one point  
8 there was 150 eligible young people through the  
9 continuum care practice entitled to a service. And that  
10 was a spot-purchase Barnardo's project. So if each  
11 Local Authority continue to have their own way to  
12 interpret the throughcare and aftercare legislation and  
13 intention for our young continued-care people, without  
14 additional resources, additional funding and additional,  
15 the most crucial, and I don't underestimate it in any  
16 way, services around mental health, we are not going to  
17 achieve, in my opinion -- and I don't want this room to  
18 believe that I am critical of The Promise without  
19 justification, I am not critical of the intention of The  
20 Promise, I am critical of how we are going to achieve  
21 it. And that's my worry.

22 Because, in the last ten years as an independent  
23 worker, I have worked across many Local Authorities, and  
24 other than the private fostering agencies and private  
25 residential units, young people are not getting any

1 better outcome leaving the care system than I was  
2 afforded 40 years ago, and that saddens me.

3 Q. Just one last thing from me, 'Jessica'. It is  
4 paragraph 310, page 58 of your statement. You say  
5 a number of things there about proactive early  
6 intervention, matching young people for the right  
7 placement, skilling foster carers, reading short:

8 'You will find pockets that are right and young  
9 people who experience good care in some Local Authority  
10 placements.'

11 You go on to say:

12 'On the whole, my experience to date is that social  
13 workers on the front line are covering the gaps where  
14 nobody else is able to.'

15 Just to ask you, should we read that as a hopeful  
16 sign, or as a sign, an indication, that social workers  
17 are, as it were, papering over the cracks?

18 A. The latter.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. And if you link that into my statement about mental  
21 health services, I think we all know in this room, you  
22 know, the crisis that CAMHS are in, and the mental  
23 health services are in, but until we -- and I have come  
24 to this Inquiry trying to keep focus on what I want this  
25 Inquiry to learn from my experience. I am 62 years of

1 age. I have a good life today. I am very blessed and  
2 I have a fantastic family. But I didn't get here  
3 accidentally, and I didn't get here through any support  
4 leaving the care system. But I am very well aware that  
5 I am in the minority, and I am very, very well aware  
6 that my counterparts, many of my counterparts, can't  
7 bring a voice to this forum, because they are not here,  
8 or they are not able to. And what I know will continue  
9 to happen is, or what I believe, maybe I don't know, but  
10 what I believe, and sadly, is that social workers are  
11 burning out quicker and I don't know what social work is  
12 going to look like in a few years time.

13 But right now, if any of my two daughters, both my  
14 daughters have gone back to further education and both  
15 are going to train as midwives, an equally difficult  
16 job, but I would be horrified if any of my five  
17 granddaughters said they wanted to become a social  
18 worker or a residential worker today, because I wouldn't  
19 want them to be part of this cycle for 30 years the way  
20 I was, and come out this jaded and feeling of  
21 hopelessness. And maybe I have that bigger than most  
22 because of my lived experiences as a looked-after child,  
23 because we are still not getting it right today.

24 Q. Just to finish on this question, then, if you can sum it  
25 up in one or two sentences, what should we be doing, as

1           you say in the last paragraph, to get it right for every  
2           child?

3    A.   I don't think we should be throwing the baby out with  
4           the bathwater, but I certainly think the bathwater needs  
5           to go and be changed.  I certainly believe, if you look  
6           at the fundamental principles of The Promise, it is  
7           ideal.  It is an absolute ideal --

8    Q.   This is the aspiration to give all children nurturing --

9    A.   Absolutely, yes.

10   Q.   -- caring, loving care?

11   A.   But if you look at my experience to now, I believe  
12           40 years ago -- it wasn't around then -- I want to be  
13           very clear when I am summing this up.  I believe that  
14           some of my care experiences were good.  I believe that  
15           some of my care experiences were poor practice down to  
16           a lack of knowledge and skills of workers at that point.  
17           I also believe that a majority of what I talked about  
18           today was down to individual abuse of me within the care  
19           system, and systems that let me down and never listened  
20           to me.

21   LADY SMITH:  And what you saw of the way other people were  
22           treated as well?

23   A.   Yes.  And I still see that today, going on.  That  
24           shouldn't be going on today.  And I was asked, when  
25           I met with the Inquiry team, if I had a magic wand what

1 would it look like? If somebody had come into my family  
2 when I was 10, or maybe 12 when my sister died, during  
3 that two years' trauma, and helped my family to  
4 understand that this might not be forever and we can  
5 help you through it, and give some support to my family,  
6 early intervention at the front door, which is reflected  
7 in The Promise, is what we will do and give families at  
8 the time of need, then I don't believe my lived  
9 experience would have been as traumatic as what I have  
10 shared with you today.

11 And I honestly believe that I am not that far away  
12 from being a service manager and local ... failing Local  
13 Authorities. The budgets are getting cut, day in day  
14 out, where we cannot do early intervention. I told you  
15 earlier, I don't know the last child in need plan  
16 I signed off as a manager. Now, we are supposed to  
17 operate a two-tier system within the front door of  
18 social work, and that is early intervention, early child  
19 in need, getting it right for every child, right  
20 services in place, and work cooperatively together to  
21 get the better outcome for this family.

22 There is no support workers, there is no family  
23 group work, there is nothing. I can't even get parenting  
24 assessments concluded. I couldn't get parenting  
25 assessments because of capacity issues. So if we don't

1 fix that front door, this lovely, beautiful ideal  
2 document, I hate to say, if I am still here in ten years  
3 time, I fear that I will read that that didn't work.

4 MR SHELDON: My Lady, I don't have any further questions.  
5 Is there anything that, my Lady, or that you, 'Jessica',  
6 would like to ask or add to what you have been telling  
7 us?

8 A. No, I just would like to thank the Inquiry for giving me  
9 my opportunity. I have spent 30 years fighting for the  
10 right of the child and I am exhausted, I am tired, I am  
11 tired of doing the same thing and getting the same  
12 results. That's not for all of the kids that I have  
13 worked with, I have got a lot of good outcomes, but more  
14 times than none it is not... it is not great.

15 But the opportunity to come here to tell my account  
16 verbally, along with my witness statement, feels like  
17 an end for me. It feels like -- I couldn't do it when  
18 I was working and I think today what I done was  
19 I brought my child's voice to the room, and thanks.

20 MR SHELDON: Well, we are very grateful to you that you did.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Jessica', thank you, thank you so much. You  
22 are right, you have brought your child's voice, but you  
23 have also brought such valuable adult reflection, and  
24 really invaluable insight into your recent experience of  
25 working in the system. I have the impression that you

1 are not satisfied that the system has changed yet the  
2 way it needs to do.

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: It is not lost on me.

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: I have noted everything you have told me today.  
7 Thank you for that.

8 A. Thank you.

9 LADY SMITH: You are free to go.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Leave it with us. I hope the rest of today is  
12 restful for you; you have earned it.

13 A. Thank you.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 In the course of 'Jessica's' evidence, a Mr BHN  
17 and a Mrs HLP were referred to, and I have to say that  
18 their identities are protected by my General Restriction  
19 Order and they mustn't be identified as people referred  
20 to in Inquiry evidence outside of this room.

21 Mr Sheldon, I will take a break just now, and we can  
22 change things over and see what the plan's going to be  
23 after that. Thank you.

24 (12.30 pm)

25 (A short break)



1 (12.38 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: I think we have a change of plan, and we are  
3 now in fact going to go on to some read-ins, is that  
4 correct?

5 MS FORBES: Yes, my Lady.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS FORBES: The first read-in, then, is an applicant who is  
8 anonymous and is known as 'Keith'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 'Keith' (read)

11 MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is

12 WIT-1-000001049.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes.

14 MS FORBES: 'Keith' was born in 1966. He talks about his  
15 life before going into care from paragraph 2 of his  
16 statement. He was born in Glasgow and brought up in  
17 Lennoxton. He initially stayed with his parents, older  
18 brother and younger sister. His family life was not  
19 great at home, as his father was a violent man and it  
20 was a regular occurrence for his mother, himself and his  
21 younger sister to be beaten by his father. Less so his  
22 brother because he thinks perhaps he was older. The  
23 police were at the house on many occasions. He was  
24 supposed to be at that time attending Lennoxton  
25 Primary, but often turned up to school with black eyes

1 and nobody questioned what was happening. He was  
2 skipping school and that gave his dad more reasons to  
3 beat him, and he was always getting the belt from  
4 teachers at school.

5 He eventually got expelled from school after being  
6 involved in a fight and then he was supposed to go to  
7 a secondary school in Kilsyth, but he rarely went there  
8 and was forever running away.

9 Because of the abuse by his father, that caused his  
10 mother to turn to drink and she became an alcoholic.  
11 She managed to leave the house and get her own place,  
12 but she wasn't able to look after him and they had to  
13 stay living with their father. He was always refusing  
14 to go to school and getting into trouble, and he was at  
15 a number of Panels and was allocated to a probation  
16 officer. It was decided by the Panel that he and his  
17 sister would be placed into care. She was sent to  
18 a home and then, after a few weeks, she was looked after  
19 by an aunt.

20 However, he was taken to Cardross Assessment Centre.  
21 He thinks he was about 13 or 14 at that time. However,  
22 my Lady, our records say that he was taken there on  
23 [REDACTED] 1980, when he was 14 years old, and that was  
24 as a place of safety.

25 He says that, when he was being taken there by his

1 probation officer, he thought he was just going out for  
2 the day, but it turned out he was being taken to  
3 Cardross; and he thought he was just going to be there  
4 for the day, but that turned into, he says, a year, and  
5 he says he was one of the longest residents at the home.

6 He then, from paragraph 10 onwards, talks about his  
7 time at Cardross.

8 He says at paragraph 12 that the man SNR  
9 the place then was GPG, and he remembers  
10 a Mr GPF, a member of staff, and a PE teacher who was  
11 nicknamed 'GPH', after the cartoon character. There  
12 was also someone called Rita, who was a member of staff  
13 and lived in a house . She was  
14 a kind person, and was the only one that was nice to him  
15 during his time there.

16 Going forward to paragraph 16 of his statement,  
17 'Keith' says that for the first few days whilst he was  
18 in Cardross, he wasn't eating, and the staff thought he  
19 was suffering from anorexia.

20 At paragraph 18 he talks about being given four  
21 cigarettes each day, and he says that he thinks that was  
22 supposed to keep them happy. And he says at  
23 paragraph 18:

24 'Any free time that I had I was just hiding  
25 somewhere on the grounds of Cardross where I would be

1 sniffing glue.'

2 He says:

3 'Sometimes we would be taken out of the home in the  
4 minibus and we would go for a drive.'

5 He talks about a German family who would come to the  
6 home and take some of them on holiday to Iona, and it  
7 would be a mix of boys and girls from the home that  
8 would get to go there for a weekend, and they would stay  
9 in a youth hostel, with the boys sleeping in separate  
10 rooms from the girls.

11 At paragraph 21, 'Keith' says that there was  
12 a school on the grounds that they were supposed to go  
13 to, but there was nothing being taught in the school and  
14 they just played on the days that he was there.

15 He says at paragraph 21:

16 'I was still having problems reading and writing and  
17 they never helped me.'

18 He goes on:

19 'The teachers were not bothered what we did so long  
20 as there was no fighting. They were just in the job for  
21 the money and never showed any care.'

22 He talks about the fact he had to see a doctor as he  
23 suffered from migraines, this is at paragraph 23, and  
24 was told that this was as a result of having fallen out  
25 of his pram as a baby and having spent nearly nine

1 months in hospital. He says he suffered from migraines  
2 until he was about 15.

3 Whilst in Cardross, 'Keith' says that they were  
4 asked to keep their room tidy and sometimes they were  
5 told to scrub the stairs; that's at paragraph 24.

6 Going forward to paragraph 27, he says:

7 'After my sister was placed into care, and when  
8 I would ask the staff if they could fix up a visit with  
9 her, they just kept blocking me.'

10 At paragraph 28, he says:

11 'There was one day when I was sitting in class in  
12 the classroom when I looked out of the window to see my  
13 brother arriving at the school. A short time later he  
14 was walking back out, obviously having been refused  
15 access to me. I asked the teacher if I could go and see  
16 him. He told me that I was not allowed as it was lesson  
17 time. I told the PE teacher, GPH, he was being  
18 unfair, as my brother had travelled all the way from  
19 Glasgow to see me and it was only ten minutes before  
20 there was a break. I then ran out of the class and  
21 joined my brother and absconded. When I eventually went  
22 back to Cardross, I was given a punch by GPH.

23 'I never had any weekend leave as I had no family  
24 that I could stay with. I spent the weekends with some  
25 others in a similar situation at the home.'

1           At paragraph 31, he says:

2           'I would run out of the home at least four or five  
3           days most weeks. I would just go back to Lennoxton and  
4           try to see my mum in her new house. Even if I saw her,  
5           I was not welcome there because of her new partner.  
6           Sometimes, if I was able to see mum, it was not long  
7           before they had phoned the police. Sometimes they  
8           caught me at the house and other times I was able to get  
9           out the door again. I can remember one time they tried  
10          to lock the doors while they waited for the police, but  
11          I smashed a window and got out that way.

12          'There was one occasion when I ran away that  
13          I stayed away for about six months. At that time there  
14          were four of us who ran away together and we slept  
15          outdoors in a tent. Some of the days I was away I was  
16          able to get into my dad's house so we could get some  
17          food. I think my dad must have followed us, as he found  
18          out where we were camped. He must have informed the  
19          police and we were taken back to the home.'

20          In relation to discipline, 'Keith' says at  
21          paragraph 33:

22          'I was getting so many punches I cannot remember  
23          what else would be classed as routine discipline. There  
24          were many days when I was being punished by being hit by  
25          staff. I know there were lots of things being written

1 about me into the daily logs, but I would doubt they  
2 entered all the punching they administered.

3 'I always had a problem with wetting the bed from  
4 a young age in my family house, and throughout my time  
5 in care. There were some nights I woke and would not be  
6 wearing any pyjama bottoms, even on nights I had not wet  
7 the bed. I must have been up during the night but  
8 I can't remember doing that. I think the staff were  
9 also carrying out checks during the night for people who  
10 suffered this problem.

11 'This went on until I was about 16. At the home  
12 I had to change the sheets on my bed. The staff never  
13 did anything to me like shouting or hitting me. This  
14 was different from my own house, where my father would  
15 hang the sheets out the window so all my friends were  
16 aware that I had wet the bed.

17 'Mr GPF, the staff member, would call me "piss the  
18 bed" at any opportunity he could. He would also  
19 encourage some of the other kids in the home to call me  
20 names for wetting the bed.'

21 'Keith' then talks about abuse at Cardross from  
22 paragraph 37, and says:

23 'GPH, the PE teacher, was not the only person who  
24 hit me. Mr GPG, SNR, would also punch  
25 me to the head for doing something wrong in his eyes.

1 'Whenever he or any teacher hit me I would tell them to  
2 bring it on, as I was used to being punched by my father  
3 and they could not hurt me like he did. Mr GPG  
4 would usually pick places like my arms or stomach to hit  
5 me, as well as the head. They were all places that  
6 never showed any bruising visible to anyone else.

7 'Along with those two staff there was also Mr GPF ,  
8 member of staff. If he thought you did anything wrong  
9 then he would also slap you on the side of the head.

10 'There was never anyone that I was aware of that  
11 I could report anything to. I did not even recognise it  
12 as abuse at that time, as it was something I was used to  
13 happening from my own house.

14 'One day I was told that my probation officer was  
15 coming to the home as I was being moved to another  
16 placement. I asked why I was leaving and the only thing  
17 they would tell me was that I could not stay at Cardross  
18 forever. I asked if I could go and stay with my mum,  
19 but I was told that was not an option.'

20 He then says he was taken by his probation officer  
21 to an Adolescent Centre, and he talks about that from  
22 paragraph 41 of his statement, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

23 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
24

25 He then talks about the build-up to him leaving the



1 Adolescent Centre being spread over a period of about  
2 four or five months, and that he was taught some life  
3 skills that he needed for after care.

4 'Keith' then talks about his life after being in  
5 care from paragraph 70, and he says that when he left  
6 the care system he moved in with his mum and her new  
7 German husband, but that didn't last long as he didn't  
8 like him, and he was kicked out the house and ended up  
9 on the street and homeless. He ended up getting into  
10 drugs and becoming addicted to heroin. He lived on the  
11 streets for the next seven years and says, as a result  
12 of his drug addiction, he ended up in many prisons in  
13 Scotland and England, and he names those prisons.

14 He ended up living on the streets in London before  
15 heading back to Scotland, and it was then he was given  
16 help from the Simon Community, who help people living on  
17 the streets. A girl who was working with them one day  
18 said she was going home to Northern Ireland, and asked  
19 if he wanted to come with her, and she helped him get  
20 a flat over there.

21 He then got in contact with a doctor, and he was put  
22 on a rehabilitation programme and prescribed methadone  
23 to get off heroin, and then he says that was successful,  
24 and other than about, he says, one lapse about a year  
25 ago before giving this statement, it is a long time, he

1       says, since he has been in trouble.

2             He says that he was living in Ireland when his mum  
3       passed away and he wasn't told the news until four days  
4       after her funeral, and he then went back and placed some  
5       flowers on her grave. And his dad died about ten years  
6       after his mother. He attended the funeral, and when he  
7       was there at the service they made mention of his dad's  
8       new family, but no mention of him, his brother or his  
9       sister.

10            He says that he has his own children over in  
11       Northern Ireland and although he no longer lives with  
12       their mother, he still sees her. He hasn't told his  
13       children about any of the abuse he suffered. He did go  
14       back to Cardross, he says that at paragraph 80, to see  
15       what it was like now. When he arrived he saw that it  
16       had been knocked down and replaced with new houses.

17            He talks about impact from paragraph 81, and he  
18       says:

19            'Whenever someone is near me and they move too  
20       quickly, I still flinch, fearing it will be like I was  
21       in Cardross, and get punched.'

22            He says that the memories of the abuse that he  
23       suffered do keep him up at night sometimes.

24            At paragraph 83, he says that he has not had any  
25       relationship with his brother or sister since leaving

1 care.

2 At paragraph 84, he says:

3 'I do think that my time in Cardross affected any  
4 relationship I had with my siblings. Beforehand I had  
5 a relationship, although it had some problems they were  
6 always there, but after the social work were involved  
7 there was nothing. Even if I send a Christmas card it  
8 would be sent back asking not to get in touch.'

9 He says at paragraph 85:

10 'My education from my home life and during my time  
11 in care was non-existent.'

12 He thinks that he only spent about two weeks in  
13 total in school. He says that it was his gran who  
14 taught him how to read and write, and that he wants to  
15 go back to college to try and improve his education, and  
16 has ambitions to be involved in astrophysics, but is  
17 concerned that his writing will let him down.

18 He says that he did get the drug treatment in  
19 Northern Ireland, but he has never had any counselling  
20 for his life with his family or his life in care.

21 At paragraph 88 he says:

22 'The end of my story is turning out good and that is  
23 what is most important.'

24 In relation to reporting of abuse, at paragraph 90,  
25 he says:

1           'There was one weekend when I was home from Cardross  
2           and my grandfather saw that I had a black eye. He  
3           reported this to the police, but nothing ever happened.  
4           Cardross were spoken to, but they just claimed that  
5           I had been fighting with other boys.'

6           In relation to lessons to be learned, at  
7           paragraph 92, he says:

8           'I think we should make sure that staff are better  
9           trained to look after children. They must have empathy  
10          for the young people they are looking after. They  
11          should also take time to find out all the background for  
12          the children ending up in care.'

13          At paragraph 93, he says:

14          'I hope people can come to the Inquiry and get all  
15          the bad thoughts out of their head. Hopefully by coming  
16          forward it will encourage others to do the same and they  
17          might get some relief from it.'

18          Then he has made the usual declaration and signed  
19          that, and it is dated, I think that's 3 August 2022.

20   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

21   MS FORBES: I am not sure if you want to start one and stop?

22   LADY SMITH: We could rise now for the lunch break and then  
23          sit again at 2.00 pm, I think, and go on to the next  
24          read-in after that.

25          Thank you very much.

1 (12.54 pm)

2 (The luncheon adjournment)

3 (2.00 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Just while you are getting organised,  
5 Mr Sheldon. Names from earlier on: GPG  
6 Mr GPF and GPH were all mentioned in the last  
7 read-in, and these are people whose identities are  
8 protected by my General Restriction Order, so they  
9 mustn't be identified as people who provided evidence to  
10 the Inquiry outside this room.

11 Now, Mr Sheldon.

12 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, continuing with read-ins this  
13 afternoon. This is the statement of an applicant who is  
14 anonymous and she is known as 'Tia'.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 'Tia' (read)

17 MR SHELDON: The statement reference is WIT-1-000000740.

18 My Lady, 'Tia' was born in Glasgow in 1962. She  
19 appears to have had a difficult childhood and was placed  
20 in Quarriers at the age of five or six, and she reports  
21 some sexual and physical abuse there. She says this was  
22 cottage 13.

23 She was then placed in Lendrick Muir School in  
24 Kinross Secondary Institutions - to be published later

25 If we then turn to page 28, 'Tia' tells us that she

1 was put into Cardross because she was running away all  
2 the time. This would have been about 1975 on the  
3 chronology that she gives. She recalls that she was  
4 taken to a Hearing, this is paragraph 117, and the Panel  
5 decided that she should be sent to Cardross.

6 Her awareness at that time of why she was being sent  
7 there was because she wouldn't do what she was told, and  
8 'I wouldn't stay put and because I kept running away'.

9 She says she didn't have any say or have a chance to  
10 speak during the Hearing:

11 'If I had been asked to speak [she says] I wouldn't  
12 have, because there wouldn't have been any point in  
13 doing so. I knew the minute I walked into that room  
14 they were going to send me somewhere horrible. I can't  
15 remember who took me to Cardross after the Hearing, but  
16 that is what happened next.'

17 So yes, she says, my Lady:

18 'I was placed in Cardross when I was 13. It was some  
19 time in the lead up to my birthday, so that would have  
20 been [REDACTED] 1975. I was in Cardross something like  
21 between four and six weeks.'

22 After that she returned to Lendrick Muir School.

23 She says in paragraph 119:

24 'I think Cardross was either a borstal or a List D  
25 School. It was a secure place with locks on all the

1 windows. All the rooms were locked at night. They took  
2 away my shoes and locked all of the windows. It was  
3 a very difficult place to escape from. Cardross really  
4 was a hell hole. Out of all the places I have been in,  
5 and all the awful things that happened, it was the place  
6 that I hated the most.

7 'As you went in there was a staircase. I remember  
8 that on the staircase they had a mynah bird in a cage.  
9 To the left hand side of the staircase on the ground  
10 floor was a day room, where they kept you all day every  
11 day. The day room had bevelled windows with locks on  
12 them. You couldn't open them up. To the other side of  
13 the staircase were bathrooms, a dining room and a cell,  
14 which they called "the cooler".

15 'The cooler, that connected to the dining room, had  
16 two doors which could be locked. Inside it was a bench  
17 made of stainless steel and not much else.'

18 In paragraph 121, taking that short, she says that  
19 there was a sort of nurse's station area, where staff  
20 sat at night. They kept all of the plastic sandals the  
21 children had to wear on shelves behind the desk. She  
22 then goes on to describe more of the layout.

23 Paragraph 123, she says Mr KCZ was SNR  
24 Cardross. He had white hair. He was tall, thin and  
25 wore black slacks, a white shirt and a black tie.'

1           Taking it short:

2           'Other than that, I can't describe the way that he  
3 looked. You didn't tend to see him that much around the  
4 place. The only time you saw him was when you were not  
5 conforming. There were several other female members of  
6 staff. There were quite a few of them but I couldn't  
7 say how many. I don't remember any of their names.  
8 They worked in shifts and there was always one of them  
9 there in the building.

10           'As far as I was aware there were only girls there  
11 during my time. I've never really thought that there  
12 could have been boys in another part of the building.  
13 There were probably about 12 or 13 girls, including  
14 myself. That was how many children I could see in the  
15 day room I was kept in during the day.'

16           She names a particular girl who she knew.

17           She then goes on to describe more about the daily  
18 routine. She says that every day you would get up after  
19 a staff member 'banged your door':

20           'You would then get washed and dressed and into your  
21 clothes and plastic sandals.'

22           Reading short, to paragraph 127:

23           'During the day we were in the day room. While  
24 I was there we were never anywhere else other than the  
25 day room and the dining room and weren't allowed out.



1           There could have been another part of the building where  
2           children were allowed out but I never saw that. In the  
3           evenings we were sent back up to our bedrooms.

4           'The bedroom I was in had three or four metal beds  
5           in it. In between each bedroom was a shared toilet with  
6           connecting doors. You could go between bedrooms by  
7           going through the toilets connected to each one.

8           'I remember us all having meal times in the dining  
9           room and sitting at tables, but I can't really remember  
10          what the food was like. I think that was because  
11          I didn't really eat whilst I was in there. Towards the  
12          end of my time there I went on a hunger strike.  
13          I didn't eat anything in over a week. I did that  
14          because I was getting battered by all of the other  
15          girls. The staff didn't care when I did that.'

16          Reading short to paragraph 131, and taking that  
17          short, she describes what they were provided with by way  
18          of clothes, but says that:

19          'They put hard plastic sandals on your feet. They  
20          were similar to what you would call "jellies" now.  
21          Looking back, I do wonder whether they were used so that  
22          children who escaped could be easily spotted by people  
23          looking for them. I don't think anyone had any  
24          possessions. The only things that people had were  
25          cigarettes.'

1           At paragraph 133:

2           'I wasn't given any kind of schooling while I was in  
3 there. I wasn't aware of any of the girls receiving any  
4 schooling.

5           'if you were over 14 you were allowed to smoke.  
6 There was nothing to do whilst we were in the day room.  
7 We just sat around in our plastic sandals and talked  
8 amongst ourselves. There was nothing provided for us.  
9 There were no games or anything like that. If there was  
10 anything like that it could be that I don't remember  
11 them, because I wasn't allowed to participate with the  
12 other girls.

13           'I can't remember whether I was there over Christmas  
14 or when I had a birthday. I never saw anything like  
15 anybody's birthday being celebrated.'

16           At paragraph 136, she says:

17           'Cardross was very different when there were  
18 visitors around. You were given a little bit more  
19 freedom when that happened. They took off the plastic  
20 sandals you were made to wear.

21           'When my mother visited we met in a room upstairs at  
22 the very top of the building. I remember sitting there,  
23 talking with her and her saying things like, "This won't  
24 last long" and so on. At that time I was very angry  
25 with her.'

1           Reading short to paragraph 138, she says:

2           'I don't remember anyone ever coming to Cardross to  
3 inspect the place.'

4           She says that while she was in Cardross she  
5 continued to try to run away and describes a number of  
6 escape attempts. There were two occasions when she  
7 tried to run away, the second time more successfully  
8 than the first. At paragraph 141, she goes on to  
9 consider abuse at Cardross Park. She says:

10          'The abuse in Cardross was more physical. The  
11 physical abuse they used in there broke children down  
12 and made them conform. If you didn't conform then you  
13 were punished further. The place was just a total hell  
14 hole. If staff treated children the way I was treated  
15 there now they would all end up in jail. It wouldn't  
16 just be a month here and there, they would be in jail  
17 for a very long time.'

18          She says:

19          'The staff used other girls to control you if you  
20 weren't conforming. It was almost as if they had a set  
21 thing where if you didn't conform to the staff then the  
22 other children would be used to make you conform.  
23 I also wonder what having to do that to the others has  
24 done to the ones that used to do it. The staff would  
25 tip the wink to the other girls if you misbehaved and

1 then those girls would batter you. There is nothing  
2 that will convince me that that wasn't otherwise. It  
3 all manifested itself because of the way the staff were.  
4 It was like a control system that they had in place.

5 'I remember being told in the day room by the other  
6 children, "Just wait until we get you into your room at  
7 night". They would come in through the toilet into my  
8 room, tie me down to my bed and muffle me. It was  
9 either scraps of material or sheets that the girls used  
10 to tie me down. They would then kick me, hit me, pull  
11 my hair and scratch me. It was the whole lot.

12 I remember the girls saying to me whilst they did that  
13 that things would get worse if I continued to cause  
14 trouble. That went on for a while before one day, when  
15 I was attacked in the day room, I fought back. After  
16 that things got even worse. It was always the way that  
17 if you hit back and responded it just got worse.'

18 She talks about a particular girl who she says was  
19 one of the ring leaders, and says that she was just  
20 nasty:

21 'I remember that for some of those girls who were  
22 involved it was almost as if they didn't want to do it.  
23 I think that they did it because it was "better her than  
24 me". Looking back at the way the girls acted in  
25 Cardross it wasn't normal child behaviour. It was

2  
3 She says that sort of thing happened in all the  
4 places that she had been in, apart from one.

5 At paragraph 145 she says:

6 'There were two other girls who were treated in  
7 a similar fashion to me. I remember they learnt to suck  
8 up to the girls who did that and joined in when they  
9 beat me up. The only reason they did that was so that  
10 what was happening to me wasn't happening to them. It  
11 was almost like a system. When a new child came in, the  
12 last one would stop being picked on because that new  
13 child was there. The staff probably did hear what was  
14 going on outside of the room when the girls attacked me.  
15 Even though I was muffled, I was grunting and making  
16 noise. If the staff didn't hear those assaults taking  
17 place then they would have known about them anyway  
18 because they were the ones who put the girls up to it.'

19 She goes on to say:

20 'Mr KCZ was the only one, as far as the staff were  
21 concerned, who was physical. He was evil. When the use  
22 of the other children to make you conform didn't work,  
23 the staff would use a room they called "the cooler".  
24 Children would be taken into that room and beaten up by  
25 Mr KCZ with a stick. He liked to hit children with

1 his stick. It could have been a cane. All I remember  
2 was it being a big long stick. He was very good with  
3 that.

4 'I was beaten by Mr KCZ a few weeks into my time  
5 there. That was the only occasion that happened.  
6 I can't really remember why he beat me. I think that  
7 I had tried to run away. I was taken into the cooler  
8 and both doors were locked. Mr KCZ then came in and  
9 beat the shit out of me with his stick. He hit me  
10 everywhere. The look in that man's eyes when he was  
11 hitting me was horrible. It was as if there was no soul  
12 there. It was like looking into an empty vessel. It was  
13 like looking into someone and there was nothing there.  
14 He didn't look as if he enjoyed what he was doing. It  
15 was more that he looked like he was doing it, and that  
16 was it. After that the other girls were told to beat  
17 the shit out of me because I had been trying to get out.  
18 I remember having plastic sandals on my feet, being  
19 locked in my bedroom and other girls doing that. Out of  
20 all the people who have done things to me, Mr KCZ is  
21 the one who troubles me the most. He should never have  
22 been in a position where he was in control of children.  
23 Someone who could batter a child with no look of "sorry  
24 I am doing this" should never be around children. He  
25 just did it because he could. What he did to me was

1           horrible and he got away with it.

2           'He had no right to lock me in a room then batter  
3           the living shit out of me. He was an adult and I was a  
4           child. He is probably dead now, but if he is alive  
5           I would like him to pay for what he did.'

6           She says that during her mother's visit to her, she  
7           told her mother how she was being treated, told her  
8           everything that was happening, but her mother didn't  
9           believe her because that 'didn't fit into her own little  
10          world'. Reading short her mother would:

11          '... just change the subject when I told her what  
12          was actually happening.'

13          She says that after Mr KCZ had battered her, she  
14          ran away and, on this occasion, she did make it home and  
15          took an overdose and was taken by the police to  
16          hospital to have her stomach pumped. She says that she  
17          stayed in hospital for a few days and, reading short to  
18          paragraph 155, referring to staff looking after her in  
19          hospital, she says even after they saw the bruises, of  
20          what had happened to her in Cardross, she was still  
21          taken back to Cardross.

22          She says:

23          'I remember begging not to go back there, but I was  
24          still sent back. I was then at Cardross for a further  
25          two or three days. During this time I think there was

1 another Panel hearing without me in attendance.'

2 And the decision was taken to place her back in  
3 Lendrick Muir.

4 So she is in Lendrick Muir for a further period and,  
5 if we then turn to page 49, she says that after -- I am  
6 sorry, she was also in The Crichton Royal after her  
7 placement at Lendrick Muir and, on release from there,  
8 paragraph 200, she went back to stay with her mother and  
9 was placed in mainstream schooling again, but I think,  
10 taking matters short, things didn't go well. She said  
11 that she had been changed by her experiences in care  
12 and, paragraph 202, didn't leave her high school with  
13 any qualifications.

14 She says:

15 'The minute I could leave, I left.'

16 And it was clear that her mother's behaviour was  
17 also causing serious difficulties at that time.

18 She left home, and got a job in a hotel. It  
19 appears, my Lady, that she then had a succession of  
20 abusive relationships, and goes on to talk about the  
21 impact on her of her experiences, at page 52. In  
22 particular, she says that she had been bright and  
23 talented, but simply wasn't able to get the education  
24 which she feels she should have done.

25 Paragraph 213, she says:



1           'I got to a stage in my childhood where I just  
2           didn't trust anyone. I did like people, but I didn't  
3           trust a word that came out of their mouths. That made  
4           it quite hard for me to build up relationships. I am no  
5           longer married because I am not in a fit state to be  
6           anyone's wife.'

7           If we go to paragraph 224, she says now that she has  
8           had children. She says they have mostly had good lives  
9           and are thriving, and says:

10          'My life now is good. I have various illnesses, and  
11          am in pain most of the time, but other than that I am  
12          happy. I am probably happier now than I have been in my  
13          entire life. It has taken me 59 years to get there.  
14          I feel safe because I now know that what happened to me  
15          has made me who I am and I like me. I know that I am  
16          nice and will do a good turn before a bad turn. At the  
17          end of the day, that is all that matters.'

18          My Lady, she has signed the statement and made the  
19          usual declaration.

20   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21   MR SHELDON: Ms Forbes has another read-in, my Lady.

22   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23          Ms Forbes.

24   MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
25          who is anonymous and is known as 'Paul', and the

1 reference for his statement is WIT.001.001.4014.

2 'Paul' (read)

3 MS FORBES: 'Paul' tells us he was born in 1963, and talks  
4 about his background before going into care, from  
5 paragraph 2 onwards.

6 He says he lived with his mother in Duntocher before  
7 he went into care, and his father left when he was very  
8 young. He then gives some details about other children  
9 that his mother had, who sadly passed away, but there is  
10 one particular brother that he was with in his time in  
11 care that he talks about later. He says there was  
12 a time when he was in about five different homes over  
13 a four-year period, and he is confused about what age he  
14 was in the different places. He can only remember bits  
15 and pieces. He was in Nazareth House for short periods  
16 of time.

17 He says his younger brother and him were always  
18 together, right through their time in care, and he was  
19 two years younger than him. He says that he thinks he  
20 was in primary three, from the things he was told by  
21 someone else, a cousin, later in life, when he first  
22 went into care.

23 He then tells us about being in Nazareth House from  
24 paragraph 7, and that part of his evidence was read in  
25 to the Inquiry on 29 May 2018. That was Day 61.

1 He says that he was in there a couple of times, he  
2 doesn't know what age, and for maybe a month or a couple  
3 of months before being returned to his mother, and he  
4 talks about physical abuse whilst there.

5 He then says that he came to be in a children's home  
6 again with his brother, and he talks about that from  
7 paragraph 12 onwards. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

9  
10

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12 him and his brother being put into  
13 Cardross Assessment Centre, and he says he was in that  
14 children's home, he thinks, for about two years.

15 He then talks about Cardross from paragraph 26, and  
16 there is a part that's redacted out, but he comments at  
17 paragraph 27 that he and his brother had gone into homes  
18 for care and protection reasons. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 He tells us a little bit about Cardross  
22 and the number of boys there. He says at paragraph 29  
23 that the man in charge was big and baldy.

24 At paragraph 30, he says:

25 'I think I was in Cardross for two years. It was  
two years of hell. It was a frightening, disgusting,  
horrific place. What an awakening it was. Secondary Institut

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2 Secondary Institutions - to be publis

3 And he says:

4 'I went [REDACTED] to total violence overnight.'

5 He says:

6 'There was no schooling in Cardross. We were forced  
7 to sit in front of a TV for ten hours a day. There were  
8 no activities arranged for us.'

9 At paragraph 32, he says he thinks he was about 11  
10 when he went to Cardross. Sometimes they were taken for  
11 a walk in single file around the grounds or down to the  
12 golf course, and then 'Paul' explains that after being  
13 there for a certain amount of time you received  
14 privileges, such as being allowed out to the shops on  
15 a Saturday to buy sweets for people.

16 He then says at paragraph 35 that a lot of boys ran  
17 away. They used to crash through the windows and run  
18 off.

19 At one point, he says:

20 'When I was what you would call a privileged boy  
21 they used to get me to run after them and bring them  
22 back. I was made to do it because I was faster.'

23 Then he talks about remembering one boy running off  
24 after throwing a big piece of furniture through  
25 a window. He says that he then ran away once with his

1 brother and another boy, and says that they broke into  
2 a boat behind someone's house and the police came and  
3 took them back.

4 This is at paragraph 36, he says:

5 'We were all caned across the butt when we got back.  
6 We were forced to do labour at times. It was something  
7 to do. I was made to sand down and paint two ploughs on  
8 the premises. The guy who made me do it later abused  
9 me. The building is still there but the site has been  
10 developed. A picture of the place with the two ploughs  
11 in front of it was on the internet. I objected to it  
12 and the NSPCC got the picture taken off the website.'

13 'Paul' then talks about physical abuse and says:

14 'I got caned on one occasion for stealing 50 pence  
15 from my mother's purse. It wasn't just the one staff  
16 member who hit us, they all had a go at us, and they  
17 weren't kidding either. We were brutalised. It was  
18 shocking. You had to learn to stick up for yourself or  
19 you would get bullied. That's something I learned early  
20 in life and it has stuck with me throughout my life.  
21 The place was full of boys who had problems. They  
22 baited you. If you had an argument or a falling out  
23 with another boy, the staff would put out four benches  
24 to create an area for us to have bare-knuckle fights  
25 with each other. That's how you dealt with your

1 problems. The staff forced us to fight and watched us.  
2 I went in there a quiet wee boy and before I knew it  
3 I was fighting every day.'

4 'Paul' then talks about sexual abuse from  
5 paragraph 41:

6 'The guy who made me paint the ploughs was one of  
7 the carers. I don't remember his name. I think he was  
8 already working there when I first arrived. He lived  
9 off-site but sometimes stayed overnight, like a kind of  
10 night watchman. I don't think he stayed up all night,  
11 I think he had a bed there. The kids used to run about  
12 the dormitory at night and then jump into bed when they  
13 heard someone coming. He would come into the dormitory,  
14 lift the covers, feel people's feet and say, "Your feet  
15 are cold, you have been running about". He used that as  
16 an excuse to touch their feet. That's how it started.  
17 I could see that happening around about me. It was  
18 frightening watching it happening.'

19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
20

21 'I was really worried about his behaviour. I kept  
22 thinking "who's next?". Sometimes he would take a boy  
23 out of the room and you would think he is getting into  
24 trouble.

25 'He used to take boys back to his house at weekends.

1 I don't think they were forced to go. The alternative  
2 was to sit in a room and watch the telly for ten hours.'

3 He says that he and his brother never went.

4 He goes on:

5 'I made that decision for both of us. I knew there  
6 was something wrong. You get to a certain age and you  
7 have more experience of certain aspects of life than  
8 other boys. I didn't know the word "paedophile" then,  
9 but he had a look about him. I don't know what happened  
10 to the boys at his house. One night in the dormitory,  
11 I woke up and he was touching me on the groin. He put  
12 one of his fingers in between my bum cheeks and touched  
13 my penis. I think he got a fright when I woke up. He  
14 said, "You have been running about, you have wet the  
15 bed, get up". That was his excuse. I was protesting  
16 and shouting that I wasn't a bed wetter, and he got me  
17 up, stripped me, and put me in a bath with cold water  
18 and ice. The next day, I reported what he had done to  
19 me to the man who was in charge at the time, and  
20 I remember a couple of staff saying to me "you better be  
21 telling the truth". The police came up and questioned  
22 me. I was totally ostracised by everybody in the whole  
23 place after it. Nobody was allowed to speak to me,  
24 including the staff. I remember it clearly. I was put  
25 into a separate room for five days, away from all the

1 other children. They shaved my hair and gave me a mynah  
2 bird to look after. I stayed in the room all day, and  
3 slept there. They found the man hanging in his house  
4 the day after I reported it. There were no other  
5 discussions about it after that. The guy took his own  
6 life because I reported him for being abusive. Where is  
7 the closure in that for me? I have had to live with  
8 that my whole life. I spoke to the NSPCC about it  
9 a couple of years ago, and they asked me for  
10 a description of him. That was easy. He looked like  
11 Father Christmas. He had a white beard, white hair and  
12 was a big, fat man. I have sometimes thought: was it  
13 just me? All those boys went back to his house and  
14 nobody said to me at the time that what I did was right  
15 and that I stopped him from doing it to other people.  
16 Only one person has ever said that to me in my life [and  
17 he names him]. He was a sort of mentor I had from  
18 an organisation called Carr Gomm. I think it must have  
19 been happening big style to other children, given he  
20 approached me. That's the way I look at it. All my  
21 life I have had to think of it that way, that I did stop  
22 it being done to other boys, although, even if I do  
23 think that I saved people, a man still took his own  
24 life, and that's a very hard thing to live with,  
25 especially when you are a child and you have been



1 alienated and ostracised.'

2 After the five days, he says he and his brother got  
3 moved to St Ninian's, and he goes on to talk about  
4 St Ninian's in Falkland from paragraph 49, and he says  
5 that he loved it there. He comments:

6 'What a time we had. It was excellent.'

7 He says he thinks he was there for about  
8 three years. He does say there was physical abuse  
9 whilst he was at St Ninian's, but he says that was  
10 nothing. They were used to getting beat up in the last  
11 place they were in. They only battered him, and that  
12 was nothing to him.

13 He then says that his mum took them out of  
14 St Ninian's when he was about 14 or 15, and he didn't  
15 get to sit his exams. And then, after that, he was in  
16 foster care. He talks about that from paragraph 54. He  
17 says he and his brother lived with foster parents and  
18 visited their mum at the weekend. He doesn't think they  
19 were formally fostered but they were like foster  
20 parents, and he says that life there was fine.

21 He talks about an incident at school with a PE  
22 teacher, and that resulted in him not going back to  
23 school after that. He didn't report what had happened  
24 with the PE teacher and he says he didn't think it was  
25 a big thing, but he thinks that that person was later

1 prosecuted for similar things.

2 He then talks about his contact with Social Services  
3 from paragraph 60. He talks about the fact that his  
4 mother had a social worker, who he was under the  
5 impression was in a relationship with his mother at one  
6 point. He says at paragraph 63:

7 'The only time I remember seeing any social workers  
8 in Cardross was at the end, when the guy killed himself.  
9 I remember social workers and the police came. I don't  
10 know who the social workers were.'

11 Then he talks at paragraph 64 about a particular  
12 social worker called James Dean, who was the major  
13 social worker in his life, who was brilliant and kept  
14 him on the straight and narrow, and comments that he  
15 might be dead if it were not for him. He says that he  
16 is now one of the top men in East Dunbartonshire  
17 Council.

18 He says that he thinks he was still involved in his  
19 life when he married his first wife, when he was  
20 23 years old.

21 Then he talks about life after being in institutions  
22 from paragraph 66, and says he went back to live with  
23 his mother full time when he turned 16, and his brother  
24 came back too, but his mother couldn't control them and  
25 they ran about the streets. He says they were nutcases,

1 doing whatever they wanted, and he and his brother had  
2 a bad reputation for fighting back then.

3 He says he has been married twice and his first wife  
4 left him with their three kids, and he says that they  
5 are all in their 20s now. He says he has told his wives  
6 about what happened to him in the homes before he got  
7 married. He has lived abroad in America and Australia,  
8 and he tells us a little bit about that life, and then  
9 he says he came back to Scotland, and after that was in  
10 a homeless unit, which was one of the worst environments  
11 he says you can get. He says it was horrific.

12 In relation to impact, from paragraph 71 he says  
13 that being taken out of the children's home and put into  
14 Cardross:

15 '... changed my whole life big style. For most of  
16 my life I had been a tough guy who batters people. If  
17 a guy hit me, I would hit him back as hard, fast and as  
18 much as I could. I was never scared. I am not proud of  
19 it. It is a result of my upbringing. I associate it  
20 100 per cent with Cardross. They brutalised us and made  
21 us fight each other to settle issues, which we were  
22 indoctrinated. No wonder I ended up good at fighting.  
23 I am not like that now. I haven't been like that since  
24 I was in the homeless unit. I battered two guys who  
25 attacked me in there.'

1           He says that he has mental health issues but hasn't  
2           been diagnosed. He said he's suffered lots of injuries  
3           playing rugby, and said that during that time he  
4           actually enjoyed hurting people with the ball and  
5           hurting himself doing it.

6           He says, in relation to his children and  
7           grandchildren, that he is overprotective and always will  
8           be.

9           He says in relation to treatment and support, from  
10          paragraph 76, that he has seen several psychiatrists and  
11          psychologists, but never had any treatment that's  
12          helped. He comments, at paragraph 78, about  
13          a psychiatrist from the hospital sending him a letter in  
14          connection with his treatment, but it ended up going to  
15          the wrong house and someone opened it, and it had a line  
16          or something in there that said along the lines of "if  
17          you have been abused or been an abuser", and since that  
18          he has had trouble with neighbours, and somebody stopped  
19          him in the local shop and asked him if he was  
20          a paedophile. He has also had the word 'Beast' sprayed  
21          on his window, which he has reported to the police.

22          He comments:

23          'I was so glad to see the mail from the Inquiry  
24          being delivered to me by recorded delivery. Really  
25          sensitive information should never be sent by ordinary

1 post.'

2 He goes on, over the next page, to say:

3 'I had serious doubts about speaking to the Inquiry  
4 because of what happened when I spoke to the  
5 psychiatrist, and the NSPCC.'

6 He then talks about his current life, from  
7 paragraph 81, and says that he has been in his house for  
8 four years but is hoping to get a move because of his  
9 problems with neighbours. He said he used to work as  
10 a computer programmer and studied for an HND in  
11 computing, but says he is not fit enough to work now and  
12 can hardly walk at times. He is paying the price for  
13 the way he played rugby, and needs a stick to walk. He  
14 spends a lot of time on his own and rarely leaves the  
15 house, but his daughter brings his grandson to the house  
16 so he can spend time with him.

17 In paragraph 87, he says that suicide is a thing he  
18 deals with every day and there are pluses that stop him,  
19 like his grandson being the main one.

20 He says he reported abuse, at paragraph 88, to the  
21 police at Kirkintilloch Police Station about two years  
22 ago, and he told them what happened to him **Secondary Institutions -**  
23 **Secondary Institutions - to be put** at Cardross, but he comments that he  
24 doesn't think they are taking it seriously.

25 Then he says, at paragraph 96, he doesn't know if he

1 will go back to the police about the abuse.

2 Then he makes the usual declaration at paragraph 98,  
3 and he's signed that, and it is dated, I am not sure if  
4 that's 19 February 2017.

5 LADY SMITH: Yes, or 1st.

6 MS FORBES: Or 1st, it might be, my Lady, 1 February 2017.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS FORBES: My Lady, Mr Sheldon --

9 LADY SMITH: Mr Sheldon, thanks.

10 MR SHELDON: Yes, my Lady, this is the statement of another  
11 applicant who wishes to be anonymous. She is known as  
12 'Sara'.

13 'Sara' (read)

14 MR SHELDON: The witness statement reference is  
15 WIT-1-000000815.

16 'Sara' was born in 1967. She was placed into care  
17 at a very young age, and doesn't really remember  
18 anything of her very early life. She reports she stayed  
19 in cottage 15 in Quarriers, and reports force feeding,  
20 rough treatment and outright physical abuse, as well as  
21 sexual and emotional abuse.

22 She was then in foster care for a time, and reports  
23 some physical abuse, and says that she then returned to  
24 Quarriers, she thinks in about 1978, but was again  
25 physically abused, and says that she was raped by

1 a non-staff-member.

2 She ran away, and seems then to have been moved to  
3 another children's home at Overbridge in Pollokshields,  
4 and things were difficult there as well, and she ran  
5 away.

6 At page 20, she says that, having run away, she was  
7 taken by car straight away to Cardross by the Emergency  
8 Social Work Department. She doesn't describe any Hearing  
9 at that stage.

10 At paragraph 101, she starts to give her account of  
11 her time at Cardross. The records indicate, my Lady,  
12 that she was certainly there in [REDACTED] 1982 --

13 LADY SMITH: Okay.

14 MR SHELDON: -- [REDACTED] before her 15th birthday. It is not  
15 clear from the records, though, what the span of time  
16 was that she was there, so 1981/1982.

17 LADY SMITH: She thought it was 11 months.

18 MR SHELDON: Yes. Yes, I'm sorry, I meant the precise  
19 dates --

20 LADY SMITH: Yes, I see, right.

21 MR SHELDON: -- but my Lady's quite right, that she thinks  
22 it was an 11-month period.

23 She describes Cardross, paragraph 101.

24 She says, paragraph 102, that there were around 16  
25 children in her section who ranged in age from 11 to 14

1 or 15. There were two staff members for each unit. She  
2 says there were three separate living areas within each  
3 section, each with four bedrooms:

4 'We didn't really associate with the other two units  
5 within our section, although if we behaved we were  
6 allowed to sit together.'

7 Reading short to paragraph 103, she says:

8 'I had my own bedroom. It had a bed, a built-in  
9 wardrobe and a set of drawers. I had posters all over  
10 my walls. You were allowed to shut the door and were  
11 allowed into your room during the day.'

12 She says that the man SNR was called GPG:

13 'Rita Morland was a key worker and was in the unit  
14 across from me.'

15 She also says there were staff members called GPF  
16 and one called Margaret Brydon:

17 'I was supposed to be there for three weeks [she  
18 says], but I was there for 11 months. I had high hopes  
19 when I went there, but nothing changed. Nobody made  
20 a decision about my life. Meetings took place but there  
21 were no decisions made. Cardross was very strict, and  
22 I hadn't done anything wrong. Other children's families  
23 gave the Assessment Centre money for them to get  
24 cigarettes, and I think the Social Work Department gave  
25 them money for mine. If you had behaved, you got



1 a cigarette after breakfast.'

2 She says that you also could have one at lunchtime  
3 and again at tea time.

4 She describes the routine from paragraph 107, and  
5 says:

6 'I was taken there by the out-of-hours Social Work  
7 Department and arrived late at night, when everybody was  
8 sleeping, so I was put into a small room. There was  
9 a member of night staff on duty. They asked me if  
10 I wanted something to eat and they gave me a piece of  
11 bread and jam and a drink. You got up in the morning at  
12 7 am and went into the sitting room in your unit, just  
13 outside your bedroom. Everybody then went down for  
14 breakfast, then back up to the unit. Lights were put  
15 out at 9 pm. The unit was locked at night and somebody  
16 sat outside the bedroom door.'

17 She said that after being in Quarriers she had a lot  
18 of problems with eating and she had special things made  
19 for her, and although they encouraged her to eat, they  
20 didn't force her. She says that you could have a bath  
21 as often as you wanted and could shut the door and  
22 nobody was allowed in.

23 Paragraph 111:

24 'We wore our own casual clothes. The woman that  
25 came in at night was really nice and she gave me clothes

1 that her daughter no longer wanted. She came into the  
2 room to talk to me and gave me a couple of biscuits.'

3 She says:

4 'We went to school, which was within the grounds.  
5 It was just a building with classes in it, it wasn't  
6 really a school. We went back to the unit for lunch  
7 then back to school in the afternoon. The class sizes  
8 were small and mixed ages. There was no formal  
9 education, we just drew and made things. I missed going  
10 to a real school because I enjoyed it.

11 'Some of the children went to a different school  
12 during the day and came back to Cardross at night.  
13 Everybody was different. All through my life I didn't  
14 ask anybody why they were in care. The children were  
15 coming and going, so I couldn't form relationships.'

16 She says something about leisure time, and says  
17 there was TV in the evenings. They went for runs in the  
18 minibus and there were books and set times when you  
19 could watch TV. They sometimes went for nights to the  
20 cafe, or for a walk on the beach. She says that she  
21 hung around the unit at weekends, but some people went  
22 home, and they were taken to the pool in Helensburgh and  
23 she did swimming badges up to 2,000 metres.

24 She says that someone brought her brother one day,  
25 but 'they hadn't told me they were coming', and she had

1 run away.

2 She says that she could see her brother from where  
3 she was hiding:

4 '... so I ran back, but I only got to speak to him  
5 for a minute because I didn't want to go back into the  
6 home. The only way to see him was to go back into the  
7 home and talk to him, but I didn't want to do that.'

8 She says, in relation to healthcare, that she hadn't  
9 seen a dentist since Quarriers, and there were no health  
10 checks in Cardross. She had to use toilet roll when she  
11 had her period, because she didn't want to ask for  
12 sanitary products.

13 She says she had no visits from siblings, and  
14 although she asked to see her social worker, he didn't  
15 come:

16 'I started running away, so he eventually came.  
17 I was told that there were case conferences, but I was  
18 never told what happened at those meetings. I ran away  
19 a few times. I got as far as Dumbarton. Sometimes  
20 I was picked up by the police. If one person didn't  
21 behave, the whole unit got locked down, so people  
22 rebelled. The doors were locked so it was difficult to  
23 run away.

24 'The punishments got worse for running away. The  
25 first time you were just grounded and made to stay in

1 your room. You weren't allowed out of the unit or  
2 allowed recreation. I was held down because I tried to  
3 run away, then lifted up and thrown into my room. Most  
4 of the staff members were nice, but some of the men  
5 threw their weight around:

6 'Sometimes I climbed out of the window in my  
7 nightdress, because the staff removed your clothes if  
8 you didn't behave and you weren't allowed downstairs to  
9 go to the canteen. Eventually I was allowed to go to  
10 the canteen but in my nightdress and no pants and one  
11 day someone came into the unit and didn't lock the door,  
12 so I bolted out bare foot into the snow and ran away.

13 'When I was caught I was taken back to Cardross and  
14 the staff boarded up the window and locked the door.  
15 They took everything out of my room, all of my posters,  
16 my bed, everything. I was left with just a mattress and  
17 a nightdress.

18 'Another time I went to the train station in my  
19 nightdress and I was going to [REDACTED]  
20 but I was taken to the psychiatric hospital, Gartnavel.  
21 They agreed with me that my life was bad, but they  
22 released me the same day back to Cardross.'

23 She goes on to say in relation to abuse:

24 'I was locked in my room quite a lot and got my  
25 dinner thrown in to me. When I was grounded I was not

1 allowed to go to the canteen or living room areas.  
2 I remember others being locked in their rooms, but not  
3 stripped and having their possessions removed. I felt  
4 I had no worth.

5 'A couple of the men restrained me when I refused to  
6 go into my room and take my clothes off. They would  
7 barge me, put me down and strip me naked. Someone else  
8 would run in, strip the room and board up the window.  
9 Then they would shove you into the back of the room and  
10 pull the door shut. I felt as if it was partly my fault  
11 because I was frustrated as I had been there for so long  
12 and nobody cared.'

13 She says that:

14 'There was a meeting and it was decided that I was  
15 to go to Alva Children's Home.

16 'I didn't get any warning, I was just told that  
17 I was going and that was it. They took me for  
18 an overnight stay or a weekend just to get used to it.'

19 She was in Alva for a period, and was there, she  
20 says, until she left care in 1983.

21 At paragraph 133, she talks about her life after  
22 care. Taking that short, she says, really, that there  
23 was no aftercare. She lived in serious poverty for some  
24 time and during that period became pregnant, had some  
25 fairly serious health issues because of that, and had to

1 stay in hospital for three and a half months.

2 At paragraph 137, she was able to do some casual  
3 jobs and trained to be a hairdresser and a barber. She  
4 managed to get a place on the Paisley and Johnstone  
5 Training Board, getting women into engineering, and she  
6 did an HND in engineering and subsequently went to  
7 university.

8 She had various jobs and is hoping to get further  
9 qualifications, and does a lot of private study. She  
10 says that her children have all now passed their school  
11 exams, and have worked since they left school and have  
12 never been on benefits. She says they have always had  
13 the best of food and all the love they could ever have.  
14 This is paragraph 139.

15 She says:

16 'I managed to break the cycle because when you have  
17 been brought up in the care system people don't expect  
18 you to bring up your own children. If you have been  
19 brought up in care I don't think you should be putting  
20 your children into care.'

21 In relation to impact, she says that she started  
22 self-harming when she was quite young. She was  
23 emotionally hard on herself.

24 At paragraph 141, she says she doesn't believe in  
25 smacking. She says she does understand that you have to

1 have some discipline, but some of the discipline she had  
2 when she was in care, she says, 'was really harsh, and  
3 left me covered in bruises'.

4 At paragraph 142:

5 'When I was in labour I didn't make any noise and  
6 the midwife asked me if I had been abused, because she  
7 said it wasn't normal not to make a noise. I learned to  
8 hide my emotions as a result of my experiences in care.  
9 I have been single for the last 25 years because I don't  
10 trust anybody. I don't like being in bed with anyone  
11 and I don't like anyone in my room when I am sleeping.  
12 I don't like being intimate. I can't sleep beside  
13 anyone, so this is why I don't have a relationship.  
14 Sometimes I don't feel I am worthy of anybody's love, so  
15 it is easy for me to walk away.'

16 She says she suffered from low self esteem and  
17 depression, as well as anxiety and stress, and doesn't  
18 go out to socialise because she doesn't like being away  
19 from home.

20 At paragraph 147 she says:

21 'I don't enjoy food, I eat to survive. I don't  
22 enjoy eating socially and this is as a result of being  
23 forced to eat when I was young.'

24 At paragraphs 148 and 149, she talks about reporting  
25 of abuse, and over the page, page 30, about records.

1 Paragraph 153, in relation to lessons to be learned,  
2 she says:

3 'There is a need to listen to children. Each child  
4 should have their own social worker and not a social  
5 worker for the family. There should also be another  
6 independent person that a child could trust that they  
7 could talk to and there should be more information given  
8 to children. I hope the Inquiry can implement something  
9 so that children in care have someone that they can  
10 trust and have more support on leaving care.

11 'The Inquiry should look at things that have  
12 happened in the past and people should be held to  
13 account for their actions.

14 People can now let their voices be heard without  
15 judgment. This is the most anyone has ever listened to  
16 me in my life.'

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

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 Shall we take the afternoon break just now and go on  
21 after that?

22 MR SHELDON: Yes, I think that would be, if that's --

23 LADY SMITH: Very well, let's do that.

24 Before I rise, there was one name, Mr **KCZ**,  
25 mentioned earlier on, and his identity is protected by



1 my General Restriction Order.

2 Thank you.

3 (2.55 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (3.03 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Ms Forbes.

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
8 who is anonymous and is known as 'Kim'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS FORBES: The reference for her statement is

11 WIT-1-000001248.

12 'Kim' (read)

13 MS FORBES: 'Kim' was born in 1970, [REDACTED] 1970,  
14 and tells us about her life before going into care, from  
15 paragraph 2 onwards.

16 She was born in Glasgow and she says that they lived  
17 in various addresses in the Dennistoun area. At the  
18 start she lived with both of her parents and her older  
19 sister. However, everything was all right at home until  
20 her dad left when he and her mum split up. She was nine  
21 or ten when that happened. Then her mum got a new  
22 boyfriend and things started to go wrong. She would  
23 fight and argue with her sister all the time and she  
24 would be grounded a lot by her mum's boyfriend.

25 She said that she spent a lot of time in Govan at

1 her sister's and her dad's, and she just kept running  
2 away and going back there. She says she doesn't think  
3 she was back at her mum's house after that.

4 She says she remembers her dad coming over on  
5 a Sunday night and taking her back to her mum's, and it  
6 was agreed that she would stay there for a week until  
7 her dad got school sorted, but that week was  
8 a nightmare. She didn't get on with her mum's boyfriend  
9 because he was living at the house, and she was 12 when  
10 she went to live with her dad. There was no social work  
11 involvement with the family at that time.

12 When she went to live with her dad, she went to  
13 school at Govan High School. Her sister was at  
14 a different school, but starting first year there she  
15 just didn't go to school, she contacted her old friends  
16 and would go and meet them. They decided to steal money  
17 out of the gas and electric meters, and managed to break  
18 into a meter and take money out. She didn't get caught,  
19 and her dad didn't notice, but they did it again, and he  
20 eventually found out.

21 She says her dad never laid a finger on them, but  
22 she can remember saying 'I'm not going back there'.

23 She went to the Social Work Department and told them  
24 that she wasn't going back, and then they went to speak  
25 to her dad and he agreed that she would go into care.

1           She says that she kept saying 'I am not staying  
2           here' because she thought he was going to kill her. She  
3           says she was young and she didn't think, she just  
4           thought she would be there for a week and her dad would  
5           come and get her, but that never happened.

6           'Kim' says she basically put herself into care. She  
7           didn't know what care was.

8           Then she tells us that she went to a children's home  
9           in Newlands and she was admitted there -- she says she  
10          thinks she was 12, but according to the records we have,  
11          my Lady, she was admitted there on [REDACTED] 1984,  
12          when she was 13.

13        LADY SMITH: Right.

14        MS FORBES: She says she thinks she was in there for just

15          a few months, maybe six at the most, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be publi

16        [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17

18

19        [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later and she says she doesn't

20          remember actually leaving the children's home, and  
21          doesn't remember going to any Children's Panel before  
22          she went to Cardross.

23          Then she tells us about Cardross from paragraph 48,  
24          and the records we have, my Lady, say that she was in  
25          Cardross between [REDACTED] 1985 to [REDACTED] 1985, and she

1           was aged 14 years.

2   LADY SMITH: Yes, thank you.

3   MS FORBES: So almost four months; well, a bit less.

4           She says that she remembers she was going there to  
5           get a three-week assessment, but it was past that, and  
6           she thinks it could have been two or six months, but as  
7           we have seen from the record --

8   LADY SMITH: It was just over three months, a couple of days  
9           more.

10   MS FORBES: Yes.

11           She comments, my Lady, at paragraph 49, that it was  
12           a horrible place.

13           Then, at paragraph 51, she says she doesn't remember  
14           any of the staff in Cardross and can't picture any of  
15           their faces, but she knows some of them were all right.

16           She talks about being given cigarettes during the  
17           course of the day, and she says that they would  
18           sometimes withhold the cigarettes as punishment, but she  
19           doesn't know what the reasons were for that. She says,  
20           at paragraph 53, she remembers that she got pushed about  
21           a lot by staff.

22           Then, going forward to paragraph 57, she talks about  
23           schooling there, and says that the main problem for her  
24           was that the school wasn't connected. The house was in  
25           a separate building. It was within the grounds of

1 Cardross. She says:

2 'I think it used to be the Assessment Centre, then  
3 the old Assessment Centre became the school.'

4 At paragraph 58 she says:

5 'All my education was nothing. I don't know if they  
6 thought that because you were in these places you were  
7 stupid. You didn't get schoolwork for your own age  
8 group.'

9 At paragraph 60, she says she remembers one time  
10 being happy:

11 'We were in a minibus and we were maybe going  
12 swimming. I can remember once or twice being taken out  
13 in a minibus.'

14 In relation to visits, at paragraph 62, she says  
15 that there was a big square room in the building where  
16 her sister came to visit her one time. It wasn't long  
17 after that that she moved out of Cardross, but no one  
18 else came to visit her at Cardross.

19 At paragraph 65, she says in Cardross she started  
20 self-harming. She says:

21 'I don't know what I was thinking when I started it  
22 or where it came from. I didn't do it before I got  
23 there. I would cut my arms and sometimes [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 I can remember staff running towards me to take [REDACTED]

1       [REDACTED] away. I never remember talking to staff about it  
2       and why I did it. When I left Cardross I stopped  
3       self-harming and it never even entered my head to do it  
4       again after I left.'

5             She then talks, at paragraph 66, about running away  
6       again, and says she ran away a lot and that the doors at  
7       Cardross were open.

8             Going forward to the next page, paragraph 72, she  
9       says that she would go to Govan when she ran away, and  
10      stay in her dad's close, and then other times she would  
11      just walk about until her friends came out the next day.  
12      She says:

13            'Most of the time I was sleeping in my dad's close  
14      or Govan underground.'

15            She says she doesn't remember any punishment when  
16      she got back from running away.

17            In relation to discipline, at paragraph 74, 'Kim'  
18      says:

19            'I remember getting slapped and pushed and that  
20      happened a lot. I don't know if it happened because of  
21      something I had done, if I was trying to leave the home,  
22      or if I had just been brought back. I don't know if it  
23      was meant to be punishment or not. I don't remember if  
24      it was done by a lot of the staff or just one member of  
25      staff. I remember the staff saying things to us that

1 wasn't kind, but I can't remember for sure what was  
2 said. I think there was name-calling by staff. There  
3 was a man in there calling another child names.'

4 She then talks about abuse, from paragraph 75:

5 'I remember someone, a man, coming to take my  
6 clothes away from me. I don't remember who he was.  
7 There was a built-in wardrobe and I remember I kept  
8 slamming the wardrobe door and someone came in to take  
9 it off the hinges. They took the doors off and they  
10 were taking away my clothes. That day, I remember  
11 kicking off a bit, as they had put me into a new bedroom  
12 and they were taking my clothes off me. That second  
13 bedroom was a single room. I think I had been away on  
14 the run and they had given my first bed to someone else.  
15 They must have taken the clothes I was wearing, because  
16 I always seemed to end up wearing my jammies. If they  
17 told me to take my clothes off, I just wouldn't have  
18 done it. I remember kicking off and getting thrown on  
19 the bed, and that man punched me in the head three  
20 times. That was by a man. I can't describe him, and  
21 I don't know his name. I don't know what happened after  
22 that. I can't remember leading up to it. After it,  
23 I probably went straight out the door.'

24 Then going forward to paragraph 77, she says:

25 'I remember being in class and I needed the toilet.

1 I remember a man offering to come down with me. I was  
2 in the school building. I remember in the toilets where  
3 the sinks were in the room, and the cubicles being  
4 opposite. I remember him pushing me against the sink  
5 and he was trying to kiss me. I have tried to picture  
6 this man. I just remember he was tall and with dark  
7 hair. I don't remember him being in the building with  
8 the bedrooms. I don't know if he was a teacher or  
9 a staff member. He might have been a visitor, but  
10 I wouldn't have walked to the toilets with him, so  
11 I must have known him somehow. I can't say how old he  
12 was, but he had no wrinkles. I don't know his name.  
13 A girl, I don't know her name or what she looked like,  
14 one of the residents, was coming down the stairs where  
15 the toilets were and she shouted on me. I think she was  
16 just needing the toilet and she was checking if I was  
17 still there. We used to say the room was haunted so  
18 nobody wanted to use the toilet by themselves. I am  
19 thinking she was hanging over the banister and shouted  
20 for me. The man backed away. I feel that girl saved me  
21 that day by shouting on me, but I walked right out and  
22 I left her in the toilets with the man. I feel guilty  
23 about that now, as I don't know if he did anything to  
24 her. I left the toilets. I went out of the front door  
25 and I didn't go back to the classroom. It was the first



1 time anything like that had happened. No teacher came to  
2 find me because I didn't go straight back to the  
3 classroom. Nobody ever asked me where I was. I saw the  
4 man twice in the canteen. He did it to me again twice.  
5 There was no one else in the canteen.

6 The first time he had me by the throat. I was going  
7 out of the door, probably going to run away again.  
8 I remember heading to the door. I remember he had me by  
9 the throat and he put his hands down the front of my  
10 trousers. I'm sure it was the canteen the next time it  
11 happened. It was a big room that had tables and I'm  
12 positive the kitchen was behind it.

13 I don't remember much about the next time it  
14 happened. Again, he had me by the throat and his hands  
15 went down the front of my trousers. Again, I don't know  
16 if it was staff or visitors, but somebody was coming up  
17 the path in a car and that's how the incident ended.  
18 I think there was big windows and a glass door. I think  
19 I used to go in and out of that door, and that's how  
20 I was in the canteen by myself.'

21 'Kim' says then she doesn't remember being at  
22 a Children's Panel to leave Cardross, but she then went  
23 to Dr Guthrie's, and we know from her records that she  
24 went to Dr Guthrie's on [REDACTED] 1985, when she was aged  
25 14, and she was there until [REDACTED] 1986, aged 15.

1           There is correspondence in her records about  
2           Dr Guthrie's closing, and it was to close by the  
3           [REDACTED] 1986, and she was [REDACTED] in  
4           Dr Guthrie's. She says she thinks how long she was in  
5           there for, but we have those records, and she says:  
6           'I loved it in Dr Guthrie's. I felt safe there.'  
7           She then says, at paragraph 104, that she remembers  
8           getting drunk one time after she ran away from  
9           Dr Guthrie's and going back to Cardross, and she  
10          remembers throwing bottles up at the windows and  
11          shouting abuse, and the police came and got her and took  
12          her back to Dr Guthrie's. She says:  
13          'I think I went back to Cardross because of what  
14          happened to me when I was there. I wanted to blame  
15          somebody, so I went back when I was drunk.'  
16          She then says that she was upset when Dr Guthrie's  
17          was shutting down, but she wasn't yet 16 at that time.  
18          She says, as is recorded in her records, she was [REDACTED]  
19          [REDACTED]  
20          [REDACTED]  
21          [REDACTED].  
22          She was then sent to a children's home on  
23          [REDACTED] 1986, awaiting a Panel.  
24          Then, after that, she was admitted to Snowdon on  
25          [REDACTED] 1986, still aged 15. She says she was there

1           until she was 16. At paragraph 124, she says she had to  
2           leave Snowdon as she was turning 16, and then she went  
3           to a children's home, and we know that she went there on  
4           ██████████ 1987, aged 16.

5           At paragraph 135, she says:

6           'I wasn't in there as long as a year and I left when  
7           I got my first flat.'

8           Again, my Lady, from her records we know that  
9           'Kim's' supervision requirement was terminated on  
10          ██████████ 1987, when she was aged 17, but she remained  
11          in the children's home until ██████████ 1988, when she got  
12          a flat.

13          She then talks about her life after being in care  
14          from paragraph 136, and she says she got her first flat  
15          in Ibrox at 16 or 17, and we know it was 17. She  
16          comments that her life has been worse since she left  
17          care than when she was in it.

18          At paragraph 138, she says:

19          'Now I live with six dogs in the house and I have to  
20          get up every day for them. They need to go out and they  
21          need to be fed. If I don't need to go out of my house,  
22          I don't. I prefer to stay inside with the doors locked  
23          and I am with my animals.'

24          In relation to impact, at paragraph 139 she says:

25          'It's affected my relationships with my family.'

1           She said that she lost contact with family members  
2           and pushed her sister away, and that her relationship  
3           with her sister has only been rebuilt since their dad  
4           passed away last year.

5           At paragraph 140, she says:

6           'My behaviour and my path I took in life I blame on  
7           what happened to me as a kid. I just always went down  
8           the wrong road.'

9           She says, at paragraph 142, that she has been  
10          diagnosed with anxiety and depression for years now, and  
11          has been on medication.

12          Going forward, at paragraph 143, relationships with  
13          partners she has had have always been bad and there has  
14          been physical violence at the hands of an abusive  
15          partner.

16          At paragraph 144, she says the education she  
17          received in the homes was basic and that, in her adult  
18          life, she has had to lean a lot on her sister to do  
19          things like get shopping and help her if the job centre  
20          send her a letter or need her to fill out forms.

21          Going forward to page 30, at paragraph 149, in  
22          relation to reporting of abuse, she said:

23          'I have not made any formal report of abuse to the  
24          police since leaving care.'

25          At paragraph 150, she says her sister contacted the

1 Inquiry on her behalf. At the bottom of that paragraph  
2 she says:

3 'I feel ashamed of what happened to me and where it  
4 happened. I have always assumed nobody would believe me  
5 anyway.'

6 She does say that, in relation to records, that she  
7 would like to see her records, because she has a lot of  
8 missing gaps and she is not sure about what age she was  
9 when she went into care.

10 Regarding lessons to be learned, she talks about  
11 that from paragraph 152, and she says, paragraph 154,

12 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

and she doesn't

14 remember seeing one through her time in Cardross or in  
15 Dr Guthrie's, Secondary Institutions - to be published later.

16 She says:

17 'I don't know if social workers have been there and  
18 I don't remember, but people's social workers need to  
19 come to see them.'

20 In relation to hopes for the Inquiry, at  
21 paragraph 155, she says:

22 'I would like somebody to pay for what they have  
23 done to me, but it happened a long time ago and it is  
24 probably not going to happen. That's now what makes me  
25 angry. I am not so much upset any more, I am angry.

1 I am angry that I didn't talk up at the time. I hope  
2 that I will feel better for having given this statement  
3 to the Inquiry. It is time for me to have the life  
4 I should have had 40 years ago. It might not help, but  
5 I am hoping so. I hope I might be able to get some  
6 counselling now.'

7 Then she has made the usual declaration at  
8 paragraph 157, and then she has signed the statement and  
9 it is dated 15 May 2023.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS FORBES: My Lady, I will pass now to Mr Sheldon.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Mr Sheldon.

14 MR SHELDON: My Lady, this is the statement of another  
15 witness who is anonymous, and her pseudonym is  
16 'Priscilla'.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Priscilla' (read)

19 MR SHELDON: The Nuix reference for her statement is  
20 WIT.001.001.6370.

21 'Priscilla' was born in 1975. She was born in  
22 Glasgow, but grew up for part of her childhood in [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]. She had some health problems as an infant,  
24 and it also seemed to be rather a chaotic upbringing,  
25 and she ended up in the care system aged around four.

1 She reports some physical abuse while in children's  
2 homes and, on the occasions when she returned home to  
3 live with her parents, she was beaten, and also sexually  
4 abused by a family friend.

5 Moving on, then, to page 9 of her statement, she  
6 indicates that, paragraph 46, she was being beaten every  
7 day by her mother and being sexually abused by the  
8 family friend.

9 Reading short to page 10, she indicates that she  
10 tried to report the abuse that she was suffering to her  
11 then primary teacher, and although a social worker seems  
12 to have come to see her, paragraph 51, they nevertheless  
13 said that they had to take her home, and she said she  
14 couldn't go home because she would be beaten and she ran  
15 away.

16 She eventually had to go home and was beaten when  
17 she returned. She says that she had warned social  
18 workers that that would happen and notes, at  
19 paragraph 53, that she hadn't been believed about the  
20 abuse and the abuse continued. She says at the end of  
21 paragraph 53 that she took back what she said about the  
22 abuse, '... because I was being beaten every day for  
23 it'.

24 She then started drawing dirty pictures in science.  
25 She said she thought it was funny, 'but I think the

1 teachers knew that there was something more to it'. She  
2 remembers her teacher saying that she didn't want to  
3 expel her, and she was picked up from school one day and  
4 taken to a Children's Panel. She thinks the school must  
5 have referred her to the Panel.

6 She says her mother was also there, and was taken  
7 straight from the Panel to Cardross Park. She said:

8 'It happened that fast. I was given no notice.'

9 She thinks by that stage she was aged about 12, so  
10 around 1987 or 1988.

11 Reading from paragraph 57, she says:

12 'I went to Cardross in [REDACTED]. Cardross was almost  
13 like a prison. It was run by the council and care  
14 workers were employed there. It looked like a school  
15 from the outside. It was massive and had a massive  
16 dining room where we had our main meals. Everyone  
17 stayed in house units. The bedrooms were pretty small,  
18 single rooms. Everyone had their own rooms. They had  
19 males and females in there.'

20 Paragraph 59:

21 'When you first went in, you were put into a closed  
22 unit. You were only supposed to stay there for 21 days  
23 before you were moved to an open unit. They sometimes  
24 kept you in the closed unit longer. There were two open  
25 units. You stayed in the open unit until they decided



1 where you were going next. There were staff members  
2 there all the time, but they weren't supportive.  
3 I didn't feel like I could talk to them. The staff  
4 weren't warm, they were cold. They were just very  
5 standoffish.'

6 She does say there was a care worker called Alison,  
7 who was a nice lady:

8 'I had a key worker, but there was no special time  
9 when you could have a chat.'

10 At paragraph 61, she repeats that the first unit she  
11 was in was a closed unit and there were about ten  
12 children there.

13 She says, paragraph 62:

14 'It was all very strict. You got up in the morning  
15 and got dressed. You didn't have a uniform, you just  
16 wore your own clothes that you had brought in with you.  
17 You then had your breakfast and went to school. There  
18 was a school within the grounds.

19 After school, you either just kicked around your  
20 unit or you were taken out by the staff in the minibus.  
21 You weren't allowed out in the grounds, because that's  
22 where the staff parked their cars. I remember watching  
23 TV in the lounge in the evenings.'

24 She says there was a normal bathroom. There was just  
25 one in the closed unit that the boys and girls both

1 used. You just used it when you needed to. She doesn't  
2 remember what it was like in the open unit.

3 Paragraph 65, she says:

4 'My mainstream education was ended when I went into  
5 Cardross.

6 'The school at Cardross was in an old school within  
7 Cardross grounds. I went to school from 9 am until  
8 4 pm. It wasn't proper schooling. I didn't do maths,  
9 English, science or any proper lessons. We just did  
10 pottery and arts and crafts. I remember doing woodwork,  
11 and making a cot for a doll. There were no books or  
12 writing material provided.

13 'I don't remember any books in there. You weren't  
14 seen as children; you were seen as adults and had to  
15 behave in a proper way. We didn't have any toys and we  
16 weren't allowed to go out and play in the grounds.'

17 She says, paragraph 69:

18 'We were allowed in other people's rooms, but not at  
19 night.'

20 Reading short to paragraph 71, she says:

21 'We would get taken to Loch Lomond, or swimming, in  
22 the minibus. The only time I was visited by my parents  
23 was when they came into Cardross soon after I went in  
24 there. They were there simply to get me to take back  
25 allegations that I had made against them.'

1           She says she didn't have regular contact with her  
2           siblings.

3           At paragraph 74:

4           'The only time I went out with my mum was when she  
5           came to get me a couple of days before my 12th  
6           birthday.'

7           She goes on to recount that incident at  
8           paragraph 75. She says:

9           'After six or eight weeks of being in Cardross, it  
10          was my 12th birthday.'

11          She goes on to say, taking it short, that her mother  
12          basically spent the weekend getting drunk and didn't  
13          return 'Priscilla' to Cardross when she was meant to.  
14          It was thought that she had run away.

15          Paragraph 78:

16          'As a punishment, my belongings and clothes were  
17          taken off me and my bedroom window was boarded up. This  
18          had been done before I got back. I was made to wear my  
19          pyjamas and stay in my room. I was not allowed to go to  
20          school or talk to anyone. I was only let out of the  
21          room when they wanted me to clean the lounge and toilets  
22          when everyone else was at school. I was even made to  
23          clean in my pyjamas on my own, on my birthday, which was  
24          the [REDACTED]. They knew it was my birthday because  
25          they brought me a cake. I was allowed out of my room in

1 my pyjamas to cut it. I was then made to go back into my  
2 room because I was still being punished. My meals were  
3 put into my room. I was taken to the toilet by a member  
4 of staff and they waited outside and then took me back  
5 to my room. I could hear everybody else laughing and  
6 joking together while I was on my own. Nobody was  
7 allowed to interact with me. They didn't even look at  
8 me. The staff didn't even speak to me. I wasn't told  
9 how long this would last.

10 'Your life was made very bad if they thought you  
11 were a runaway. It made life very difficult and you  
12 almost wished you weren't alive. You were isolated.  
13 I didn't even have any reading materials in my room.  
14 I had nothing. I was stuck in my room with no  
15 interaction with the kids or adults. It was worse when  
16 you knew you actually hadn't done anything wrong. This  
17 punishment lasted for a week.'

18 She talks from paragraph 83 about disclosing abuse  
19 that she had been subjected to at home, and she said she  
20 disclosed to a unit manager in Cardross, and she says,  
21 paragraph 84:

22 'One day, my house unit was going swimming and  
23 I wasn't allowed to go [because her aunt was coming to  
24 see her]. I had telephoned to tell her about the abuse  
25 and that I had disclosed it. She flew over straight

1 away without hesitation. I was then told that my mum  
2 and dad were visiting me. They turned up to see me.  
3 This was organised by a male staff member called "Derek"  
4 or "David", who was the assistant manager of the whole  
5 place. I met my parents with this Derek or David guy in  
6 the main dining room. This was where the visits  
7 happened. I was told by my parents to write  
8 a retraction of the allegations I had made to  
9 Kirsten Hart, the unit manager. Derek or David kept  
10 walking around the table. He was a chubby guy with  
11 glasses and really short hair. He was between 40 and  
12 50 years old, I think. He said it was okay for my mum  
13 and dad to do that to me, and okay for them to ask me to  
14 retract what I had told Kirsten.'

15 She says she then went to the Good Shepherd Centre  
16 for a visit and ultimately, having been at Cardross for  
17 four or five months, she left in [REDACTED] 1988.

18 She is then in the Good Shepherd Centre, and seems  
19 to have had a reasonably good experience there,  
20 certainly better.

21 If we move to page 22, she talks about life after  
22 being in care. She said she didn't live with her  
23 parents for long after leaving care. She was still at  
24 school in 1992 and went through the independent living  
25 unit in 1993 -- this seems to have been at the Good

1 Shepherd, my Lady -- then to what they call a supported  
2 landlady, and she says this was a bit like foster care.

3 She lived, she says, with various people around  
4 Glasgow.

5 At paragraph 128, she says she went to Langside  
6 College, but had to leave after six months:

7 '... because I couldn't cope. I later went to  
8 Caledonian University in Cowcaddens, where I did  
9 an access course in social sciences. I was supposed to  
10 go back the following year and do the degree, but  
11 I didn't because I had my son by then.'

12 She goes on to recount attempts to take her son into  
13 care.

14 If we go to paragraph 139, she says:

15 'My education was all dropped until 2005, when  
16 I picked up an online diploma in social work. I now  
17 live in London and have done so since 2008. I was  
18 diagnosed with complex post traumatic stress disorder  
19 that same year in London.'

20 At paragraph 141, she says:

21 'I started university in 2009 and I now have a law  
22 degree.'

23 She has spoken at conferences in Bulgaria and  
24 Latvia, as well as writing papers on child rights.

25 In relation to impact, she says:

1           'It is difficult to put into words what you can  
2           remember about childhood memories. You can visually see  
3           it happening and you can feel it, so you go back to  
4           reliving it.

5           'I was clever at primary school. My intelligence  
6           was lost with everything that happened. I could have  
7           had my law degree much sooner if all that hadn't  
8           happened.'

9           Reading short to paragraph 146:

10          'None of the establishments, except Good Shepherd,  
11          gave any psychological care. This meant that you were  
12          left with all the scars, because you didn't talk to  
13          anyone. This meant that it eventually caught up with  
14          you as things happened in life.'

15          On other information, and following up on that  
16          point, she said at paragraph 151:

17          'When a child is taken into care, psychological  
18          support should be given immediately. They shouldn't  
19          wait for the damage to show over time, because it then  
20          seeps into other areas of life. For me it was my son  
21          being taken into care. I loved him but I couldn't look  
22          after him.'

23          She has made the usual declaration and signed in  
24          2017, my Lady.

25   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MR SHELDON: Ms Forbes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next statement is from an applicant  
4 who is anonymous and is known as 'William', and the  
5 reference for his statement is WIT-1-000000701.

6 'William' (read)

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'William' tells us that he was born in  
8 1969, and talks about his life before going into care,  
9 from paragraph 2 onwards.

10 He says that he was originally with his parents, his  
11 older brother and his older sisters, and he says his  
12 parents both worked, but he didn't have much to do with  
13 his family, and growing up there wasn't much emotion  
14 shown to him. He says that when he went to high school  
15 he couldn't cope, and it was the move from the small  
16 primary school in a village to a large high school in  
17 Kilsyth, and he started not going to school, 'dogging  
18 school', he called it.

19 He says that he and his sister would play truant  
20 from school together. He says that, although he was  
21 dogging school, he got on well with his peers and was in  
22 the football team and was an athlete at that age. He  
23 ended up in front of the truant officer and then he went  
24 to a local hearing about why he wasn't going to school.  
25 It wasn't the Children's Panel, it was something to do



1 with the Local Authority, but he was told if he didn't  
2 go to school then he would go into care.

3 He then says that he started stealing to order from  
4 a building for Morses catalogues, as he and a friend had  
5 figured out how to break into it, and that some of the  
6 stolen items from that were found by his dad and he  
7 called the police.

8 He then says that after that he went to see  
9 a psychological counsellor at the school. He got into  
10 a few scrapes, he says, but nothing major, and then went  
11 to the Children's Panel. 'William' said he knew what  
12 was coming, because his social worker had told him he  
13 was going away for 'a wee holiday' and that culminated  
14 in him being sent to Cardross Assessment Centre for  
15 a three-week assessment.

16 His social worker drove him there and he says that  
17 she was revelling in it, because she had told him what  
18 would happen if he didn't go to school.

19 He then talks about Cardross from paragraph 11, and  
20 he says that he went there from the Children's Panel  
21 when he was about 14 in [REDACTED] 1984. He then  
22 goes on to tell us a bit about the routine.

23 If we can go forward to the section on school at  
24 paragraph 17, he says that the classrooms were in an old  
25 sandstone house. You had various assessment things

1 done. There was a mixture of rooms with different  
2 children in each one, which seemed to be separated based  
3 on age.

4 In relation to leisure time, 'William' says at  
5 paragraph 18:

6 'We got to kick a ball about, depending on the  
7 weather. We were supervised when we were outside so you  
8 couldn't just walk out. Some boys seemed to get more  
9 heavily supervised or watched than others. I don't know  
10 why. They sometimes had arty stuff in the hall in the  
11 evenings. We would watch TV or sit about reading  
12 comics. The three weeks I was there passed quickly.'

13 At paragraph 19, he says:

14 'Some of the time in there I actually enjoyed.'

15 Then he mentions a disco one weekend, and he talks  
16 about being able to play football and there being pool  
17 tables.

18 Going forward to the next page, paragraph 24, in  
19 relation to visits, 'William' says his parents did come  
20 to visit him and were able to spend a couple of hours  
21 with him in the hall. He says:

22 'I wasn't allowed out with them, but I was allowed  
23 to take them a walk round the grounds and show them  
24 around.'

25 He remembers the female social worker coming down as

1 well.

2 At paragraph 27, he says that he didn't try to run  
3 away from Cardross, he was only there for three weeks.

4 In relation to discipline, paragraph 29, he says:

5 'There was an older staff member, a big heavy guy,  
6 who was old school. If there was a problem he would  
7 tell us to calm the scenario down or he would end it  
8 with a boot up the arse, but none of them physically hit  
9 me for not doing something I was told. I remember  
10 hearing raised voices between staff and children, but  
11 I never saw anyone being hit. It was more about being  
12 sent to your room as a form of keeping discipline.'

13 He then talks about abuse at Cardross from  
14 paragraph 30:

15 'I think it was the second or third night I was at  
16 Cardross, not long after dinner. I was watching TV.  
17 I went to my room and a guy came in. I can't remember  
18 his name. He was staff, but I hadn't really spoken to  
19 him by that point. He was about five feet eight inches  
20 tall, medium build. He had the kind of Ayrshire accent  
21 they had in that area. He said that he had to search  
22 the room because of people bringing contraband in. Then  
23 he said he had to search me. He came close to me and  
24 I felt uncomfortable. He said I had to be strip  
25 searched, but I said no. He said that he would have to

1 get someone in if I had to be forced to be stripped.  
2 I think he was banking on me not wanting to have to get  
3 stripped in front of someone else. I stripped and leant  
4 over my bed while he spread my buttocks. He raped me.  
5 I felt a searing pain as I got pushed down onto the bed.  
6 The next minute he told me to get dressed and clean  
7 myself up. He told me that he would let the other staff  
8 know I had been searched properly. He said that  
9 everybody got a proper search like that, and that if  
10 I tried to make trouble or complain about it, I might  
11 have to get searched again. As an adult looking back,  
12 that was the start of the psychological warfare, making  
13 you keep your mouth shut or you would get more abuse.

14 'That night I was in pain. I was still in pain the  
15 next morning. I couldn't go down for breakfast. One of  
16 the staff came in and asked what was wrong. He was  
17 a heavysset guy, I think his name was Steve or Stevie.  
18 I just said to him that I had stomach pains. He gave me  
19 painkillers. I want to know if there are records of  
20 them giving me painkillers that day and what they said  
21 the painkillers were for. They thought I might have  
22 appendicitis, so I got taken to Vale of Leven Hospital  
23 in Alexandria. An old doctor started examining me,  
24 pressing me. I told him the pain was inside. He said  
25 he would have to examine me fully, but I think he could

1 see I was anxious. He asked if I wanted to get a nurse  
2 brought in but I said no. He got me to bend over and he  
3 must have seen that my anus was red. He asked if I had  
4 banged into anything. He asked if I had any diarrhoea.  
5 I said no. He then told me to wait outside and asked  
6 the staff member who brought me to hospital to go in and  
7 speak to him. I couldn't hear everything, but I heard  
8 raised voices. I heard the staff member saying, "It  
9 wasn't me". The doctor sounded angry, saying that I was  
10 just a small child. After a while at hospital we went  
11 back to Cardross. The staff member who took me to  
12 hospital left me to watch television and said he would  
13 have to fill out some paperwork about the hospital  
14 visit. The guy who abused me never came near me again  
15 after that. I don't know if I got a lucky escape.  
16 I don't know if he got a fright. I didn't tell anyone  
17 about that incident at the time.

18 'Then I started noticing that other kids at Cardross  
19 would ask if I wanted to go into their room, saying that  
20 they had comics like Roy of the Rovers and Shoot. One  
21 of them [and he names him] and at least two other kids  
22 asked me to do that. I can't remember any other names.  
23 They guy who abused me would come into their dormitory,  
24 asking us if everything was all right. Looking back,  
25 I think those other boys may have wanted me to visit

1 their dormitory to look at comics so that there were two  
2 of us in the room in case my abuser came in and tried  
3 anything with them. He wouldn't be able to do anything  
4 with two of us there.'

5 Paragraph 38 then, 'William' says:

6 'Once I overcame the notion of being a wee guy from  
7 a wee village, in that environment I toughened up. You  
8 were either the injured wildebeest or a hyena. You  
9 learned to look after yourself.'

10 'William' then says that after three weeks they had  
11 done their assessment on him and he went home, but he  
12 didn't get to see the report. He said that the staff  
13 member who had taken him to hospital said:

14 'If the Children's Panel were prepared to let me  
15 back home, that I should go to school or I might end up  
16 somewhere more serious than Cardross with some really  
17 bad folk.'

18 He did go back to school. However, he says nothing  
19 had changed. He didn't want to go to school and the  
20 school didn't want the potential disruption of having  
21 him there.

22 About two months after leaving Cardross there was  
23 another Children's Panel and it was decided that he was  
24 going to an Adolescent Unit. 'William' says he wasn't  
25 expecting that. He then says that he went to the

1 Adolescent Unit between 1984 and 1985. He says he was  
2 still 14, and was there for about 11 months. Secondary Institu

3 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
4

5 He said that it got to the point, this is at  
6 paragraph 83, 'when I was school leaving age', and as  
7 the reason for him being in the Adolescent Unit was him  
8 not going to school, it was decided that he should go  
9 home and he was dropped off at home by the staff.

10 He then talks about life after being in care from  
11 paragraph 85. He says he was back home, but had  
12 difficulty settling in.

13 He then says that he got involved with some older  
14 guys, who were a bit rough and ready. In 1986 he was  
15 remanded a couple of times in Young Offenders  
16 institutions, and then got a six-month sentence.

17 At paragraph 88, he talks about having a week remand  
18 in Barlinnie, and that he was still running about with  
19 the same crowd when he came out. He said he wasn't into  
20 drink and drugs, he was just wild.

21 He then got a three-week remand in Longriggend in  
22 1986 and then six months' imprisonment in a Young  
23 Offenders institution.

24 He says he came out in [REDACTED] 1986 and from  
25 there, he says, 'I screwed the nut'. He says he had

1 a couple of landscaping jobs and then worked in  
2 a factory, and then got a flat with his girlfriend in  
3 1992, and they got married in 1995.

4 He then bought his dad's council house from him. He  
5 started getting into security work, and works as  
6 a security trainer. He and his wife have two daughters.

7 'William' says he has just been trying to get on  
8 with his life and leave his demons behind.

9 He says at paragraph 89:

10 'I have good days and bad days, but you have got to  
11 get on with life.'

12 He then talks about impact from paragraph 90  
13 onwards.

14 At paragraph 95, he says he has been diagnosed as  
15 suffering from PTSD and that he has struggled to have  
16 a close relationship with his children.

17 At paragraph 96, 'William' says that the abuse he  
18 has suffered has messed up his mind in all aspects of  
19 life, but says that his wife and kids are his support.

20 In relation to reporting abuse, at paragraph 97 he  
21 says he has made a report to the police about abuse at  
22 Cardross. He says:

23 'I had intended to keep that buried, but it was  
24 eating away at me like a cancer.'

25 Thereafter, 'William' has made the usual declaration



1 at paragraph 112. He has signed that and it is dated  
2 25 May 2021.

3 My Lady, there is probably another one I could do.

4 LADY SMITH: If we can fit in another one, let's do that.

5 MS FORBES: Yes, okay.

6 LADY SMITH: Is that all right?

7 MS FORBES: My Lady, the next one is from an applicant who  
8 is anonymous and is known as 'Tavish'.

9 'Tavish' (read)

10 MS FORBES: The reference for his statement is

11 WIT.001.001.5305.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS FORBES: My Lady, 'Tavish' was born in 1958 and talks  
14 about his life, his background, sorry, before care  
15 between paragraphs 2 and 9. He says he had a normal  
16 childhood until six. They weren't poor, but his father  
17 started drinking and the family became dysfunctional.  
18 His father had been in the war, and was becoming  
19 mentally ill. He was in and out of prisons and mental  
20 hospitals. His father was violent towards his mother,  
21 but not to him, and he chased him one night, calling him  
22 a German bastard, with a knife. He says that he moved  
23 from Hillhouse in Hamilton to Stonehouse, and had to  
24 move schools, and he felt out of sorts. The accent was  
25 different. He felt isolated and didn't have any

1 friends.

2 He says that he first ended up in court  
3 in [REDACTED] 1969, and he doesn't remember what happened,  
4 but he was back in court in [REDACTED] 1970. He was  
5 11 years old. He had taken three empty lemonade bottles  
6 from a shed on a building site with his older brother,  
7 and he was taken to the police station and charged with  
8 house breaking and theft. He was also charged with  
9 threatening someone with a knife when he showed another  
10 boy, he says, a penknife he had. He was in court the  
11 next day and he got three years. 'Tavish' says he was  
12 that small he could hardly see over the dock. His  
13 brother only got a year.

14 He then talks about Calder House from paragraph 10.

15 He says that when he went to Calder House he was on  
16 a separate wing from his brother and they were kept  
17 apart throughout their time there. He says he was in  
18 Calder House from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] 1970. He then goes  
19 on to talk about the routine, and he says at  
20 paragraph 12:

21 'On a Wednesday we got PE, doing things like press  
22 ups, et cetera. The teachers would say things like "get  
23 your legs up or I'll knock the spunk out of you". It is  
24 the sort of language you would hear in the army, but  
25 I was only 11. I was one of the youngest in there.'

1           In relation to visitors, he says he had no visitors  
2 whilst he was in Calder House, and at paragraph 15, in  
3 relation to schooling, he said:

4           'My education ended the day I appeared in court.'

5           And he has the date there, in 1970.

6           'We were in classes, but there was no schooling or  
7 education. We were just shouted and bawled at all day  
8 by the staff. We were terrified of them. I hated the  
9 place. It was like a child's prison. There were no  
10 bars on the place but there may as well have been.'

11           He then goes on to talk about abuse, from  
12 paragraph 16, and says:

13           'The first thing I remember was me and my brother in  
14 the showers. I was embarrassed because I had never seen  
15 him naked before. A tall guy with long hair and a beard  
16 squeezed Lorexane [REDACTED] onto my brother's hair, and  
17 then he came to me and squeezed it onto my hair and it  
18 was running down my face. He then put it under my arms  
19 and then in my pubic area. He then lifted my leg and  
20 squeezed it up my bum. He then grabbed me by the hair  
21 and put it on my face and in my mouth, and I started to  
22 have an asthma attack. I was turning blue and couldn't  
23 breathe. It was unbelievably cruel. At the time  
24 I thought he was being very cruel and sadistic. I was  
25 11 years old and had just been sentenced to three years,

1 and on my first day that was what he was doing to me.  
2 I was standing under the shower, trying to get it out of  
3 my mouth. That was the first time I had had an asthma  
4 attack, apart from a slight one I took when I was eating  
5 an orange when I was younger. My brother didn't say or  
6 do anything as this was going on.

7 'The only other thing I remember about that place  
8 was, about two or three weeks later, getting locked in  
9 a cupboard. I was only 4-foot 6 and could just about  
10 touch both sides of the cupboard, it was that small.  
11 I actually like being alone and often go fly fishing on  
12 my own. I don't know why I was put in the cupboard.  
13 I think the cupboard door was locked. I was given  
14 a razor blade and I had to scrape a tile, which I spent  
15 all day doing. I was put back in the next day, and the  
16 tile I had scraped had been recoated. This time I got  
17 a different razor blade which was sharp on both sides.  
18 I had complained about this blade because it was hurting  
19 my fingers. I just didn't get the point of why they  
20 were getting me to do this. This went on for two weeks  
21 and they kept changing the blades they gave me. They  
22 recoated the tile every day. I was let out at the  
23 weekends.

24 'Some time in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], I was standing next  
25 to a radiator to get a heat. It was cold, and I was

1           just trying to get a heat. I got grabbed and taken into  
2           a room where there was a woman. She told me to take my  
3           trousers off and started to examine my willy. I started  
4           to get an erection. That was the first time I had ever  
5           had an erection. I apologised and she asked me to lie  
6           back, or sit back, and started rubbing my privates. She  
7           then covered it with a face flannel. I don't recall her  
8           saying anything, but I believe she was masturbating me,  
9           though I didn't ejaculate. I can't work out why she did  
10          that to me, or why she was examining me there. I hadn't  
11          complained about anything being wrong with me down  
12          there. She suddenly shouted "get dressed, get out".  
13          I don't know who she was, maybe a cleaner or a cook.

14                 'I don't recall any physical punishment, apart from  
15          the incident in the shower and being locked in the  
16          cupboard. I think they must have documentation about me  
17          being in the cupboard. It was bizarre the way they kept  
18          repolishing the tiles I scraped every day. I have never  
19          forgotten my time in that cupboard. I can never work  
20          out why they did it. Was it some sort of experiment?  
21          I wouldn't have refused to scrape the tiles because the  
22          place was 100 per cent discipline and when you were only  
23          11, those people were scary. If they told you to do  
24          something, then you did it.'

25                 He then says:

1           'I was in class one day and my brother got told he  
2           was going to an Approved School. I was crying because  
3           I didn't get a chance to say goodbye. The man who had  
4           taken him came back about half an hour later and said  
5           "wrong brother". I was taken away without any chance to  
6           say goodbye.'

7           He then says that he was taken to Dr Guthrie's, and  
8           he tells us about Dr Guthrie's from paragraph 24. He  
9           has a date, I think, in his statement as to when he was  
10          taken to Dr Guthrie's, and that was in [REDACTED], 1970.  
11          However, I think in our records it was [REDACTED], 1970,  
12          from the records we have got from Dr Guthrie's, but it  
13          is quite similar.

14       LADY SMITH: Yes.

15       MS FORBES: He then talks about Dr Guthrie's between  
16          paragraphs 24 and 59. My Lady, that evidence was read in  
17          to the Inquiry on 31 May of this year, which was  
18          Day 448. And he essentially says that there was  
19          physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse from  
20          staff at Dr Guthrie's; inappropriate conduct; and he  
21          talks about being filmed naked by a member of staff at  
22          a loch with other boys, and being shown a film of boys  
23          being naked at a loch.

24          He then goes on to talk about going to Geilsland  
25          and, my Lady, I think he says he was released from there

1 in 1972. I will just, sorry, I am just checking  
2 I have -- yes, sorry, he says that when he left  
3 Dr Guthrie's, this was in 1972 -- and says that when he  
4 left there he started breaking into shops and got caught  
5 and was sent to Geilsland, but says he deserved it. And,  
6 in Geilsland, he comments that Mr EZD there broke him  
7 with kindness, and he has no complaints about Geilsland  
8 other than having to work with blue asbestos. But he  
9 received no education in any of the places that he was  
10 in, and says that his education stopped at the age of  
11 11.

12 'Tavish' then says that he -- sorry, he talks about  
13 the impact from paragraph 62 onwards. If we can go to  
14 paragraph 67, 'Tavish' says:

15 'I can't forget being locked up in the cupboard or  
16 the cruelty that was handed out to me. I can never  
17 forgive the judge that sentenced me and how small I was,  
18 barely being able to see over the dock. I have  
19 certainly never understood why he gave me three years  
20 for nothing.'

21 A lot of the section on impact is about his whole  
22 time in care, and in relation to lessons to be learned,  
23 he talks about that between paragraphs 8 and 86, and if  
24 I can go to --

25 LADY SMITH: Paragraphs 80 and 86.

1 MS FORBES: Sorry, 80 and 86, yes, apologies my Lady.  
2 If I can go to paragraph 80, he says:  
3 'I would like the system to apologise to me,  
4 apologise for taking me from my mother, for assaulting  
5 me, for sexually, physically and emotionally abusing me,  
6 for locking me in a cupboard. If you did that today you  
7 would get locked up for ten years.'  
8 And then 'Tavish' has made the usual declaration at  
9 paragraph 87, and signed that, and it is dated 7 March,  
10 2017.  
11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.  
12 Well, it is now almost 4 o'clock. We have made  
13 excellent progress, and I think we should stop for the  
14 day. And tomorrow we resume at 10 o'clock with...?  
15 MS FORBES: Yes, tomorrow, my Lady, we have a live witness  
16 at 10 o'clock, and then two in the afternoon.  
17 LADY SMITH: Two in the afternoon, very well. Thank you  
18 very much.  
19 Oh, one mention. People should remember, because  
20 I said during Geilsland, the Geilsland section,  
21 Mr EZD's identity is subject to my General Restriction  
22 Order. He is not to be identified outside of this room.  
23 Thank you.  
24 (4.00 pm)  
25 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Friday, 12 July



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