

Tuesday, 6 August 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the beginning of
4 Chapter 8 in this phase of our public hearings. In
5 Chapter 8, we're going to be looking into the provision
6 of residential care for children and young people at
7 St John Bosco's; St Andrew's, Shandon; and St Philip's,
8 Plains. Today, we're going to start with oral evidence
9 from witnesses in person, I understand.

10 I'll invite Mr MacAulay to tell me what is going to
11 happen next.

12 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady, that is correct. The plan is to
13 lead oral evidence this morning and also in the
14 afternoon.

15 Can I just say that I understand my learned friend,
16 Mr Thomson, appears for the Order of the Salesians.
17 I think the proper title is actually the Society of
18 St Francis de Sales, but we refer to them as the
19 Salesians for ease of reference.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR MACAULAY: My learned friend, Mr Blair, is appearing for
22 the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. And the witness? We have
24 a witness ready, do we?

25 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, the first witness is an applicant.

1 He wants to remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym
2 'John' when giving evidence.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 'John' (sworn)

5 LADY SMITH: Now, a couple of things before we start with
6 your evidence, 'John'. First of all, thank you for
7 coming this morning to engage with us to give oral
8 evidence to the Inquiry. That, of course, is in
9 addition to the written statement you have already
10 provided, and it's really helpful to have had that in
11 advance. I'm grateful to you for that.

12 I have an apology to make. I'm very conscious of
13 the fact that it's some years now before you provided
14 that statement to us and it's only at this stage that we
15 have invited you to come and give evidence at a hearing.
16 It's all to do with our scheduling, and some people who
17 give evidence early on, or gave evidence early on in our
18 work, have had to wait.

19 I know it's hard and I know you would probably much
20 prefer to have got on with it and given your oral
21 evidence at that stage, but we're able to do it now.
22 I just wanted you to know I recognise that it's been
23 a long time.

24 Other than that, 'John', I also know it's really
25 difficult to do what you are about to do here today;

1 that's giving evidence in a public place, about your
2 life and about things that happened to you when you were
3 a child; and some of them upsetting things that happened
4 to you when you were a child. However prepared you may
5 think you are to do it, and ready to do it, your
6 emotions may catch you unawares or it just may become
7 overwhelming. I do understand that. Do you get that?

8 So if at any time you want a break, you want
9 a pause, or there's something else we could do, I could
10 do, to help you, you must let me know. Particularly,
11 I know we're very bad at sometimes talking like the
12 lawyers that we are and we don't make sense, and if you
13 don't understand what we're asking, that's our fault,
14 not yours, so you tell us; will you?

15 A. Yes, my Lady.

16 LADY SMITH: Okay. If you're ready, I'll hand over to
17 Mr MacAulay and he'll take it from there. Mr MacAulay.

18 Questions by Mr MacAulay

19 MR MACAULAY: My Lady. Good morning, 'John'.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. In the red folder that you have in front of you, you
22 will find your statement. I'm just going to give the
23 reference of the statement for the transcript and that's
24 WIT-1-000000593.

25 The first thing I want you to do, 'John', is to go

1 to the very end of the statement, the very last page of
2 the statement.

3 (Pause)

4 Now, can I ask you to confirm --

5 A. Excuse me a second, Colin, there's nothing on the last
6 page so -- I've got it now.

7 Q. You've got it now, good. Can I ask you to confirm that
8 you have signed the statement?

9 A. That's my signature, yes, Colin.

10 Q. And in that final paragraph, paragraph 163, do you say:

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

13 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
14 true.'

15 Is that correct?

16 A. That's true, Colin. Yes.

17 Q. Now, you want to remain anonymous and the Inquiry
18 respects that. I don't, therefore, want to know your
19 date of birth, but it's helpful for the context that we
20 need to have to know the year of your birth. Can you
21 confirm for me, 'John', that you were born in 1950?

22 A. That's correct, Colin.

23 Q. At the early part of your statement, you talk about your
24 life before you went into care -- you can go back to the
25 front of the statement.

1 A. Yes, Colin.

2 Q. I think you'll also find that the statement, which is in
3 hard copy in front of you, may also come up on the
4 screen in front of you.

5 But you tell us a little bit about your background
6 and your family background in relation to your siblings,
7 and I think the position is that you didn't know your
8 own father; is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. But in due course I think you had a stepfather?

11 A. My mother married and, unfortunately, she married the
12 same name as -- a Mr [REDACTED], so this is maybe where the
13 confusion comes in.

14 Q. Yes. But what you tell us also, early on in your
15 statement, is that for the early part of your life you
16 really were being brought up by your grandparents?

17 A. I was brought up by my grandparents until I was about
18 ten, around about nine or ten. And through
19 circumstances with my grandparents -- my gran died and
20 my grandfather took cancer of the throat and could no
21 longer look after me.

22 Q. Did that mean that really --

23 A. And my mother took me back to stay with her. At that
24 time, she had two children. Two sisters.

25 Q. And what you also tell us -- and I think this becomes

1 quite important later on -- is that with your
2 grandparents you were brought up in the Protestant
3 religion?

4 A. I was brought up in the Protestant religion and I went
5 to, you know, basically a nursery or whatever it is
6 nowadays; when you're five you go to school. I actually
7 informed [REDACTED] of the name of the school and the
8 streets where -- the school was on.

9 Q. Did there come a time, 'John' -- and we needn't go into
10 the detail as to why this was happening -- that you
11 started to miss school?

12 A. I missed school because basically I was unruly and
13 I just believed in, you know, going round the middens
14 and things like that, which, in they days, that's what
15 you done, you know. And when I went to school, at
16 11 o'clock I would just go out the door. And, you know,
17 you were signed in, so that was it, just go out the
18 door.

19 Q. Did that mean that the social work people became
20 involved?

21 A. I ended up going to court. My parents went to court, in
22 the sense that I wasn't going to school. In they days
23 you could get -- an actual person could get the jail for
24 his children not going to school, even although you took
25 them by the collar into school and presented them to

1 school. If he run away from school, you're still --
2 your parents were still responsible for you. That's how
3 it went in they days.

4 Q. You were taken to court?

5 A. I was taken to court. My mother, at the time -- says
6 I was out of her control and the words I've just says to
7 you; that I was taken up to school and was just going
8 away at 11 o'clock.

9 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that the judge --
10 who you say was a nice man --

11 A. The judge was excellent, actually. And he wanted to
12 do -- basically, I was out of her control and my
13 grandfather was too ill, so basically his options were
14 very limited. So I ended up -- I can't remember if it
15 was -- I got a probation report or just
16 a straightforward to go to Approved School. But the
17 judge wanted me to go to a good Approved School as --
18 you know, St John Bosco's was not. But, anyway, they
19 sent me -- they asked is there any Approved School
20 vacancies where, you know, they could take me in.

21 I went to Larchgrove --

22 Q. Just before that: did the judge say to you that he was
23 going to send you to an Approved School that was far
24 away from Glasgow?

25 A. No, he didn't say, 'You're going to go 40 miles away

1 from your parents'. He just basically says: make sure
2 he goes to a reasonable Approved School, and because of
3 his, actually, basically escaping from school, you know,
4 going out of school, preferably an Approved School
5 outwith Glasgow or outwith the district, so it would be
6 very hard for him to escape and come back and so forth.

7 Q. You mentioned a moment ago that you're first of all sent
8 to Larchgrove. I think a place was found for you; is
9 that correct?

10 A. I was sent to Larchgrove to await a vacancy outwith
11 Approved School. And Larchgrove -- I was treated just
12 like in school, but you couldn't get out of school, if
13 you know what I mean? I was educated and there were
14 people there to educate you. It was an excellent
15 establishment, you know, and you got football,
16 everything you wanted to do. And I would've loved to
17 have spent the three years that I was in St John Bosco's
18 in there.

19 Q. I think in fact you were only there for a few weeks?

20 A. I was there for two weeks, but I should -- back to the
21 point at the beginning, I was a Protestant and the judge
22 at the time presumed because I was going to a Catholic
23 school that I was a Catholic, and there was nobody there
24 to turn round to say: he was brought up as a Protestant
25 and he was brought up with his grandfather, et cetera.

1 My mother did say I was brought up with my
2 grandfather, but I was never asked what religion was my
3 grandfather. I don't know if that's any concern?
4 Q. I think you're making that point because St John Bosco's
5 was a Catholic school.
6 A. It was a Catholic school.
7 Q. Now, so far as being admitted to St John Bosco's is
8 concerned, the records tell us -- and I'll just put
9 these dates to you, 'John', to see if they chime with
10 you -- that you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1962 when
11 you were aged 12; does that fit in with your own
12 recollection?
13 A. That's correct.
14 Q. You left, according to the records, on [REDACTED] 1965,
15 aged 14?
16 A. That's -- well, 14-and-a-half.
17 Q. And it meant you were there for over two years?
18 A. Yes. Two-and-a-half years I would reckon, to be
19 precise.
20 Q. You provide us with a description of the building and
21 let's just look at that for a moment or two.
22 Are you quite happy to look at a photograph?
23 A. Yes, please.
24 Q. I'll put this on the screen and it should come on screen
25 in front of you. This is INQ-0000000872.

1 Now, it's not the greatest of photographs, but I
2 think we can see the nature of the building; do you
3 recognise that?

4 A. Yes, that was the building. What you can't see in that
5 photo is the basement, which is under the -- where the
6 door is, under there, there's a basement and rooms all
7 round the bottom.

8 Q. If you just look at the building, I take it that there
9 was a place where you would sleep; are you able to tell
10 us about that?

11 A. Yes. I was in -- as I look at the building, to the
12 right, I was placed from the attic -- which is above the
13 building, that's at the roof -- to the right corner
14 window, one up.

15 Q. Ah, yes. The one that's being pointed to?

16 A. The right corner window, one up, and there was about
17 eight boys in the same room. And the next room to that
18 is another dormitory.

19 Q. And if we look at the first -- the ground floor, as
20 we're looking at the building; what sort of
21 accommodation was being housed there?

22 A. Right. To the right, under where I was at the end
23 billeted, that, where you're pointing just now, was
24 a big, big drawing room, where all the priests would be
25 round a table and have their evening meal, and just --

1 read the papers and so forth.

2 Q. Then, to the other side of the -- to the left-hand side,
3 we see some further windows?

4 A. Sorry, the left-hand side, I'm -- was not a dorm.
5 I'm led to believe that was a room -- a bathroom,
6 probably. Because above it was -- that was a bathroom
7 above it, too, with an actual bath in it, which -- we
8 never ever got a bath. But that had a bath in it for
9 the priests to get washed, et cetera. And the far away
10 room is just -- basically, was another priest that was
11 in there, presumably.

12 Q. I take it -- you've talked about the sleeping
13 accommodation for the boys; did the priests also sleep
14 within that building?

15 A. There was -- I'm having to think now, one, two, three,
16 four, five, six -- maybe six priests that stayed in that
17 building. Now, down the stairs, the windows we can't
18 see, going round the building at the back, was actually
19 where the Father Rector -- which was the Father in
20 charge of all the school -- slept. And his office is
21 basically -- was through the front door, to the left, at
22 the back of the room that you pointed there. His
23 offices was there. There was a room which was kept
24 aside for any medical emergencies, the likes of smallpox
25 or whatever the case may be, you know. You would be put

1 in there.

2 Q. We perhaps don't get a full image of the extent of the
3 building going back, but it was a pretty sizeable
4 building?

5 A. It was a very sizeable building, and the roof -- are we
6 talking about the roof here, Colin?

7 Q. I'm just talking about the building in general.

8 A. Right. The building itself had round about 36 boys,
9 because the attic was in it. 36 boys, 6 priests, and if
10 any priests were -- which came on a Sunday to hear Mass
11 or, you know, confession, et cetera, et cetera, because
12 none of the boys would go to the confession, he was
13 there to, you know, if you wanted to go to confession,
14 he was there after the sermon -- evening Mass, you know,
15 to go to him, and say your thing.

16 Q. We needn't identify the locations, but I understand you
17 to be telling me that the priests -- let's refer to them
18 as priests for the moment -- also slept within that
19 building?

20 A. Yes. There must have been at least six to ten priests,
21 you know. We've got to remember there was a lot of old
22 priests that had actually retired.

23 Q. I think we might hear that there were some retired
24 priests also being accommodated in the building?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. We were looking then at the main building. So far as
2 other accommodation was concerned, were there other
3 buildings that, for example, served as classrooms or
4 workshops?

5 A. There were workshops that -- as you come out the front
6 door and you went to the right, you walked down and you
7 went into the chapel.

8 The chapel was a tin building, made of tin and
9 60 feet long to 80 feet long, and once you went in the
10 front door there was no other way out. You had to go
11 through the sacristy to get into the school. You go
12 into the school after you have been to Mass and,
13 basically, you were controlled throughout the school.

14 Q. From what you are saying, the chapel was very close to
15 the main building?

16 A. Yes, it was actually -- at an extension on -- not to the
17 main building -- to the main school, we're talking about
18 here. Not this building here.

19 Q. But if we're looking at schooling then, what was the
20 accommodation for --

21 A. Well, I was through the front door, up the stairs, and
22 you'll see the skyscrapers in the loft. The boys were
23 actually billeted in there, four to a room.

24 Q. In relation to schooling then, 'John'; were there places
25 where you could go for classrooms?

1 A. Yes. Well, you come out the front door there, as I
2 tried to describe there, Colin, you turn to the right
3 and you went down. And the first thing in the morning
4 you would go for Mass. Mass in they days was in Latin
5 and it could go on for an hour easily. And you went
6 through the sacristy in the chapel into the actual
7 schooling of the -- where they had the school.

8 Q. What sort of buildings accommodated the school?

9 A. It was just a building battered together with a flat --
10 no, it wasnae flat. Some parts of it were -- had
11 a tilt. But just a building like this here, sectioned
12 off for one -- class one and class two. Half the boys
13 would go to class one and half the boys would go to
14 class two.

15 Q. I'll come on to look at the schooling in a little while.

16 Very well then. Let's look at the priests or the
17 staff. You talk about that in paragraph 34 and you
18 can't remember all the names. You can remember some
19 names of the staff; can you just help me with that?
20 What names do you remember?

21 A. The only ones -- I mean, Father Rector, I don't know his
22 second name and ...

23 Q. I think -- can I just understand this: I think we'll
24 hear that the Father Rector, who is in charge of the
25 sort of spiritual life, if you like, of the Order, but

1 I think there would also be SNR who would
2 the school?

3 A. He was Father LOE. He had his own room, actually in
4 the building where the school was, and he done all the
5 writing out to the parents and, you know, stuff that
6 come in, you know, basically through the mail.

7 Q. And did he teach? Or did he teach you?

8 A. He never taught me. Maybe once or twice, I'm talking in
9 a year, you might have him in the classroom to teach,
10 but not teaching as in a subject, you know, basically
11 giving you a lecture or something like that.

12 Q. You've mentioned then the Father Rector, you've
13 mentioned Father LOE; who else do you remember?

14 A. Brother LMW was one of the -- basically,
15 I was -- he walked about with a suit and pens here, but
16 I was presuming he was going to become a priest because
17 he would walk about with a -- priest gowns on and things
18 like that all the time.

19 Q. I think we'll hear again that within the Salesians some
20 would remain as Brothers and some would move on to
21 become priests?

22 A. Yes, that is correct, Colin.

23 Q. And were you taught by Brother LMW? Did he teach
24 you?

25 A. Brother LMW's subjects were art and technical

1 drawing. And he taught, you know, basically, parts from
2 like English and things, but he wasn't qualified as
3 a person to teach these kind of things, because his
4 agenda in life was just to teach us art and technical
5 drawing.

6 The other Brother, who was in the second class, he
7 went on to history and things like that. And in my days
8 in St John Bosco's, when we say 'history', we're talking
9 about 1066, you know, one book does all history, you
10 know. You opened it up and it's right through from 1066
11 to, not to modern times, but through the years.

12 Q. I'll come back in a little while to the schooling aspect
13 of this. But in relation to the priests or Brothers
14 then; are the names you have mentioned the only names
15 you can remember?

16 A. I can't remember, because it's not in my mind, as in --
17 what's in my mind was actually my times at the time, and
18 the bad times. There were also two priests that stayed
19 in a cottage. The photo you showed me, right down the
20 very bottom, where there was a -- at times from the war,
21 there were -- people grew stuff in the garden, so they
22 used that as teaching you how to garden and all that.
23 You went down and planted tatties and carrots and things
24 like that.

25 But there was an old bungalow down there and there

1 was always two old priests that was in there. And you
2 very seldom seen them, but they did come up for their
3 dinner, et cetera.

4 Q. You do mention that there was a matron?

5 A. Oh, there was a matron and the matron had a dog, an old
6 collie, but she wasnae there as a practising matron, you
7 know if you got a cut finger or something like that.
8 She was there more for the laundry of the establishment
9 and the keeping, the running of the kitchen, et cetera.
10 You know, making sure everything was going all right.

11 Q. Did she stay in the main building or did she stay
12 somewhere else?

13 A. She stayed behind the church -- sorry, the chapel. As
14 you went into the main building, she was over the back
15 there, in behind the cook house. She had her own
16 self-contained flat there. And, to my knowledge, she
17 was there when I went to St John Bosco's and she was
18 there when I left. But she didnae take any practical
19 running -- If somebody was not well or something like
20 that, it was just, you know -- nobody got not well, if
21 you could put it that way, for her to be of any
22 practical use.

23 Q. Apart from the matron, and you've mentioned the priests
24 and one of the Brothers; were there any other lay staff
25 there at the time when you were there --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- at the beginning?

3 A. There were two cooks that, you know, basically cooked
4 our meals, et cetera. And there was -- I'm almost sure
5 there was two for doing the laundry and, basically, they
6 functions. But they were not cleaners or anything to do
7 with cleaning, just the actual practical stuff in the
8 school.

9 Q. I'll come on to the chores that you had to do in
10 a moment. But you have mentioned this already: you have
11 been very precise about the number of boys that were in
12 the school --

13 A. There were 36.

14 Q. You do remember that number?

15 A. 36.

16 Q. So far as the age range was concerned, you were 12 when
17 you went --

18 A. I was 12. I would say I was probably the typical age
19 group that was there, because there might be one at 11,
20 there may be one at 13, but it was all in that age
21 group.

22 Q. You also tell us about the set-up in relation to the
23 house system, that there were three houses. You mention
24 St Andrew, St David and St Columbus?

25 A. That is correct, yes.

1 Q. So were the 36 boys divided into these units?

2 A. There were 12 boys in each unit and it was just to
3 compete against each other. You would get points for
4 doing maths or points for doing technical drawing,
5 anything from one to three. And every Saturday they
6 would count the points up and, say it was St Columbus
7 had 106 points, they were the winners. During the term,
8 before the end of the term, they'd have a thing and say:
9 right, St Columbus have got, say, 2,000 points. They
10 would get what they call a high tea, which meant that
11 they would put all the tables together for them and they
12 would be fed different from the rest of the boys. You
13 know, the high tea, they'd get ginger and all the rest
14 of it.

15 Q. So it was a sort of set-up to provide some incentives to
16 the separate houses doing better than one of the other
17 houses?

18 A. No, but that was only one day of the year when that came
19 about.

20 Q. Okay. Can I start looking with you at aspects of the
21 routine? Perhaps I can take you to your very first day
22 at St John Bosco's.

23 You tell us, at paragraph 40, that you remember
24 going into the building when you arrived and being put
25 into a secure room. I just want to understand what you

1 meant by that.

2 A. Well, when I went in the front door, as the picture you
3 showed me -- and I did describe the staffroom there,
4 with a big long table in it, you were put into there and
5 locked in. Well, the two policemen that actually took
6 me through from Glasgow, done the paperwork for me to
7 transfer me over to St John Bosco's, Colin.

8 Q. When you talk about -- in the next line -- the 'head
9 priest'; are you talking there about the rector or SNR
10 SNR ?

11 A. Yes, it was the rector that actually accepted me.

12 Q. And I think you were told to have a bath and they gave
13 you clothing that you were required to wear during your
14 time there; is that right?

15 A. Say that again, sorry.

16 Q. Yes, I think you tell us next that you had a bath, in
17 this first day, and then you were given clothing?

18 A. The first day -- as I was in the house and I got
19 transferred over, I was taken up to the bathroom --
20 which I described at the beginning -- the priests used,
21 and I was given a bath. And basically, they brought
22 their clothes and took my clothes away, and that was it.
23 And that's the first and only time I had a bath in
24 St John Bosco's.

25 Q. You go on to tell us about aspects of the routine; that

1 in the morning you were woken up early, at about

2 7 o'clock, and you then went to Mass?

3 A. We were woken up -- there was three altars in the
4 chapel, one straight in front of you, which was called
5 the main altar, and there was an altar to the right and
6 to the left, which was only a small corner altar. Now,
7 some boys -- we all had to do it in rotation, that a
8 priest maybe would want to say a Mass for himself or
9 maybe for one of the congregation, or whatever the case
10 may be, and you would be asked, you know: on Tuesday,
11 HBM and [REDACTED] and so forth, I want you to do -- Father
12 such and such is having a Mass on Wednesday, I want you
13 to be up for, let's say, 6.30.

14 And you go over at 6.30 and you sit down and do
15 the -- sorry, in the corner and do the Mass, the reading
16 of the documents and the wine, et cetera, for the
17 priest.

18 Q. But, generally, for most of the boys, they'd go to Mass
19 together?

20 A. They'd go -- everybody, including the boys that had
21 actually been to Mass already, would sit in and they'd
22 go through the Mass to the end. And, as I say,
23 everybody had to take a turn of being an altar boy.

24 Q. I don't want to ask you about this and what happened
25 after Mass, because you tell us that after Mass you

1 would have your breakfast, but then you had work to do;
2 can you tell me about the work you had to do?
3 A. Yes. My Lady, we were paid two shillings, old
4 shillings, a week, to do work from the finish of your
5 breakfast for an hour, cleaning all the classrooms,
6 polishing all the floors, buffing the floors with a big
7 heavy buff. You actually buffed them. Everybody had
8 a job to do. And Father **LOE** or one of the priests
9 would go round and check everything is all done to their
10 satisfaction.

11 Now, you would get two shillings for that. One
12 shilling would go in what they call your -- when you
13 were going on leave, say, to go home, that was kept for
14 you there and the other shilling was for your tuck shop.

15 Now, for a shilling then you could buy four bars of
16 toffee, four packs of crisps, a small bottle of ginger
17 and two bars of toffee, and so forth, but you were only
18 allowed a shilling to spend.

19 LADY SMITH: You are talking early 1960s, 'John', so
20 a shilling could go a long way.

21 A. Well, it would, my Lady, yes. But the thing is, at the
22 end of the day, that was all you got and it wasnae
23 a case -- they only had the tuck shop open one day
24 a week, which was a Saturday, and when you went up you
25 didn't need to spend the shilling. The shilling could

1 be put in what they called your bank or you could
2 actually buy up to a shilling's worth of stuff out the
3 tuck shop.

4 LADY SMITH: And you'd been paid two shillings for doing the
5 work?

6 A. Two shillings a week. And it wasnae a day, it was two
7 shillings a week. And the other -- you know, any money,
8 say, for instance, you only spent sixpence, that other
9 sixpence would go into your savings and you would get
10 that any time you were going home on leave for a week or
11 whatever it is.

12 MR MACAULAY: And --

13 LADY SMITH: But you could also get a bar of chocolate for
14 a penny at that time, the smaller ones?

15 A. Yes. But you got to appreciate, my Lady, they werenae
16 too keen on giving you toffee and things like that
17 because of your teeth. So I, myself, would normally
18 just buy a bottle of ginger, which was sixpence, and
19 drink the bottle of ginger and that was it, and put the
20 other sixpence in my savings.

21 But when you think about it, for the work you done,
22 it was a hell of a lot of work for two shillings. And
23 this went on when -- even to the time I left, that's all
24 you got paid, and back -- excuse me, in the class, we
25 were taught with a pen that you dipped in ink and you

1 actually were writing stuff -- you didn't get a biro;
2 you got a pen that dipped in ink. Now, if you broke the
3 pen -- the nibs then were steel ones or brass. Now, if
4 you broke a nib and you had to go up to the teacher and
5 ask for a nib, that was thruppence.

6 LADY SMITH: It would be charged to you?

7 A. They would charge you out of your... you know your funds
8 which was in the thing. And to break a nib, believe me,
9 anyone who has ever used one of these sort of pens, you
10 just need to scrape it and it goes 'Dink!' and breaks.

11 MR MACAULAY: So, just going back to what you said about the
12 cleaning and so on; were there other cleaners? By that
13 I mean adult cleaners.

14 A. None at all.

15 Q. So who cleaned the toilets?

16 A. The boys. One person would be given one set of toilets
17 to do. One person would be given the other sets of
18 toilets to do. And the priests had toilets theirselves in
19 the actual compound, and you had to go in and do the
20 toilets, the priests' toilets. There wasnae a hell of
21 a lot of toilets. There was maybe ten toilets there and
22 ten urinals.

23 Now, in the house -- which we didn't touch on -- in
24 the house, there was a wash place for getting washed.
25 There was one toilet, one flushing toilet, and to my

1 memory about six urinals for doing the toilet in. Now,
2 a lot of times the heating wouldn't be going in the --
3 so you had to wash in cold water. Now we didn't shave
4 at that time, but when you went in you had a toothbrush
5 and you had a tin, a toothpaste, that you dipped your --
6 LADY SMITH: Might be something like Gibbs Dentifrice, they
7 called it.
8 A. No, it was a tin, my Lady.
9 LADY SMITH: Yes, in a tin.
10 A. Aye, and that tin was to do the whole lot of yous. So
11 everybody came in and, rather than give you a tube of
12 toothpaste, that was your toothpaste. So everybody had
13 to use the toothpaste they had there. Believe me,
14 washing in cold water in the morning, especially if you
15 only got a shower once a week, so it was pretty -- you
16 had to wash under your arms and all the rest of it. It
17 was pretty ...
18 MR MACAULAY: Okay. Just following through with the routine
19 then, 'John', I think you tell us that you would go to
20 school, and I will come back to school in a moment.
21 After that there would be... later on there would be
22 dinner, recreation, and back to church for Benediction.
23 A. Benediction, yeah.
24 Q. Then, after that, you'd be going to bed?
25 A. After that. But, in between times, if you had done

1 something during the day, you got sanctioned and you
2 would have to work at night doing something rather than
3 have any recreation. They'd take your recreation away
4 from you.

5 Q. And the work, again, would have been the sort of things
6 we have already discussed?

7 A. The same you done during -- in the morning.

8 Q. Can I just move on now to look at the food? Can I ask
9 you about the food that you were given? How would you
10 describe that?

11 A. The food was actually -- my Lady, you got a pint of milk
12 and a table with four boys, and each of yous had a cup
13 and you'd pour the pint of milk between the four cups.
14 Now, the cup -- you were given porridge. The cup was
15 for your porridge and any milk that was left was for
16 when they brought the tea round. It was for your tea
17 and they would pour the tea in the milk that was left in
18 the cup. You didn't get any extra milk, so it was only
19 a quarter of a pint of milk you got a day.

20 Now, after your porridge, they would come round with
21 an egg and a sausage and two pieces of bread, which
22 would be at your table.

23 Q. Are you talking about breakfast?

24 A. Breakfast, sorry.

25 Q. And lunch and dinner; what --

1 A. You looked forward to dinner because normally you'd get
2 a soup, a dinner and pudding, but it's basically
3 a minimum on your plate was given. Somebody would come
4 round and just give you -- you know, pour it out and
5 that was it.

6 Q. Did you eat in a dining room all together?

7 A. Yes. Now, we were not allowed to talk whatsoever in the
8 dining room and a Brother or a priest would come in from
9 the start and he would sit on a stool and he would read
10 a book. It could be any book, Treasure Island, could be
11 anything. So you wouldn't talk. Anybody that talked
12 got work. Say, for instance, I said to somebody beside
13 me, 'What you doing today?', and he heard me, you'd get
14 work that night doing something, you know, maybe mopping
15 the floors or whatever the case may be, just because you
16 just asked him that one question and he heard.

17 LADY SMITH: 'John', are you telling me that this priest,
18 who was reading from a book such as Treasure Island,
19 would be reading out loud to the boys?

20 A. Oh, he read it out loud. Sorry, he wasnae reading it
21 just -- he read it out loud.

22 LADY SMITH: So you could all listen to the story?

23 A. Rather than talk. Now, the last five minutes of your
24 breakfast, you were allowed to talk then. It was so the
25 priests -- this is the main room here, the priests were

1 in the room next to you and so they couldnae hear you or
2 anything like that, and they could talk. In theory, you
3 could sit down when you are eating and listen to what
4 the priests are saying, because there wasnae the walls
5 that you've got in here. They were just corrugated
6 walls.

7 Q. Could you say what the priests were having as their
8 food?

9 A. Well, the priests were given food -- a spread out on the
10 table, and they went up -- or over to the side -- and
11 helped theirselves. If they wanted four sausages, they
12 took four sausages. If they wanted ham, they took ham.
13 Eggs, so forth. Because I've actually seen it with my
14 own eyes, actually going to the toilet or maybe going
15 out and their door was open, you could see. They
16 certainly weren't -- were not given the same food that
17 we were given.

18 And it was the same at night, they were --
19 basically, like a feast and you were sitting with
20 whatever they put down to you, and that was it.

21 MR MACAULAY: I think you do tell us that your birthday
22 would be recognised and you would have a cake on your
23 birthday?

24 A. Everyone on their birthday got a cake. Now, the cake
25 was only nine inches, that size there, my Lady. You

1 know, nine inches. And that was to be shared between
2 the table, the four boys. And, logically, everybody
3 would sing happy birthday and that, you know, at one
4 time in the meal that you could sing happy birthday, and
5 that was it.

6 Q. You go on to tell us in your statement about the
7 clothing and also shoes, and I'll come back to the shoes
8 in a moment. I think you have already told us, on your
9 first day you were given clothing that you were to wear
10 during your time there?

11 A. All the clothing that I was given at the time -- now,
12 logically, I'm growing from the age of 12 to the age of
13 14, and I got long trousers when I was 14 because I was
14 stretching, you know. But basically, the clothing you
15 were given was the clothes you had all the time and they
16 never -- to my knowledge, they never took the clothing
17 away from you to get washed or anything like that.

18 Q. Who washed the clothes?

19 A. The only thing that got washed when I was there was your
20 underpants and your vest and your shirt. And on
21 occasions, if they were short, you would take your top
22 sheet and put that down in the bottom of your bed, you
23 know, to lie on, and put your top sheet in to get
24 washed, and that happened on numerous occasions that
25 they would say: 'just give us one sheet', you know,

1 'reverse your sheets'. And you were handed up one sheet
2 for your bed and that was the one.

3 Q. You tell us in this part of your statement about
4 an incident whereby you had been given shoes, but then
5 they got damaged because you had them for quite a long
6 time, and something happened when you went to see
7 Father [REDACTED]?

8 A. Yes. I was size 10 at that time, shoes, and, playing
9 football and that, I ripped the side of the shoe and
10 I was sent -- they actually sent all the shoes that was
11 actually damaged to the cobblers to get them fixed, and
12 my shoes come back unfixable. And Father [REDACTED] went
13 off his trolley because -- well, you know, he's not --
14 because I had actually ruined these shoes. And I got
15 another pair of shoes. I'm not too sure if I got the
16 belt for it or whatever, but I got told they would be
17 looking at my shoes all the time and: make sure --
18 'don't you scuff these shoes or anything like that'.

19 You were given polish to polish your shoes. The
20 whole dorm would be given two brushes and a small can of
21 polish and you would have to -- everybody would have
22 their turn to polish their shoes for the next day to
23 wear, and that's it.

24 Q. You told us a little while ago about your outer clothing
25 not being sent to be washed, but that your underpants

1 would be washed?

2 A. Your underpants, your vest, your shirt. You had a small
3 waistcoat kind of jacket with sleeves. These things
4 never, to my mind, ever got washed. You just basically
5 used them. Now, if they wore out, or they tore or
6 something like that, then they'd just give you a new
7 pair. Not a new pair -- a pair.

8 Q. You do say that your underpants and vest would be
9 washed?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now who would wash --

12 A. This is what I'm saying, they had the cleaner as I
13 described to you, Colin, you had two cooks and two ones
14 that actually done the washing in the backshop, so they
15 would have the job of washing all the laundry and all
16 the priests' laundry, et cetera, et cetera. You would
17 have, on your pants, a number. I was number [REDACTED] -- sorry,
18 [REDACTED] on your pants, so that was the pants you got
19 back.

20 Q. You go on to tell us in your statement, 'John', about
21 trips that you had. In particular, you tell us, at
22 paragraph 62, that you remember that -- after your first
23 week or so -- that you had a trip to Aberdeen?

24 A. I had a trip to Aberdeen for a holiday, because during
25 the terms of the school, my Lady -- you didn't get any

1 school lessons or anything like that in St John Bosco's,
2 so they took us away to a school in Aberdeen and --
3 basically, with camp beds and you just slept on the
4 floor.

5 Q. And was the whole school -- all the boys taken?

6 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

7 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 63, about something that
8 happened during this particular trip?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Can you tell me about that?

11 A. I was just there at the time, and something happened
12 between a boy and a priest. Now, the priest, the next
13 day, disappeared from the school, just completely
14 disappeared. The police were all over the place talking
15 to people, taking statements, but I never gave
16 a statement because I never seen nothing, you know. But
17 something happened, substantial happened, between
18 a priest and a boy at that time.

19 Q. When you talk about a priest; was this one of the
20 priests who were with you from the school?

21 A. Yes, yes, yes. Sorry, I'll make it clear: we weren't at
22 a Catholic school or a Protestant school. What they
23 done is they borrowed the classrooms in a school in
24 Aberdeen, and camp beds, and we were a week there.

25 Q. I just want to be clear: the priest that disappeared was

1 a priest that was with you, who had come from
2 St John Bosco's?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. Can I then look at the whole issue of schooling. You
5 have already touched upon aspects of this. You --
6 because I think you had been missing school quite a lot
7 before you went there, I think you tell us that you
8 couldn't read or write when you went there?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Were there other boys in the same position?

11 A. There was lots of boys in my class that couldn't read or
12 write. It was just, basically, we weren't taught to
13 read or write. I, today, work as a school crosser, but
14 I've also got the qualifications as a janitor in the
15 school and do cleaning et cetera, et cetera, before --
16 you know, I took a heart attack not long ago, so before
17 that -- now I'm just doing the school crossings.

18 Now, you could teach a foreign child and they would
19 bring, the school would bring people in to learn them to
20 read, to write, to speak English, and it was all done
21 within maybe a three-month period or something like
22 that, to get them into society in the class.

23 St John Bosco's never thought of teaching any of us to
24 read or write, although there were adequate staff there
25 to do it. They just didn't bother.

1 Q. In relation to the history class -- and I think you
2 mentioned this -- there was this one book, which was the
3 same book for the whole three years that you were there,
4 about William the Conqueror?

5 A. That was a history book; is that what we're talking
6 about?

7 Q. That is what you say in your statement; that that was
8 the one history book that you had for three years?

9 A. For three years.

10 Q. You've told us that you couldn't spell and write -- and
11 do I take it, from what you've been saying, you were not
12 taught at St John Bosco's to read or write?

13 A. They put down an A, B, C book. Away back then, they had
14 a system that they got, you know, this type of book
15 here, big, big, giant letters and how to read and things
16 like that. Some people could do it. I could never get
17 the knack of it. Then they went on to read, write, so
18 forth, so forth, so we were just left behind. They
19 weren't saying well we've got -- problems here with this
20 person reading or writing or anything like that.

21 We were just basically left to get on with our own
22 thing.

23 Q. When you left after your three years, I think you went
24 to a secondary school; and did they realise, at that
25 school, that you had a problem?

1 A. Yes. I went to a secondary school and, of course, in
2 the secondary school, the first day, people had to read,
3 each, and somebody would stand up and read another two
4 pages and so forth, in the classroom. They came to me.
5 I couldnae read, so I got took to the headmaster or the
6 headmistress -- it was the headmistress that dealt with
7 it -- and she said, 'How can you not read?', and I said,
8 'I was never taught'. And she sent a letter off to
9 St John Bosco's, and she got a letter back with four
10 lines, and it probably would have been from one of the
11 priests who were dealing with the paperwork, and it
12 says: the man has got dyslexia, he's a dyslexic, you
13 know -- never bothered.

14 Q. I think you are saying that the headteacher was told
15 that you were dyslexic?

16 A. Yeah. And there were four lines: we tried to teach
17 Mr HBM, but he didn't, you know, come on in the way of
18 reading and writing ...

19 And they put it down as: he's dyslexic.

20 Q. Did you have dyslexia, to your knowledge?

21 A. Yes, yes, I would say so. But I can read now and I can
22 actually -- with doing -- I mean, I was in the army, so
23 I had to learn a lot of things. I can use a computer
24 now, but I do have to use spell checks and check the
25 spellings of words and things like that. So I'm not

1 completely, you know, competent in it.

2 Q. Yes. Now, there is a section in your statement where,
3 again, you talk about religious instruction. This is at
4 paragraph 71. You tell us that you were asked at some
5 point to recite the Lord's Prayer, the 'Our Father', and
6 you did that, but in front of a priest, and I think the
7 priest realised that you were not a Catholic; is that
8 what you're trying to tell us?

9 A. My Lady, I'll carry on from Colin. I was there less
10 than a week in the Approved School and, at that time,
11 they done the Rosary and one would say Hail Mary, the
12 next one would say Hail Mary -- Holy Marys -- and so
13 forth, and then you came to the 'Our Father'. Now,
14 I knew the 'Our Father' from my grandfather, and I says
15 the Protestant version, which was still in my mind, you
16 know: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
17 name ...

18 Do you want me to carry on?

19 LADY SMITH: I know it. Carry on if you would like, it's
20 not a problem.

21 A. I says the 'Our Father' and that, but nobody ever picked
22 up. And the old priest was -- the rector, the charge
23 man in the borstal -- shouted me aside and says, 'Who
24 taught you the Our Father,' you know, the 'Our Father'.
25 I says, 'I got taught that in school'. He says, 'You

1 never got taught that in a Catholic Approved School',
2 and that's where it all came out that I was
3 a Protestant. And, of course, they wrote to my mother
4 to confirm this, presumably, and my father -- sorry, my
5 grandfather --

6 LADY SMITH: Your grandfather was a Protestant, I think; is
7 that right? But your stepfather was a Catholic; is that
8 correct?

9 A. Well, my mother married a [REDACTED], and my grandfather was
10 called [REDACTED], so it looked like everything was all the
11 one family, but it wasn't. And I'll give you an
12 example.

13 The priest sat down with me and says, 'We're going
14 to have to do something', but they didnae do anything at
15 all. All they done is baptise me as a Catholic,
16 without, you know -- if you asked me now I would say no,
17 but I had no powers of -- anybody there to do something.

18 LADY SMITH: Do you know whether you had already been
19 baptised --

20 A. Aye --

21 LADY SMITH: -- when you were a baby, in the Protestant
22 church?

23 A. As a baby, yeah. But they wanted to baptise me in --

24 MR MACAULAY: Do you know if your mother or stepfather were
25 consulted?

1 A. No.

2 Q. You don't know or they weren't?

3 A. As far as I know -- I don't know. My grandfather --

4 I was home on leave and he was dying of cancer in the

5 Royal Infirmary, and she phoned the home and told them

6 my grandfather was dying. He wasn't expected to last

7 the night, which he didn't. They says that I had to

8 come back and they actually paid for another ticket for

9 me to come back from Queen Street through. Now, this

10 may be -- I was given, from my grandfather at his death

11 bed ...

12 LADY SMITH: 'John', I know it's what's in your statement,

13 if it upsets you too much to talk about it -- but is

14 this about the Bible your grandfather gave you?

15 A. Yes. My grandfather gave me his Masonic Bible and

16 I took it back to the school and Father **LOE** took it

17 off me and he took it into his room and he says,

18 'I'll give you it back when you're leaving here', and

19 flung it in his drawer.

20 It was just something he shouldnae have done.

21 MR MACAULAY: But you were given it back when you left?

22 A. I was given it back, yes, and I've still got it. It's

23 got all the family history, you know, from my great

24 grandfather, his grandfather, right through.

25 My grandfather was always against me being in

1 St John Bosco's, and he always argued the point before
2 that I should never have been sent to a Catholic
3 Approved School, and there was plenty about. But
4 I think with the wording of the judge at the
5 beginning -- which we crossed over -- that I was more
6 than likely to run away from a, you know, a local --
7 Q. I think what you're saying there is that your
8 grandfather's view was that you should have been sent to
9 a non-Catholic Approved School?
10 A. Yes. And he had actually sent a letter in about my
11 Bible being taken off me, but I never got the letter.
12 And we were in a position in the school that we got one
13 letter a week to write, which I used to give to somebody
14 else. But, anyway, if you wrote a letter and there was
15 things in the letter that -- about the school or about
16 anything, they just destroyed the letter. They just
17 wouldn't post it.
18 Q. I was going to ask you about letter writing. You would
19 write a letter home once a week; is that correct?
20 A. No, you got given the letter to write home or to write
21 to anybody -- you could write to a friend or what have
22 you -- but the letter would be read and they would score
23 out any words that they didn't like.
24 LADY SMITH: Are you telling me, 'John', you were given the
25 paper to write a letter on, and you would have had

1 difficulty with that?

2 A. I don't think I ever, my Lady, actually sent a letter to
3 my parents.

4 LADY SMITH: I can understand that. Thank you.

5 A. My parents only once in two-and-a-half years come
6 through to see me and, of course, you got a ticket from,
7 at that time, the social security, you know.

8 MR MACAULAY: I think you did get home leave in the summer,
9 at Christmas and at Easter; is that correct?

10 A. Yes, you got home leave. And my mother, at that time,
11 was still staying in a room and kitchen, but then she
12 had another child, which meant we had two sisters and
13 a younger brother, so everything was up against her for
14 me to come home.

15 Q. Can I just move on a little bit then, 'John', in your
16 statement, and go on to paragraph 86, where there is
17 a section where you are dealing with bed wetting?

18 A. Oh, yeah.

19 Q. You tell us that there were boys at St John Bosco's who
20 wet the bed; can you tell me about that?

21 A. I pointed out the dorm I was put in from the attic,
22 which I was in before, you know, staying up the stair in
23 the attic, and the dorm across from me, which had
24 another Brother involved in that, because that's where
25 the fire escape was. Now, one boy soiled the bed and

1 all of a sudden there was a panic and what have you.

2 Now, to my thoughts, when I think back on it,
3 Father LOE was involved, as in come in to see what
4 had happened and all the rest of it. Now, the boy in
5 question was -- because the whole mattress, the whole
6 lot was all messed, he was told to -- you know, not --
7 sleep on the bed with the Brother that was in that room,
8 and Father LOE sat in his chair, which was a rocking
9 chair, just outside their dorm all night.

10 Now, after that, they made it -- one of the rooms --
11 as you come up the stairs, to the right there is
12 a bedroom there, they made that a wet room. What they
13 called -- anybody who peed the bed or anything like
14 that, and there was always a set of bedding there in
15 case it ever happened again.

16 Q. Were there boys who did wet the bed?

17 A. Yes. If somebody wet the bed in the new room they set
18 up, then there was stuff there to do, because they
19 hadnae took it into consideration, if this happened,
20 what do we do, so, after that, a couple of days after
21 that, they made a room for all the ones that actually
22 wet the bed, had to get up during the night three, four
23 times, things like that, and there was always new
24 sheets, new bedding there for them.

25 Q. Generally, are you able to tell me: how were the boys

1 who wet the bed treated?

2 A. Well, they were shouted at, bawled at. They weren't --

3 Q. By whom?

4 A. Father **LOE**. He was **SNR**. His pride and joy

5 was to walk about with a belt hanging through -- the

6 priests' uniform at that time was like a monk, and he's

7 got a belt to hold it tight together. He always carried

8 a belt just there. And he treated everybody, like, with

9 contempt. You know, 'You shouldnae be doing this, you

10 shouldnae be doing that', because you know yourself --

11 we do know nowadays wetting the beds can happen to

12 anybody.

13 Q. But you mentioned the belt?

14 A. The belt -- if he decided that the belt was adequate,

15 he'd give them the belt too. And Father **LOE** was one

16 of the ones, when he was hitting you with the belt, if

17 you pulled your hands away he doubled what he was going

18 to give you. If he was going to give you six of the

19 belt, if you pulled your hands away on it and the belt

20 got him, you got double.

21 Q. I'll come on to that shortly.

22 You mentioned that this boy that was told to share

23 a bed with a Brother -- was that simply because his own

24 bed was soiled?

25 A. It was soiled with -- he'd actually soiled the whole

1 bed, not just the sheet, and then there was basically no
2 bed for him. And they didn't share their bed blankets
3 and that together. They just lay on top of the bed
4 until the morning and that was it.

5 Now, my Lady, that was quite common in my day, that
6 I shared my -- a bed with my young brother and two
7 sisters, so it was quite common in them days. It wasnae
8 regarded that that shouldnae be done, you know?

9 Q. And if you are short of space, it's really a necessity.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. I want to ask you about inspections, and you address
12 this at paragraph 91. What you do tell us there is that
13 you did have what you describe as 'visiting committees'
14 coming into the school and they'd walk around the
15 school; do you see that section?

16 A. Yes, uh-huh.

17 Q. You say the place was always clean for that.

18 A. It was always clean. And the night before, everybody
19 would actually -- it wasnae a spot inspection, like we
20 get nowadays in schools. It was a case that everybody
21 had to get it spick and span, as in cleaning. They'd
22 come in and, see the ones that couldn't read or write,
23 they were put to the back of the class, and so when they
24 come in with the committee and the priest would turn
25 round and say to somebody at the front: this is such and

1 such, da, da, da, da, da.

2 And it seemed like they were doing great in that
3 class, but they werenae.

4 Q. Did any one of these visitors ask the boys how you were
5 getting on or how you were being treated?

6 A. Never ever in the time I was there, did anyone ask us:
7 how do you like the place? What -- have you anything to
8 say about the place?

9 Or anything like that. We had never, as we've got
10 now, social workers or anything like that coming in and
11 asking individuals: how is this place run? How are you
12 feeling here? Da, da, da.

13 Which I would say nowadays happens. But, in they
14 days, you didn't get social workers or anything like
15 that that had anything to do with the school.

16 Q. Can I then move on and ask you about discipline, 'John'?
17 You talk about that towards the bottom of page 16, at
18 paragraph 95.

19 How were boys disciplined?

20 A. With the belt. On one occasion --

21 Q. Before you move on, apart from belt; were there other
22 forms of --

23 A. Oh, yes, sorry. That's what I was going to go on to --

24 Q. I'll just come back to that. And I'll come back to
25 Father **LOE**.

1 But what other sorts of discipline, methods of
2 discipline, were there at the time? For example, would
3 you lose privileges?

4 A. There were virtually, Colin, no privileges to lose
5 because they took them all away from you.

6 Q. For example, if you had your home leave that you
7 mentioned; could that be --

8 A. Yes. It happened to me and another boy. We were in the
9 Navy dockyards, in the pool, and the pool was a large
10 pool because they used it for training, and we were
11 splashing about in the water. And Father **LOE** took
12 the two of us off, out -- to come out of the pool, and
13 outside the pool, and basically says, 'I'll get the two
14 of you in my office when we go back to the school'.

15 Now, when we went back to the school, he says,
16 'I'm giving both of you a bad mark'. A bad mark then
17 was equivalent to a day's leave off your holiday to go
18 home.

19 Now, I didn't get the belt, as far as I can
20 remember, because he was giving us a bad mark each, and
21 we did apologise to him, da, da, da, but he just
22 wouldn't listen. And when it came time, when all the
23 boys were away, we were kept for a day back because --
24 splashing water in the pool, and we were restricted to
25 the shallow end for about six months, and to say he was

1 right or to say he was wrong, it's not for me to say.

2 But we were splashing in the deep end, and I could
3 see where he was coming from, but it's still -- to take
4 a day's leave off you and not see your family for a day
5 because of that, it was a bit stiff.

6 Q. Can I then look at the belting that was meted out? Can
7 you tell me about that?

8 A. Well, the belt -- you used to give -- the belt was given
9 for virtually anything at all. If you done anything --
10 if you scuffed your feet or anything at all -- he would
11 walk in the classroom and his pride of honour was his
12 belt.

13 Q. This is Father [REDACTED] you are talking about?

14 A. This is Father [REDACTED]. When you think back, it was
15 just brutal. Now, will I go on to the whipping?

16 Q. You have used the word 'brutal'. I just want to
17 understand what you mean by that in relation to
18 Father [REDACTED] giving you the belt.

19 A. Well, I've had the belt off him for -- I took some --
20 away back then, it was actually wax polish to polish the
21 floors, because there were no carpets on the floors at
22 the time. And I put a big -- I put a handful and he
23 looked at the handful and he said, 'Put that down', and
24 he said, 'I want you to rub it all into this floor and
25 polish it'. So he went out the door. I took the polish

1 and took half of it and put it in the bin, and I done --
2 I scuffed it all over the floor and polished it,
3 et cetera.

4 Did he not come in and pick up the bin and find the
5 polish, and I got 12 of the belt for that, for wasting
6 polish.

7 Q. Where did you get belt?

8 A. On the hand.

9 Q. And just for the note, you are holding your hands out in
10 front of you and you're crossing your hands?

11 A. Aye. At that time, as I says earlier on, if you pull
12 your hand away, he would double what he was giving you,
13 so instead of six I got twelve of the belt, because at
14 one point I had to pull away because it was that sore.

15 Q. And where was the belt given to you?

16 A. Because of the polish --

17 Q. But where was it done?

18 A. In the classroom.

19 Q. In the classroom, before the other boys?

20 A. Before the other boys. And he made a speech that
21 waste -- talking about waste of any kind, and you just
22 had to stand there and take it.

23 Q. I'm going to come to another incident in a moment. But
24 you have mentioned that incident when you were given 12
25 of the belt; were there other occasions when you got the

1 belt?

2 A. There would have been, but I can't, you know, reflect
3 back on it as --

4 Q. But this one sticks in your mind because of the extent
5 of it?

6 A. Uh-huh. As I say, the only person that ever give you
7 the belt was Father LOE . He was a priest -- to put
8 it in a nutshell, he would read the Bible from start to
9 finish, from start to finish, stop, start to finish. He
10 would sit in a rocking chair reading, and just read the
11 Bible.

12 Q. You were going to tell me about an incident, and I think
13 this is in connection with a boy who had run away; is
14 that right?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Just before we come to the boy: had you yourself ever
17 run away from St John Bosco's?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. And apart from the boy you're going to mention; had
20 other boys run away?

21 A. To my mind, he was the only one that actually ran away
22 in my time there, and I was talking to him after it.

23 Now, the boy ran away and he ran to the east of the
24 home, which -- basically, opposite from the
25 Forth Bridge, it's going that way, to Kircal -- no,

1 Burntisland, and away up that way, and a priest ran
2 after him and gave up after maybe six or seven hundred
3 yards, and come back.

4 Now, that night, that boy come back with two
5 policemen in the back of a motor, he was handed back
6 over, come back in, and we were all sitting -- it was
7 during recreation. And Father LOE came and shouted
8 him, took him into the gym, and I've never, ever -- now,
9 I didn't actually see the whipping, but he whipped him
10 with a cane for running away, and the boy gret for days.

11 Q. When you say you never saw the whipping; did you hear
12 anything?

13 A. Everybody in the two classrooms were listening to it.

14 Q. What were you hearing?

15 A. You were hearing the boy squealing for getting whipped.
16 And he wasnae just standing over the top of you whipping
17 you, he was running from here to, say, that wall down
18 there and then hitting you, you know, with the cane. It
19 wasnae just a case of a hit like that; it was a running
20 hit.

21 I mean, that boy, I don't think he ever recovered.

22 Q. And is this something also that has remained in your
23 memory?

24 A. It remains in my memory that all these priests in the
25 place -- and the teachers were in the classrooms at the

1 time -- they could hear this and they didn't step in or
2 they didn't say anything. It was like a wall of
3 silence. It's just 'the boy's got to get punished' and
4 that's it. In my mind, that was their assumption in it.

5 Q. Do you know if what you have described as 'a whipping'
6 was over the boy's clothing?

7 A. I seen, just at his back end, the marks, and all he done
8 is showed me -- he pulled his trousers down a bit at the
9 back. But I don't know if he took his trousers down or
10 what, but I know that he did show me the marks at the
11 back. You know, just with pulling his trousers down at
12 the back and he said 'look at that'.

13 Q. Can you describe the marks?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. What were the marks?

16 A. Just long lines, about the thickness of this rod on
17 the --

18 Q. You are pointing to the microphone rod?

19 A. Yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: So it would be like stripes on his skin?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Did they look likes stripes?

23 A. Yes. Stripes on the skin, it's like that my Lady. You
24 know, marks the size of the rod when it actually
25 happened. I don't know if the Inquiry ever got round to

1 talking to the boy, but it was brutal and I think,
2 actually, a couple of weeks after it he got sent to some
3 other Approved School. Now, I'm not 100 per cent sure
4 on that, but I'm sure they done something with him to
5 get him out the road.

6 MR MACAULAY: I think I confirmed with you earlier on when
7 you went to St John Bosco's, that was in [REDACTED] 1962;
8 are you able to place this incident you're talking about
9 with any sort of timeframe?

10 A. That would be, say, 1973.

11 Q. 1963?

12 A. Sorry, 1963.

13 Q. Okay. And did you speak to the boy?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was he a friend?

16 A. No. You're going back nearly 60 years. It's just
17 an acquaintance at that time, and the boy, a couple of
18 weeks later, seemed to disappear.

19 Q. Are you able to help me with what sort of age this boy
20 would be?

21 A. The boy would be about the same age as myself. But,
22 again, I'm sure St John Bosco's records would show his
23 age.

24 Q. Did he say anything to you as to why -- as to whether he
25 had mentioned anything to the police about why he was

1 running away?

2 A. He told the police that he was getting abused in the
3 school by a priest, but he didn't say to me the name of
4 the priest. But he says to the police he was getting
5 abused, et cetera, and that's why he ran away. Now, the
6 police took no -- didn't do anything about it.

7 Q. But this is what he told you as to what he said to the
8 police?

9 A. Yeah. He says he told the police why he ran away and
10 gave statements to the police. And I wasn't there when
11 he was giving the statements, so I don't know what the
12 statements were.

13 Q. When he said to you that he told the police he was being
14 abused; are you able to remember the words he used to
15 tell you that?

16 A. No. In a conversation with me, he says: I was getting
17 abused, da, da, da.

18 Sorry for saying da, da, da.

19 And that's why he ran away, and a couple of weeks
20 later, all of a sudden, as far as I can remember, he was
21 sent to another Approved School. I think it was
22 St John's, but I'm not too sure on that.

23 Q. Now, you also tell us, apart from the belt, that -- this
24 is at paragraph 100 -- you would also get 'a slap or a
25 clout over the head', but you would just accept that as

1 part of the punishment?

2 A. Yeah, it was rather that or the belt, one or the other.

3 Q. And you say that this happened to most of the boys and
4 was fairly common?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And who would slap you over the head?

7 A. You've got the teachers, which were teaching you, would
8 come along and they could hit you with a ruler, not
9 sharp on, side on, back of the head with a ruler in
10 their hand, because you hadnae done something, or you
11 done this or that or the next thing.

12 Q. When you are talking about 'the teachers'; are you
13 talking about members of the Order, whether priest or
14 Brother?

15 A. It's a Brother. I can't recall his actual name, but his
16 favourite one was to hit you on the head with a ruler,
17 like that, just to -- rather than send you to
18 Father **LOE** to get the belt.

19 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, it's 11.30. I'm about to move on to
20 another chapter.

21 LADY SMITH: 'John', I normally take a break at this point
22 in the morning and, if that would work for you, I could
23 take that break just now for about 15 minutes and then
24 we'll finish your evidence after that.

25 I don't think we've got too much further to go with

1 'John', so it shouldn't be a long haul, but let's have
2 a break now. Thank you.

3 (11.29 am)

4 (A short break)

5 (11.45 am)

6 LADY SMITH: 'John', I hope the break was helpful for you.

7 A. That's fine. Thank you very much, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: Are you ready for us to carry on?

9 A. Yes, carry on, please.

10 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

11 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

12 'John', I now want to take you to a section in your
13 statement that begins at paragraph 105, and the section
14 is headed 'Abuse at St John -- at John St. Bosco's'.

15 You begin by telling us about what happened when you
16 had your weekly showers.

17 A. Weekly shower, yes.

18 Q. Can you explain what happened at that time?

19 A. Yes, my Lady. Everybody had a shower once a week. Now,
20 you went into the shower, you were stripped -- sorry,
21 you had to get stripped to get into the shower. Once
22 you were finished, you had to shout, 'That's me,
23 I've washed, you know, done, shampooed my hair',
24 et cetera, et cetera. Father **LOE** was normally the
25 one who was in charge of the showers. Now, he would

1 come in when you were absolutely bollock naked.

2 Q. He would come in --

3 A. He would come into the shower. You'd shout, 'I'm
4 ready', and he'd come in.

5 Q. And would the boys be naked?

6 A. No, each boy, individually, he would go in to check them
7 over. Now, part of the checking over, he would come in,
8 look at your hair, check your hair, then he would ask
9 you to hold your testicles, so that he could actually
10 see if you got any dry rash, or whatever it is, behind
11 your testicles, et cetera, et cetera, turn round, bend
12 down and check that your back end -- not physically,
13 just look at it and check you and say, 'Right, get
14 ready, that's you', and then somebody else would shout
15 and he'd go in and see them, and so forth. Now, that
16 went for every boy who was having a shower that night,
17 and every night, every week.

18 Now, logically, there'd be weeks that he maybe would
19 be away somewhere or something else, but they would do
20 the exact same thing that he done.

21 Q. Who would?

22 A. I'm saying a priest would come in and check. You know,
23 if Father **LOE** wasnae there, they would do the exact
24 same thing. And we just took it as: that's what they're
25 doing, just looking at you, et cetera, et cetera.

1 Now, also Father -- will I go on?

2 Q. Yes, carry on, please.

3 A. Also, Father LOE -- I couldn't swim, and a lot of

4 boys couldn't swim -- will I go on to this part?

5 Q. Go on. I thought you were moving on to deal with what

6 happened when you went swimming; can you tell me about

7 that?

8 A. The ones that couldn't swim, Father LOE had a hell

9 of a habit of holding you upright and his hands on your

10 testicles and your penis, and holding you like that,

11 learning you to swim that way. And that wasnae just me;

12 that was everybody he was teaching to swim. I don't

13 know what he got out of doing it, but that's how he

14 taught you to swim.

15 Q. Do I take it from that that he was in the pool with you?

16 A. He was in the pool and he's doing this.

17 Now, kids nowadays, you've got a thing they put in

18 front of them and they kick their back end and keep

19 their balance.

20 LADY SMITH: A float.

21 A. He actually held you up and basically fondled you at the

22 time when he got you up.

23 MR MACAULAY: The other thing you tell us about

24 Father LOE, and you mentioned this earlier, is that

25 at night he would sit in a rocking chair reading the

1 Bible; can you help me with that?

2 A. Right, Father LOE 's duty was fire watch from, say,
3 10 o'clock at night when you went to bed, when the
4 lights were out. His duty would be the fire watch just
5 outside the dorm -- which I pointed out at the beginning
6 of my statement -- and sit in his rocking chair and rock
7 back and forrit, back and forrit, back and forrit, and
8 woe betide you if you talked and said something in any
9 of the dorms.

10 Q. What happened if you were caught talking?

11 A. If you were caught talking -- which I once was caught
12 talking -- you're shouted to come out and then you would
13 stand -- he would be sitting here in his rocking chair
14 and you would stand at that wall, facing a photo of --

15 Q. You mention Lourdes in your statement?

16 A. Lourdes, with all the crutches, et cetera, et cetera.
17 You would stand there until he was happy that you were
18 punished enough and then go back to your bed for
19 talking.

20 Q. And would you be standing there in your pyjamas?

21 A. No, he would have a robe-type thing round him and
22 presumably his pants, et cetera, on. And on one
23 occasion -- on this occasion we're talking about here,
24 I was behind him -- sorry, he's here and I'm there, and
25 I could see from the side of his eye he was actually

1 playing with himself and the book, the Bible was just at
2 the side and it was sort of moving.

3 Q. Are you suggesting he was masturbating when you were
4 standing there?

5 A. Now --

6 Q. Sorry, is that what you are saying? He appeared to be
7 masturbating?

8 A. Yes. He didn't touch me or anything like that. He just
9 told me to go back to my bed and he'll have words with
10 me tomorrow, which to my election I never got. He never
11 talked to me the next day.

12 Q. Now, you have already told us about the bad conduct mark
13 incident; how you and another boy had to stay behind for
14 an extra day.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You tell us in your statement that you think that
17 something happened to the other boy?

18 A. Well, when I think about it now and I go back; why did
19 he not have the two of us in the same room, you know,
20 the same dorm? We were just told, 'Go to your own bed',
21 and he went to his bed in his dorm, which common sense
22 would tell you: if there's only two, put two in the same
23 room, you know, and they get up in the morning and do
24 what they've got to do.

25 So, anyway, that boy, the next day on the train,

1 going back with me on the train, and that boy never says
2 a word. He was traumatised.

3 Q. You don't know what may have caused him to be like that?

4 A. No. I never seen the boy ever since and, basically, it
5 was just so uncommon for somebody to sit there on
6 a 40-minute journey on a train and not say a word. He
7 just sit. And he was actually traumatised, you know?
8 I'm not saying something happened to him or anything
9 like that, but I'm saying it would be common sense for
10 the two of us to be in the same room and that was not
11 the case.

12 Q. Now, you describe Father [LOE], at paragraph 114, in
13 this way:

14 'Father [LOE] was not a very nice person and he
15 hated me.'

16 You go on to talk about the Masonic Bible, and
17 you've mentioned that already. And you describe him as
18 'raging mad' when he found you with that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How was he presenting himself?

21 A. He knew I was a Protestant, and the thing is -- coming
22 on to Catholicism or whatever you want to call it, being
23 a Catholic. I wasn't -- basically, I was forced to be
24 a Catholic just because I was in that Approved School,
25 and to my thinking there must have been no other schools

1 as far away in case I ran away or something like that.
2 That's maybe the way that the priests had looked at it,
3 to keep him here. But I was never, shall we say, asked
4 to be a Catholic and, when I told my grandfather,
5 I mean, he went -- you know, he was mad. And we're
6 talking about before getting the Bible, the Masonic
7 Bible, years before, when I was talking to him and he
8 actually wrote into them, but I never got the letter.

9 Q. I was just interested in the way you describe --
10 'Father LOE [REDACTED] was raging mad', is what you say. I
11 just want to understand what -- how was he behaving?

12 A. He was 'raging mad' in the aspect that I should have the
13 audacity to bring a Masonic Bible to the school.

14 Q. Was he saying something to you?

15 A. He never says anything, because, you know, his attitude
16 towards me bringing a Masonic Bible into the school,
17 even although it had my family history and all the rest
18 of it in it --

19 Q. You also go on to mention, and you've mentioned him
20 before, Brother LMW [REDACTED], and you tell us where
21 his room was located, and you have provided
22 a description of him. He was one who, unlike the others
23 I think, didn't wear the cassock. He was dressed in,
24 I think you tell us, a shirt and trousers; is that
25 right?

1 A. No. He -- at most times wore a black suit and a shirt,
2 with pens here.

3 Q. But the others wore cassocks?

4 A. Yes. He changed -- religion as in going to chapel --
5 sorry, going to chapel, he would wear a robe over him,
6 the same as the priests, et cetera. And, actually,
7 during the police interview, I seen him actually in the
8 robe and, as I says to the police at the time, I says:
9 I thought he was becoming -- even -- every time he wore
10 the robe, I thought he was just a Brother becoming
11 a priest and we were never told any different.

12 Q. You go on to tell us about an incident involving
13 Brother LMW and I understand, 'John', that this
14 causes you to be quite upset and emotional, so I'll take
15 this quite briefly from you.

16 But it began by Brother LMW coming into
17 your room and finding you masturbating; is that correct?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. I think you go on to tell us that he put his arm round
20 your shoulders, and 'saying it was alright'; is that how
21 it happened?

22 A. That's correct, yes.

23 Q. Then something happened that wasn't --

24 A. Well, he led me back to his room. I was sat down on the
25 bed and he cuddled me, et cetera, et cetera, and it went

1 from just a cuddle to, basically, you know, him having
2 sex with me. I'll put it that way.

3 Q. We needn't dwell on it, 'John', if it makes you upset.

4 A. I've started now, so I'd rather go on. Once he was
5 finished, he actually -- my back end was so painful it
6 was not real and semen was coming out my back end, and
7 I asked him: could I go down to the toilets?

8 There were no toilets up in the loft. You had to go
9 down a spiral staircase to the toilets, and I went in to
10 the toilets and I used the paper -- and the paper was
11 the same, you know, Government paper -- and I rubbed my
12 back end with it and there was blood. Not pouring out,
13 but coming out. I tried to go to the sink and washed
14 it, but there was still blood. And I come up the stair,
15 he was standing at the top of the stair waiting for me.
16 Now, I say, my Lady, a spiral staircase, it's like
17 an old castle, you go round and you lose sight of the --

18 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes.

19 A. I come up and he put his hand round my neck and put me
20 back to my room, and he said: now, just go to sleep
21 'John', go to sleep, da, da, da.

22 Now, the next day, being Sunday -- will I carry on
23 from there?

24 Q. Yes, please. Yes.

25 A. The next day being Sunday, there was a monk, which came

1 from some monastery or whatever the case may be, and he
2 was doing confessions. Now, I'm not a great person for
3 confessions, because there's one thing St John Bosco's
4 taught me is: keep your mouth shut, don't say anything
5 out of hand.

6 I went into the confession box and I says to --
7 we'll call him the priest, but he's a monk, but
8 anyway ... and he was actually there to take the
9 priests' confessions, et cetera. I says to him what had
10 happened, and he says, 'What you should do ...' and, now
11 I'll give him his due here, 'What you should do is
12 actually go to the Father Rector [which is the main
13 person] and explain the position to him', he says, 'Or
14 sometimes you're better just putting these things right
15 out your mind and basically living with it and just
16 forget about it', and all this.

17 So he didnae give me any penance, et cetera,
18 et cetera. After a conversation with him, I went out.
19 Now, the next day again, which would have been a Monday,
20 I seen Father **LOE** walking with Father Rector up and
21 down the playground, and he was speaking to
22 Father Rector. And the next thing I knew was I got
23 shouted over to Father Rector. Now, he didn't say
24 anything about abuse or anything. He says, 'I want you
25 to get all your stuff in your room, you know, everything

1 in your room, your locker, everything out and down to
2 the room' -- I pointed out at the beginning, in the
3 building, you know, to the right top one.

4 Q. Essentially, you were moved from where you were, close
5 to Brother LMW, to another room?

6 A. Now, to my assumption, Father LOE had went and told
7 him what had happened and made it a different --

8 Q. If I can take you to your statement, and this might make
9 it clearest to us all, because you do tell us, at
10 paragraph 129 -- you refer to him as a priest, 'visiting
11 priest', that you saw the visiting priest and
12 Brother LMW walking up and down in the yard?

13 A. Yes. Oh aye, sorry --

14 Q. So that happened after --

15 A. Sorry. Then I seen him, Father LOE -- sorry,
16 LMW talking to Father Rector.

17 Q. Were you making the inference that the visiting priest
18 had spoken to Brother LMW about it, and that
19 Father Rector had become involved --

20 A. Aye.

21 Q. -- and Father LOE had become involved, and you had
22 been moved from where you were close to Brother LMW,
23 to another room; is that the way you see it?

24 A. No. Father LOE wasn't involved in this part at all.
25 The only one involved was LMW, the actual

1 monk, and Father Rector, both had spoke to Father Rector
2 and I was moved from a position up the stair down to the
3 sleeping arrangements down the stair. And Father Rector
4 never ever says a word to me, never -- wasnae interested
5 in listening to me, you know, ask me why, and why
6 I never asked him: could I speak to him?

7 It was a case of I was just frightened, completely
8 shocked.

9 LADY SMITH: 'John', you say in your statement that the room
10 you were moved to was close to Father LOE's room.

11 A. Next door to Father LOE. If you go out that room,
12 there is a room in between the two rooms, on either
13 side, and Father LOE was in that room there. That
14 was his room. It was something like -- a 10 by 10 room.

15 LADY SMITH: That is fine.

16 MR MACAULAY: I think you tell us, also, notwithstanding the
17 inference that you are making, that what had happened to
18 you became known, that Brother LMW stayed there
19 during your whole time there; is that correct?

20 A. Could you please repeat that?

21 Q. Even although you were inferring that others knew about
22 what happened to you, that nevertheless Brother LMW
23 stayed at St John Bosco's until you left?

24 A. Oh yes. He was there -- I left maybe a year after it and
25 he was still there at the time and still teaching us in

1 the class, my Lady. And, as I say, he very seldom says
2 anything to me and it's 'here, 'John', do this, do
3 this', that was it.

4 Q. After this incident you have talked about, I think you
5 tell us in your statement you had very little more to do
6 with Brother LMW ?

7 A. That's it. Exactly.

8 Q. What age do you think you were when this happened?

9 A. That would have been about 13. That would be 1963.

10 Q. At paragraph 123 of your statement, if we go back a bit,
11 you tell us about an incident when you witnessed
12 Brother LMW coming out of a room with another boy?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What happened here?

15 A. As I says at the beginning, the house which you showed
16 me on the picture, there is -- there is rooms underneath
17 the house.

18 Q. A basement.

19 A. Now I was actually cleaning the long corridor, which
20 goes from one end of the house to the other, and it's
21 just a straight corridor. It was all slate stones and
22 I was washing them. And I was actually up at the very,
23 very top, and Brother LMW came in with
24 a boy, and the first door on the right after the steps,
25 they start to go up the way, he took the boy in there.

1 Now, having cleaned down there before, I knew it was
2 a woodworking room, as in there was woodworking
3 machinery in it. Before the house, away back when it
4 was a nunnery, away back, say pre-war, that would have
5 been a joiner's house, room, for working, et cetera,
6 et cetera, and I never seen them coming back out and I
7 finished the corridor. Now, he knew I was there and he
8 knew I seen him, but there was no reason for him to take
9 a boy into that room because there was nothing in the
10 room.

11 Q. Could you have followed him into the room?

12 A. No. I could have if I wished to, but I couldn't
13 because --

14 Q. Was the door -- was the door locked or unlocked?

15 A. I can't remember if there was a lock on the door. But
16 I wouldn't have done that. I would never have walked in
17 on somebody.

18 But the thing is, he took the boy in with his arm
19 over his shoulder, walked in and shut the door, and
20 I was, still for a good five minutes, cleaning the
21 corridor. And once I cleaned the corridor, I was just
22 so happy to get out the place and get rid of the
23 instruments I had for cleaning, and that was it. And
24 I never talked to the boy who went in with him, but,
25 I don't know.

1 Q. Was he a boy you knew?

2 A. Exact same age as me. He came from -- I'm sure it was
3 Springburn, but I can't remember his actual -- sorry,
4 his name.

5 Q. Can I then take you, 'John', to when you came to leave
6 St John Bosco's? And we have already established that
7 that was in [REDACTED] 1965, when you are 14.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. As you have already told us, you went to another school
10 when it was discovered that you couldn't read or write,
11 and I don't think you stayed very long at that school;
12 is that right?

13 A. No, I'd only four month, or something like that, to go
14 before I was 15, which -- automatically you leave
15 school, which was a practice in the 1960s. I left
16 school then and I went to work with [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED], out at Parkhead Cross.

18 Q. I think you say you worked there for a couple of years,
19 you met your wife when you were about 16 and you were
20 together for well over 50 years; is that correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Sadly, we know that your wife passed away quite
23 recently, in [REDACTED]; is that the situation?

24 A. And from meeting my wife I joined the army for five
25 years. They taught me virtually everything I knew.

1 I came out as a mechanic. I came out the MT section,
2 running -- the paratroop brigade on account of the MT
3 section. I opened my own garage for 30 years after
4 that. I'm not going to say the name, but it was -- I
5 owned my own garage for 30 years. And I retired at 55
6 and I joined Land Services, and I worked in the schools,
7 et cetera, from then until today's date.

8 It's not Land Services now. Logically, it's been
9 changed over from Land Services to Glasgow Council and
10 then it went from Glasgow Council to Cordia, and so
11 forth.

12 Q. One thing you tell us in your statement is -- this is at
13 paragraph 145 -- that you were never able to tell your
14 wife about everything, although I think you thought she
15 had some sense that something had happened?

16 A. Well, she did. And it got to the point I was having
17 nightmares, and 10/15-year ago she decided: look,
18 I've had enough of this. You know, you not telling me.
19 We're going to go through to Aberdour and confront if
20 any of these priests or Brothers are still alive.

21 Now, I sent -- she sent a letter in. She was
22 a supervisor. She sent a letter in, recorded delivery,
23 and we got a letter back inviting us to come through and
24 check the school and see the thing again.

25 The Sunday prior we went through and I seen a chap

1 as I come in the door, got a tea/coffee, and I was
2 explaining about the whole school. Logically, the
3 church and the main building for teaching at that time
4 was all gone. It was all to the left and it belonged
5 to -- I think it's Kirkcaldy Council. I'm not too sure
6 who owns it now, but apparently they bought it off them.

7 And he asked me one question, I always remember.
8 There were 36 dots in the playground and in the event of
9 a fire you had to run to one particular dot. Well, when
10 he says right that'll come to your attention: go and
11 stand over there and stand on your spot.

12 Now, the famous words were 'stand on your spot'.
13 And you stood on your spot and you could see round about
14 you who was missing. And I says that to the guy at the
15 time who was talking to us, and he says, 'Aye, that's
16 a bloody good thing. That's what we should maybe put
17 here. Never thought of doing that. That's an excellent
18 idea. I've always wondered what the spots were in the
19 playground'.

20 After we finished, we thanked him. He did tell us
21 that -- he says Father [REDACTED] was still alive and the
22 priest -- no the priest sorry, the Brother, was still
23 alive which I found later that the Brother was alive,
24 but the priest was dead, Father [REDACTED].

25 Q. I think, much more recently, you were seen by the

1 police. You gave a statement to the police and it was
2 confirmed then that Brother LMW was still alive.

3 A. That's right. That's correct, yes.

4 Q. And that upset you and you thought about taking your own
5 life; is that right?

6 A. Well, bring us on to that, my Lady.

7 I'm getting psychiatric treatment just now, and
8 I'll be on psychiatric treatment for the rest of my
9 life. That's the diagnosis of the psychiatrist,
10 Dr Brown. I get a nurse every two weeks that comes to
11 the house, takes my blood pressure and so forth.

12 (Pause)

13 Because of this I have had suicidal tendencies ...

14 Q. Do you find the treatment is helpful to you, though?

15 A. Yes, yes. I've been to a private psychiatrist and,
16 basically, he come up with the same as the one I've got
17 from, basically, the Government, who I see normally once
18 a month or so forth. And she's got the nurse, who --
19 knows the qualifications the nurse has got.

20 Sorry, what is the qualification she has?

21 LADY SMITH: Is she a community psychiatric nurse? Possibly
22 CPN?

23 A. I'm sorry --

24 LADY SMITH: It's all right, the shorthand is CPN, and
25 I know there are community psychiatric nurses.

1 A. Basically, they're there to say: you're not thinking of
2 committing suicide or anything like that?

3 LADY SMITH: 'John', don't worry, you don't have to give me
4 the detail just now. I've read it in your statement and
5 I can fully understand what you're trying to explain,
6 but that's good you've got help.

7 A. Well, the big thing that happened is, as you know, my
8 wife died [REDACTED].

9 LADY SMITH: I know.

10 A. And that was a hell of a trauma for me, along with --
11 not this case coming up, I didn't know it was coming up
12 at the time. But all the things that happened to me in
13 the past.

14 MR MACAULAY: Although you have told us about these things
15 that happened to you in the past, you do say, at 147:
16 'There must be good priests.'

17 A. Well, I've not met any. St John Bosco's completely,
18 utterly -- I wouldnae say hello to a priest, because
19 basically I touch them with the same tar stick. I mean
20 how priests can allow other priests to abuse people, to
21 beat people, people treated like slaves, just
22 a money-making venture, as in a commodity, that they're
23 getting money for you and they've got to keep you until
24 you're the age to leave, so you're only a commodity.

25 Q. In that section of your statement, where you talk about

1 lessons to be learned, you do say, at 159:

2 'They had no inclination as to what a child needed.
3 We were all just seen as commodities.'

4 A. Commodities. Yes, exactly. You were just a number,
5 a name and a cheque in the bank whenever they got it,
6 and that was it.

7 Q. In the section where you provide us with your hopes for
8 this Inquiry, you say, at 161:

9 'Kids like me, when I was sent to St John Bosco's,
10 need to get taught and need to get taught right.'

11 As you mentioned before:

12 'If I'd stayed at Larchgrove I'm sure everything
13 would have been different. I don't think sending kids
14 to an institution was the thing to do. All I got was
15 three years of hell and a lifetime of misery.'

16 Does that sum up your position?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You go on to say in the last paragraph:

19 'I dare say it will continue to happen in the
20 future, but I hope the Inquiry can do something to
21 prevent it. We should make sure that people know they
22 have a lot to lose if they abuse children.'

23 A. That's it. Plus I hope -- I started off -- when I was
24 there they were no help for the people there. You are
25 just a number, and my number was ■. And sometimes, if

1 they didnae know your name, [REDACTED], you know. You're just
2 a number. There was nobody there. No welfare or
3 community rights officer coming in to ask you how you
4 are, da, da, da. There was no -- if I go to the doctor
5 with depression, the doctor gives me something for it.
6 There was nobody there to -- you know, if you had --
7 depression or maybe problems at home, maybe a parent
8 died or something like that. There was no love. It was
9 just unfortunate it happened and that was it.

10 In my case, my grandfather died and they didnae have
11 the decency to -- to take me to the funeral.

12 LADY SMITH: I know, you cover that in your statement,
13 'John'. Your mother tried to get permission for you to
14 go and it wasn't given.

15 A. They just weren't interested. As far as they're
16 concerned, you're their property and they can do what
17 they want with you. In the aspect of: if we don't want
18 him to go, he's not going.

19 They didn't take into consideration I was brought up
20 with my grandfather since I was a baby.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes. Okay.

22 MR MACAULAY: Very well, 'John'. Well, it's been quite
23 a trial for you, I can see that. Thank you for engaging
24 with the Inquiry and for coming here today to tell us
25 about your experiences. Thank you very much.

1 A. I hope you can take a lot of what I've said, my Lady.

2 Thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: 'John', my thanks as well. You will be
4 exhausted after what we have put you through this
5 morning, so safe home and you take care.

6 (The witness withdrew)

7 LADY SMITH: Just before I invite Mr MacAulay to introduce
8 the next witness; two things. I will have a very short
9 break while we get organised for the next witness. But
10 my General Restriction Order, as people know, protects
11 certain identities and, first of all, this witness
12 himself used his own first name and second name at
13 times, and the number allocated to him when he was in
14 care, all of which could possibly identify him, but he's
15 entitled to remain anonymous, so those must not be
16 repeated outside this room.

17 Otherwise he used the names of Father **LOE** and
18 Brother **LMW**, both of whose identities also
19 have the protection given by my General Restriction
20 Order, so they're not to be identified elsewhere.

21 I think we have another witness ready and we just
22 need a few minutes to change over the folder and make
23 sure everything is ready for him. Thank you.

24 (12.25 pm)

25 (A short break)

1

2 (12.28 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

4 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
5 will use the pseudonym 'Peter' when giving his evidence.

6 'Peter' (sworn)

7 LADY SMITH: 'Peter', thank you for coming along today to
8 give your oral evidence. Could I begin with two
9 apologies: one that you've had to wait to start giving
10 your evidence this morning. I'm so sorry, the early
11 evidence took a bit longer than we expected. And,
12 secondly, for you having had to wait for a few years
13 since giving your statement to us to get to this stage.
14 I hope you appreciate that's nothing to do with how
15 important your evidence is. It is important. It's just
16 the scheduling of different sections of the evidence
17 that we're taking. But I'm really glad we're able to
18 get to you now and we can hear what you have to say in
19 addition to your written statement this morning. It's
20 been really good to have that in advance and I've been
21 able to read it and understand what you wanted to say at
22 that time.

23 The red folder has that statement in it, so it's
24 available for you if you want to use that, and we'll
25 also bring the statement, parts of it, up on the screen

1 in front of you, if you're okay with that. Some people
2 don't want to see it, but we can do that.

3 Otherwise, please appreciate I do know this is
4 difficult and we're asking you to do something hard in
5 coming to talk in public about your own life when you
6 were a child, and about things that were upsetting and
7 will no doubt still be upsetting for you. So do let me
8 know if there's anything that would help at any time:
9 a break, a pause, explaining something better than we're
10 explaining it. If it works for you, it will work for
11 us, so you just speak up.

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod
14 and she'll take it from there. Ms MacLeod.

15 Questions by Ms MacLeod

16 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. Hello, 'Peter'.

17 A. Hello.

18 Q. I don't need your date of birth, because you're
19 anonymous, but to give a timeframe; are you able to
20 confirm you were born in 1951?

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. You've given a statement to the Inquiry and there's
23 a copy of that in the folder in front of you. I'm just
24 going to give the reference for the transcript:

25 WIT.001.003.0854.

1 Could I ask you to turn to the very last page of the
2 statement, 'Peter'? That's just really to confirm that
3 you have signed it.

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. In the very last paragraph of the statement, do you say:

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

10 A. Yes, that's right, yeah.

11 Q. If we can go back to the beginning of the statement,
12 I'm going to ask you some questions about your time
13 before you went into care. But, before I do that, you
14 helpfully tell us, at the beginning of your statement,
15 that the focus is to tell us about the time you spent at
16 St John Bosco's List D School, in Aberdour.

17 So we'll just start then by asking you a little bit
18 about your time before you went into care. I think you
19 tell us you were born and brought up in Dundee?

20 A. Yes, correct.

21 Q. Were you part of a large family?

22 A. Yes, I was one of six.

23 Q. I think you say that it was a little bit of a struggle
24 for your parents at times?

25 A. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. Did you attend primary school in Dundee?

2 A. Yes, I did, yeah.

3 Q. And did there come a time when you were not attending

4 school?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you started

7 to get into trouble for petty crime?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. When you were around 12 years old, you say that you

10 appeared before the Children's Panel?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What are your own memories of appearing before the

13 Children's Panel at that time?

14 A. I remember my mother taking us to a Children's Panel.

15 I don't remember too much about what happened there.

16 But I know that at the end they said that, 'The trouble

17 he's having attending school we could sort because we'll

18 put him somewhere really hard, where he'll have to

19 attend school', and that's when I was sent to

20 St John Bosco's.

21 Q. Was it explained to you at the time how long you might

22 be there or what the purpose was of you going there?

23 A. I vaguely remember someone saying, 'And he'll be there

24 until after school age', which would have been 15.

25 Q. Do you remember being taken to and arriving at

1 St John Bosco's?

2 A. I remember being taken from Dundee in a car, and someone
3 drove the car there. I vaguely remember getting driven
4 there and being taken in there, yeah. I remember that
5 quite clearly.

6 Q. And you provide a bit of information in your statement
7 about the geography of the place and what it looked
8 like.

9 Was it explained to you at the time who ran
10 St John Bosco's?

11 A. No, no, no.

12 Q. If I can ask you, then, about your first impressions
13 when you arrived, when the car pulled up and you got
14 there; what were you thinking?

15 A. As a 12-year-old, I think it looked quite intimidating,
16 simply because there was a large fence round what would
17 have been a playground. When I say a 'large fence',
18 I would take it it would have been something like maybe
19 eight feet, maybe higher, I'm not sure. And I thought
20 that was unusual, you know. I was told that it was to
21 make sure that if they were kicking a ball about the
22 playground it wouldn't go anywhere it shouldn't have
23 went. Later on, I thought: that's strange because
24 there's no one near that. Why would the fence ...?

25 You know, but it's just something I must have

1 thought, that it was strange to see a fence like that
2 around a playground.

3 Q. You mention that it was a very large building?

4 A. Yeah, there was a big house, which was the main area.
5 And the school was on -- looked quite dilapidated to me.
6 It was, like, old and it didn't look very like a school.

7 Q. 'Peter', would you be okay if I put a photograph of the
8 building on the screen?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. That's at INQ-0000000872, please.

11 A. Yes, that would have been what they called the house,
12 where the boys would sleep and I believe some of the
13 staff or priests would sleep there as well. We wouldn't
14 be allowed to get access to the ground floor. We
15 wouldn't.

16 Q. Do I take it from that then that the dormitories were on
17 the first floor, upstairs?

18 A. Above, yeah. I can see the room I was in, actually.

19 Q. Which room were you in, 'Peter'?

20 A. If I was looking from the right, it would be the second
21 one from the right.

22 Q. Second one from the right; second window from the right?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. The classrooms, I think you mention in your statement,
25 they were set apart in a different building on the

1 grounds?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 Q. Was there also a chapel on the grounds?

4 A. Yes, that's correct, yeah.

5 Q. You mention that there were two dormitories upstairs and
6 that one of them was for bed wetters?

7 A. Yeah, some of the boys, including myself actually, had
8 a problem with bed wetting, even, you know, and they had
9 a dormitory for that problem, yeah.

10 Q. And are you able to identify for me where in the
11 building, just looking at the photograph, that
12 particular dormitory was?

13 A. That was the dormitory, the second one from the right.

14 Q. That was the second one from right?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16 Q. Did there come a time when you moved into another
17 dormitory?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And which one was that, looking at the photograph?

20 A. It would have been, probably, the first one on left,
21 I think.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. Now, you have told us, 'Peter', that you were 12
25 when you appeared before the Children's Panel and the

1 decision was made for you to go to St John Bosco's. In
2 your statement, I think you explain that you were there
3 for a number of years.

4 The Inquiry has recovered admissions records from
5 the Order that ran St John Bosco's and it appears, from
6 those records anyway, that you were admitted in
7 [REDACTED] 1964, when you would have been 12, and that you
8 were there until early [REDACTED] 1967; does that roughly
9 accord with your own memory?

10 A. Yeah. Yes, I think so. Yeah.

11 Q. You tell us in your statement that the school was run by
12 the Salesian Brothers; was that something that you came
13 to learn once you had arrived at the school?

14 A. Yeah. At a later date, yeah. I -- and there were some
15 nuns there as well.

16 Q. When you arrived at the school, were you met by
17 a particular Brother or Father?

18 A. I'm sure I was met by a Father [REDACTED] LOB, if my memory is
19 correct with the name. I think he explained where I was
20 and, roughly, that I would be there for quite a while
21 anyway and I would get to know more, as time passed,
22 about the place and that.

23 Q. And was he [REDACTED] SNR?

24 A. Yeah. That was my impression, yeah, yeah.

25 Q. And were you told anything at that time about when you

1 might see your parents again or when you might get home
2 for a visit?

3 A. Not on that day, no, no.

4 Q. We'll look at some of the staff members in a second, but
5 something you mention in paragraph 12 of your statement
6 is that some of the staff were called by their title,
7 Brother, others were called Father, and you are not
8 quite sure how those were differentiated at the time.

9 A. Yeah. I thought maybe the Brothers were a bit younger,
10 I thought maybe, and the Fathers would be more -- you
11 know, a bit further on as priests.

12 Q. And you have mentioned nuns. I think you say in your
13 statement their role was to look after the Brothers and
14 the Fathers?

15 A. I think so, like linen and things like that.

16 Q. And what about other staff; were there lay staff?

17 A. No, no.

18 Sorry, there was one gardener. There was
19 a gardener.

20 Q. So looking then at some of the members of staff that you
21 tell us about -- and you provide some quite detailed
22 descriptions of them in your statement. If we start
23 with Father **LOB**, first of all, since we have
24 touched on that already. That's at paragraph 17. You
25 tell us he was **SNR** of the school and you tell

1 us that he might have been somewhere between 40 and 50;
2 is that your memory?
3 A. Yeah, yes, I think so.
4 Q. With an Irish accent?
5 A. Yes, yes.
6 Q. And other Fathers you tell us about, one is Father
7 [REDACTED] LOE [REDACTED] ?
8 A. Yes, that's right.
9 Q. What was his role in the school?
10 A. He seemed to be [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] in the
11 school. To me, like, he was the -- he had a lot to say
12 about everything, you know, that was going on. I don't
13 know what you would call that. You know, he was
14 probably [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], like.
15 Q. You talk about him in paragraph 15, and I think you do
16 mention that. You say that he perhaps was, or wanted to
17 be, the dominant personality in the school.
18 A. Yeah, it looked like that. Yeah.
19 Q. Did you have much interaction with him? Did he interact
20 with the boys on a daily basis?
21 A. Yeah, I think he had a lot of interaction with the boys.
22 Yeah.
23 Q. You say you don't recall him teaching as such in the
24 school?
25 A. No, I don't recall him teaching. No, no, no.

1 Q. We'll look at this a bit later, but was he the one that
2 perhaps dealt with punishment and that side of things?
3 A. Yeah, he was -- yeah, yeah, he would deal with
4 punishment. He was very strict, yeah, yeah.
5 Q. What about Father LMY ?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. What was his role in the school?
8 A. He used to teach us as an arithmetic teacher.
9 Q. You say that he was perhaps about 50, a little bit older
10 than the other Brothers?
11 A. Yeah, my recollection was he was a bit older than them.
12 Yeah, yeah.
13 Q. Did he speak with a Scottish accent?
14 A. Yeah. I think so, yeah, yeah.
15 Q. And you tell us about Father LUF ?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. What was his role?
18 A. I don't recall him teaching us anything, like. But
19 I think he took part in sports and that. Looked after
20 the boys as far as sport was concerned, and gym work and
21 things like that.
22 Q. So if I can ask you, then, a little bit about the
23 routine in the school, the day-to-day routine, starting
24 with the mornings.
25 Were Brothers involved in waking boys up in the

1 morning?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. And were you then moved on to breakfast?

4 A. Yeah. After you would wake up, you would go to the
5 chapel first, for some prayers, and then you would go to
6 the breakfast.

7 Q. Was there a particular Brother who was involved in
8 organising the boys in this way or was it a rota system?

9 A. I'm sure it was different ones that took part in the
10 chapel. I think most of them took a turn or whatever,
11 yeah.

12 Q. Now, in terms of the meals that were provided, you say
13 that the boys ate together in a communal dining hall?

14 A. Yes. That's correct, yeah.

15 Q. Are you able to give me any indication of how many boys
16 were in the school at the one time and would eat
17 together in that dining hall?

18 A. As far as I remember, there was always about 35 boys.

19 Q. And were you at a table with a particular number of
20 boys?

21 A. Four boys at a table, yeah.

22 Q. And what about the food that was provided then, 'Peter'?
23 How was the quality of the food?

24 A. It was not too bad, yeah. I think it was all right,
25 yeah.

1 Q. And were you required to eat the food or was --

2 A. Yeah. The cooks would be civilian. I think they were
3 people who were brought in to prepare the meals. We
4 didn't have access to them. We seen them sometimes, but
5 we didn't have access to talk to them or anything.

6 Yeah, we were told that we had to eat the food,
7 yeah.

8 Q. Was there ever an occasion where you didn't eat the food
9 or struggled to eat the food?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. What happened on those occasions, if you had those kind
12 of struggles?

13 A. You were just told to eat it and that's it, you know.

14 Q. Was there any form of punishment if food wasn't eaten?

15 A. There was a sort of punishment, yeah, yeah, yeah.

16 Q. What sort of punishment?

17 A. Well, it would imply with a priest with knuckles on your
18 head, on the top of your head, and tell you to eat it,
19 you know. That was the punishment.

20 Q. Was there a particular priest who did that --

21 A. Yeah, Father **LOE**.

22 Q. What about behaviour more generally in the dining hall;
23 were you allowed to speak to other boys or things like
24 that? Was it supervised?

25 A. We were allowed to talk, but they wouldn't allow any --

1 you wouldn't leave that table and mix with another table
2 or anything like that. It was quite strict. And you
3 got the hang of it, that you were allowed to talk, but
4 maybe as long as it was just general talk, not noise,
5 like. You were kept in order, put it that way.

6 Q. In terms of relations between the boys themselves,
7 I think you say you don't recall any bullying between
8 the boys?

9 A. No. I don't recall that, no.

10 Q. Something you say is that, if there was the odd fight,
11 that you might be given, or boys might be given, boxing
12 gloves as a way of dealing with this?

13 A. Yeah. That's right, yeah, yeah.

14 Q. Can you just explain that to me, what that process
15 entailed?

16 A. Well, if there were two boys fighting in the playground,
17 or had a serious dispute, they would say, 'Well, what
18 we'll do is take the two of yous inside and you'll put
19 the boxing gloves on and we'll tell you when', you know,
20 and whoever stopped the fight among the boys like, to
21 say 'that's it'.

22 Q. And who would do this? Who would say we'll take this
23 inside and use boxing gloves?

24 A. It would be Father **LOE**. He would be there. I know
25 that for a fact, yeah, yeah.

1 Q. Can I ask you, then, about the schooling at
2 St John Bosco's? How would you describe the schooling
3 and the education provided?

4 A. When I look back, years after -- I didn't think maybe so
5 much at the time -- but the schooling was not very good.
6 It wasn't too, you know -- it wasn't good.

7 Q. Were you taught subjects like English and maths and
8 science, and that sort of thing?

9 A. No, no, no.

10 Q. So when you were in a class with a teacher; what
11 happened? What went on in the classroom if it wasn't
12 that sort of teaching?

13 A. I always remember Father LMY would take the
14 arithmetic class and you were taught basic arithmetic.
15 Some of the boys needed more help than others in that
16 department. I don't know where I would have fitted into
17 that. But, looking back, it was really basic. You were
18 taught quite basic, yeah.

19 Q. Do you feel that you learned anything from the schooling
20 there?

21 A. Not really, no, no, no.

22 Q. You mention in your statement that you did quite a bit
23 of reading yourself?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that you were a curious child?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. So were there books then that you were able to read on
3 your own?

4 A. Not libraries and such, but sometimes you could -- if
5 I wanted to learn about other planets or something like
6 that, one of the priests might find a book someplace
7 and, you know. But there wasn't a library. You
8 couldn't go to a library and say: I want a book on this
9 or a book on that.

10 Q. You talk in your statement about religious education and
11 also about going to chapel; was it on a daily basis you
12 went to chapel?

13 A. Went to chapel before breakfast. You went to chapel
14 after supper. That was twice a day. And you went to
15 the chapel -- that would be the same. Every night you
16 went to the chapel before bed, and every morning, before
17 breakfast, you went to the chapel. On a Sunday, you
18 went to Sunday Mass, which took a bit longer and, on
19 a Saturday, I think it was a general chapel in the
20 morning and chapel in the evening, and that's it. So it
21 was quite a lot.

22 Q. In the chapel; was it the boys and the priests and staff
23 from the school, or was the local community involved in
24 that?

25 A. Aberdour was a village, or quite a large village,

1 I think, and thinking back they obviously didn't have
2 a Catholic chapel there, so the local people would come
3 to the school to take part in chapel on a Sunday. Not
4 during the week, but -- And the chapel was quite small,
5 I mean, 35 boys and maybe 25 other people that came. We
6 were told that we would sit at the front of the chapel
7 and there would be a section between us and the
8 civilians, or local people, and not to turn round and
9 don't make any contact with them at all, and that's what
10 we done. We didn't.

11 Q. Were there times when boys were able to go home to their
12 families for visits?

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. And was there a way in which that privilege was earned,
15 or how were boys able to do that?

16 A. Boys would be able to do that if they behaved
17 themselves. There was a marking -- it was like putting
18 a star on a sheet of paper if you were not behaving, and
19 if you had so many stars you wouldn't go home. And it
20 was quite difficult not to have stars on the paper, you
21 know, quite difficult.

22 But I also think that some of the boys' parents,
23 I think that came into account as well, if there was
24 a problem there, like, you know. So it wasn't like all
25 the boys went home; some boys didn't go home, some boys

1 did.

2 Q. You mention in your statement, at paragraph 40, that

3 there was a pecking order for going home?

4 A. Yeah, yeah, that -- yeah, that was it, you had to earn.

5 Q. And you say it was almost impossible to earn enough

6 stars to get home?

7 A. Yeah, that's what I thought. Yeah, yeah, that's what

8 happened.

9 Q. And who kept a control of who got home and who didn't?

10 A. Well, I wouldn't necessarily say it was Father **LOE**

11 or Father **LMY**, or whoever, or Father **LUF**. But

12 I think if you were in a situation where you could go

13 home, I think sometimes, for some reason, they would

14 give you a mark so you couldn't. So, you know what

15 I mean, it was difficult to go home, yeah, difficult.

16 Although I did go home a few times.

17 Q. You tell us in your statement you weren't encouraged to

18 write home and that you didn't receive letters from

19 home?

20 A. No. And yeah, I never -- the time I was there I never

21 ever wrote a letter home or received a letter.

22 Q. And the same with phone calls? You didn't receive any

23 phone calls or make any?

24 A. No, no, no.

25 Q. I want to ask you about something you tell us about in

1 paragraph 37 of your statement, and then also go on to
2 tell us more about it in paragraph 46.

3 This is about running away from the school, 'Peter'.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Was there an occasion when you ran away from
6 St John Bosco's?

7 A. Yeah. One occasion, yeah.

8 Q. And what led to that? What led to you wanting to run
9 away on that occasion?

10 A. Trying to put myself back at 12-year-old.

11 The place looked quite frightening to me and
12 I didn't want to be there.

13 Q. Was this early on in your time at the school?

14 A. Yeah, just after a couple of days maybe, yeah.

15 Q. Where were you hoping to go when you ran away?

16 A. Well, I didn't know really because I didn't know which
17 way would be home, really.

18 Q. How far did you get?

19 A. There was a large hill at the back of the school and
20 I got something like halfway up that hill, and it was
21 full of trees and whatever, and the gardener, I remember
22 saying, 'I've got him here'. I must have been trying to
23 lie low or whatever, or hide. But I think there was
24 quite a few on the search. There was quite a few people
25 on the search, but I was taken back to the school

1 anyway, so I didn't really get far.

2 Q. Who took you back to the school?

3 A. The gardener and some of the priests that were on the

4 search, maybe, yeah.

5 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, it's 1 o'clock now.

6 LADY SMITH: We should pause there.

7 'Peter', I normally take the lunch break at this

8 point in time. I think we'll do that now and you can

9 get a breather as well. I'll sit again to continue your

10 evidence after the lunch break. Thank you.

11 (1.00 pm)

12 (The luncheon adjournment)

13 (2.00 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: Welcome back, 'Peter'. Are you ready for us to

15 carry on with your evidence?

16 A. Yeah, yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms MacLeod.

18 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

19 'Peter', before the break, you had been telling us

20 about a time quite shortly after your arrival at

21 St John Bosco's, when you had run away from the school

22 and had been caught and brought back by the gardener,

23 I think you said, and a number of priests who had been

24 in the search party?

25 A. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. When you were taken back to the school -- what do you
2 remember about being taken back and what happened when
3 you got to the school?

4 A. Well, I was taken back to the school and I was told
5 that, you know, what I had done, the fact I'd tried to
6 run away, was not going to be accepted and I would be
7 punished for that.

8 Q. Who told you that?

9 A. Father **LOB**, I believe. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

10 Q. Were you told when you were going to be punished and
11 what the punishment was going to entail?

12 A. No, I was taken from there into what was called the gym
13 hall of the school and I was told that I was going to be
14 punished to make sure that I behaved and didn't, you
15 know, try to run away again or whatever. And I was
16 stripped down to maybe just a pair of pants. In my
17 recollection there was three priests, two of them
18 holding me and one administering the punishment with
19 a leather belt, which was quite horrendous to me at that
20 age. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. So you had just arrived the day before, you said. So
22 you were a 12-year-old boy?

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. You said you were being held down; how were you being
25 held down?

1 A. I think I was just being held one at each side. And
2 I know for a fact it was Father [REDACTED] who was doing
3 the belt. There was only one belt. And it was random,
4 they were just making sure I didn't -- I couldn't
5 struggle anyway.

6 Q. Can you help me with whether you were being held down on
7 a piece of furniture, on the ground or --

8 A. No, I was on a gym floor.

9 Q. You were being held on the floor?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. Were you being held down face down?

12 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. There was times when I was up
13 a little bit, you know, between that, but I wasn't sort
14 of held down all the time.

15 Q. Who was holding you down?

16 A. Two priests.

17 Q. Can you remember which priests they were?

18 A. No, no, no.

19 Q. And how were they holding you down? Which parts of your
20 body were they holding you down by?

21 A. If I remember correctly, they were holding my arms. And
22 I wasn't held in one position while I was being beaten.
23 There were a few positions. It was just a random
24 beating with a belt. And I don't know how long it
25 lasted. I don't know if it was five minutes or ten

1 minutes or longer. I don't know.

2 Q. And when you say a 'random beating'; can you help me
3 with that? What do you mean by that: a random beating?

4 A. Well, the belt wasn't directed at one place. It was
5 just ... you know.

6 After the event, I was black and blue on my legs, my
7 back, my arms, all over, so it was random. It wasn't
8 like a belt you would get at school, holding your hand
9 out or something like that. And I felt it was --
10 definitely after it, and at the time, I felt it was
11 quite a serious assault myself. I had never experienced
12 anything like that.

13 LADY SMITH: You say, 'Peter', it was with a belt.

14 A. It was a belt, yeah, yeah, yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: Do you know if it was a tawse or if it was the
16 sort of belt somebody would wear around their middle?

17 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

18 LADY SMITH: That's all right.

19 MS MACLEOD: Was Father LOE, or either of the other
20 priests, saying anything while this was happening?

21 A. I think one of them, whoever it was, was saying, like,
22 'You'll do what you're told. When you're here, you'll
23 do what you're told', you know what I mean? And,
24 'You've not done that', this -- they weren't going to
25 accept the fact that I tried to run away.

1 Q. How were you responding to this at the time, 'Peter', to
2 what was happening to you?

3 A. To be honest with you, I felt I was probably in shock.
4 I had never experienced anything like that.

5 Q. Were you making any sounds? Were you crying?

6 A. Yeah, I was crying quite -- probably really quite loud,
7 yeah, yeah.

8 Q. In terms of who was in the gym at the time, there was
9 yourself and the three priests that you've mentioned;
10 was there anybody else in the gym at the time?

11 A. No, no.

12 Q. Where were the other boys?

13 A. They were in a classroom adjoining the gym.

14 Q. So would those boys be able to hear what was going on in
15 the gym?

16 A. One of the boys told me that they were told to listen to
17 what was going on here and take that as a warning that
18 they had to behave again. You know, simple. And he
19 hasn't behaved, so this is what the punishment, so ...

20 Q. How did it come to an end, the beating, what you've
21 described as a beating?

22 A. I don't recall. I don't even recall where they took me
23 after it. I don't recall that.

24 Q. Were you injured as a result?

25 A. I was black and blue all over, yeah. Frankly, yeah.

1 Q. Did any of the priests who had been involved in this say
2 anything to you afterwards or check to see how you were?
3 A. They probably did, but I can't remember.
4 Q. And what about the other boys who had heard this; did
5 they speak to you afterwards about what they'd heard?
6 A. Well, I don't know where I was in between the beating
7 and the time I talked to some of the boys after, but
8 that's when one or two of the boys said to me that they
9 were told to listen to what was going on here. And
10 I think -- I really think they were a bit shocked as
11 well, some of them, you know.
12 Q. Do you know if any of the boys saw, as you describe,
13 your being black and blue all over?
14 A. Yeah, mm-hmm, mm-hmm.
15 I didn't receive any medical treatment or anything
16 like that.
17 Q. In your statement, you say that you were still thinking
18 about the beating for weeks afterwards?
19 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
20 Q. And did you try to run away again?
21 A. No, no. No, no.
22 Q. Do you remember any other boys getting that kind of a
23 treatment during your time at the school?
24 A. No, no.
25 Q. In paragraph 47 of your statement, 'Peter', you say:

1 'The day they handed out this punishment was
2 carefully planned to have maximum effect on me and the
3 other boys.'

4 A. I didn't know that that day, but when I look back at it,
5 it seemed that's what had happened. This wasn't just
6 to -- it was double sworded, it was going to punish me
7 and going to let them know that this could happen or
8 whatever.

9 LADY SMITH: What is it that you're making the point about
10 there, 'Peter'? Is it that you had this punishment at a
11 time when all these other boys were in the adjoining
12 classroom so they could hear what was going on, or what?

13 A. The point was they were told to listen to what was going
14 on, and that obviously that would be some kind of
15 warning to them.

16 LADY SMITH: So you're left with the feeling that they
17 arranged it so there would be an audience of the other
18 boys, to give them an example of what would happen to
19 them if they did the same thing?

20 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS MACLEOD: I'm not going to put this document on the
23 screen, 'Peter', but for the transcript there is a
24 document, an excerpt of the punishment book of
25 St John Bosco's at SDB-19, which is an entry from

1 November 1964, which relates to you, and the offence is
2 noted as one of somebody leaving the school without
3 permission. It says that the method -- for the method
4 of punishment, it says, 'two on seat, administered by
5 Father LOE', and it is signed by a witness and
6 various other signatures.

7 I'm not going to put this on the screen, and
8 I understand from your evidence that it wasn't two
9 strikes, according to what you've told us today; but do
10 you think this entry might relate to that same incident?

11 A. Yeah, that will be the incident. But, obviously, in my
12 eyes it's played down as if it's just a routine -- That
13 was not the case.

14 Q. You go on to tell us in your statement, 'Peter', that
15 the whole time you were at St John Bosco's, you were
16 living in a state of fear?

17 A. Yeah, probably, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. And was your impression that that was yourself and the
19 other boys?

20 A. I think, especially early on, a lot of the other boys,
21 who were older than me -- because some of them were
22 older, some of them were maybe a bit younger, but most
23 of them that were older seemed to understand that there
24 were certain rules and the way things worked, and that's
25 the way it was. And if they kept to these rules and

1 done what they were told and behaved, there wouldn't be
2 a problem. So maybe in time, people -- kids would have
3 adjusted to that.

4 Q. You tell us in your statement about Father LMY and
5 a punishment that he used to use in his class.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about that? First of
8 all: what would he punish children for in his class?

9 A. Well, if he was teaching arithmetic and it was
10 a simple -- an arithmetic test and certain boys couldn't
11 do it for some reason, he would get a bit -- not so much
12 angry, but he'd get agitated and say things like,
13 'I've explained this to you four or five times, it's
14 simple and you don't seem to grasp it, so come out
15 here', and they would go out, and in an ordinary school
16 they'd get a belt on the hand maybe. And he would say,
17 'You know the routine here', and he would take a cup and
18 draw a chalk mark round the bottom of the cup, take the
19 cup away, and the boy would put his nose in the centre
20 of the chalk mark and he would get belted with his
21 trousers on, on the backside. And if he smudged the
22 circle, he would get belted again. That was one --
23 obviously, I felt that quite a strange way to do things.

24 Q. And did that happen to you?

25 A. Yeah. Sometimes, yeah, yeah.

1 Q. When you first arrived at the school, 'Peter', for
2 a period of time, did you wet the bed?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And were you put into a particular dormitory because of
5 that?

6 A. Yes. Yes, yes.

7 Q. I think in fact, at the beginning of your evidence, you
8 pointed out to us in the photograph the window of that
9 dormitory?

10 A. Yes, yes.

11 Q. Was your understanding that that was a dormitory
12 specifically for boys who wet the bed?

13 A. Yeah. That's right, yeah.

14 Q. How many boys were in that dormitory?

15 A. Maybe about six to eight boys.

16 Q. What was the procedure, then, in that dormitory in terms
17 of finding out, first of all, if a boy had wet the bed?

18 A. Well, the priest -- if you went to bed at 9 o'clock or
19 8 o'clock, or whatever time, they would come round maybe
20 every hour and check you, to see if you had wet the bed
21 or whatever, and they would put their hands on your
22 private parts to see if you were wet. And if you
23 weren't wet, fine. If any of them were wet, they would
24 be told to collect their sheets and come down, and they
25 took them down to a basement. And they were told to

1 wash the sheets and they were told to get a shower,
2 which was normally a cold shower, coldish. And they
3 were told to hang the sheets back up on a hanging rail,
4 take sheets that were there from previous times, that
5 were dry, back up, make their bed, and go back to their
6 bed.

7 Q. So this could all happen during the night?

8 A. Yes, yes. Very occasionally some people could go
9 through this two times in one night. I don't know.

10 Q. And in terms of there being a person on duty; was that
11 one priest who was on duty or more than one? And was it
12 different priests on different nights? How was that
13 arranged?

14 A. I believe there was one priest in the corridor, in the
15 main corridor at that house, that would sit there all
16 night and just for -- to make sure that people were okay
17 or whatever, a night duty or whatever.

18 Q. Would that be the priest who would come into the rooms
19 to check if people had wet the bed?

20 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

21 Q. And you mentioned that the priest who was doing that
22 duty would come into your room and check if people had
23 wet the bed by putting their hand in and making contact
24 with your private parts?

25 A. Yeah, in that area, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. So was it a particular priest who did that or was it --
2 did that happen with every priest?

3 A. No, it didn't happen with every priest. But it seems
4 a bit ironic that the same name crops up all the time.
5 But Father LOE, for talking's sake, was in that
6 position to do that quite often. And I didn't,
7 personally, at 12-year-old, think there's too much wrong
8 with this: they just want to see if you're wet.

9 But it's after the events that you, you know ...

10 Q. Do you recall Father LOE coming into your dorm and
11 making contact with your private parts during the night,
12 to check if you were wet?

13 A. Yeah. All of the boys there, yeah. All of them, yeah,
14 yeah. There could be two of them wet the bed. But the
15 procedure to find out whether they were wet or not, that
16 was the procedure.

17 Q. And did other priests have other ways of finding out
18 without doing that?

19 A. I can vaguely remember some of them waking you up and
20 asking you if your bed was dry or wet and, you know,
21 so ...

22 Q. Did you wear pyjamas to bed?

23 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

24 Q. So when Father LOE was on duty; did he put his hand
25 inside your pyjamas in order to check if you were wet?

1 A. Well, he'd put his hands obviously in that area, over --
2 in that specific area, to see if you were wet, yeah,
3 yeah.

4 Q. Do you recall if it was underneath or over your
5 clothing?

6 A. I think sometimes it could have been underneath, but not
7 necessarily.

8 Q. I think you have told us at the time, and you say in
9 your statement that at the time you thought that was
10 normal behaviour?

11 A. Yeah, well, you know what I mean, I didn't -- I thought
12 that was the routine, that's what they done and that was
13 it, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

14 It's not as if it was only happening to me; it was
15 happening to others as well, so I didn't ...

16 Q. Did you see Father **LOE** going round the dormitory?

17 A. Yeah. Yeah, yes.

18 Q. At paragraph 53 of your statement, 'Peter', you describe
19 something you recall when you got up in the middle of
20 the night to go to the toilet on an occasion?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And that you saw something involving another boy,
23 I think, that you were friendly with?

24 A. Yeah, yeah.

25 Q. We don't need to use the boy's name.

1 A. No, no.

2 Q. If you could just tell me, 'Peter', on this occasion
3 when you got up in the night; what did you see?

4 A. Well, when I got up during the night to use the toilet,
5 I heard, obviously, a boy crying, and when I went out of
6 the room to go to the toilet, the priest would sit in
7 a large chair at the top of the corridor, which was just
8 in front of the toilet area. And there was a boy
9 sitting on his lap and quite distressed, and I didn't
10 ask him what was wrong or -- I just sort of looked and
11 I went, done the toilet and come back.

12 But there seemed to be something wrong there, to me.
13 Even at that age, it was quite -- but I didn't witness
14 anything happening, but the child was in a lot of
15 distress, like.

16 Q. Which priest was that, that you are remembering?

17 A. Again, it's the same priest. I'm sorry, like, but it's
18 like I've got an earmark for this priest. It's not.
19 But it was Father **LOE**, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. You provide some evidence in your statement about
21 showering at the school?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the arrangements for that.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. In particular, I think you tell us about times when the

1 showering would be supervised by Father LOE ?

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. First of all, are you able to give me an idea of what
4 the showering arrangement was, in terms of was it
5 a communal shower, that sort of thing? What did the
6 showers look like?

7 A. The showers were individual cubicles, not visible to
8 each other. They were individual. There were one,
9 two... maybe six showers.

10 Q. Were there doors in front of the cubicles, or curtains,
11 or anything like that?

12 A. No, no, no.

13 Q. Open cubicles, but separated from each other?

14 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

15 Q. Are you able to tell me, then, what your memories are of
16 when Father LOE was supervising the showers?

17 A. Well, when you were in the showers, he would go along
18 from one to the other, to six, to make sure you're
19 washing yourselves properly. He would look -- come in
20 the -- the shower would be opened anyway, and make sure
21 you're washing yourself properly and, you know, your
22 private parts and whatever, and he would ask some of the
23 boys, or maybe even me -- it probably happened to -- a
24 few times, quite a good few times -- to make sure that
25 they cleaned themselves down there properly and he

1 would ask to see if you've done that, you know. And,
2 again, that was common practice, that wasn't -- that
3 happened. It didn't happen once. It happened ...

4 Q. Did Father LOE make contact with you or with any of
5 the boys while he was supervising the showers in this
6 way?

7 A. No. He would ask you to pull your foreskin back and
8 have a look, see if you've cleaned yourself and whatever
9 and then -- I don't know what he was -- I assumed he was
10 asking the same question in every one, but I don't know.

11 Q. I think in your statement, 'Peter', you draw
12 a distinction between the practice you describe there
13 and what other Brothers and priests did when they
14 supervised the showers. You say they didn't supervise
15 the washing to that degree and would leave the boys to
16 their own methods of washing?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

18 Q. Going back to Father LMY, 'Peter', you tell us in
19 paragraph 55 about some memories that you have in
20 relation to him, insofar as -- that he lived on the
21 school grounds and that you would sometimes be sent to
22 his house?

23 A. Father LMY didn't live in the house, which we called
24 the house, where -- I think he lived [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] And some of the older boys, when they'd
3 been there quite a long time, and they weren't 12 or 13
4 -- they were now coming up for 14 or 15 maybe -- they
5 would be asked to go down to Father LMY [REDACTED]
6 they would call it, and saw some wood up for his fire,
7 or logs.

8 And I was asked to do that, maybe when I was 14,
9 maybe touching 15, and I thought that would be good;
10 that's a pleasure to do that. So I went down there.
11 There was another boy there, I can't remember his name,
12 and we sawed some wood up. And for some reason -- which
13 I find hard to explain to myself as well -- when I came
14 back from there I said to some other priests, like, or
15 Brothers, 'I don't want to go back down there again',
16 and they said to me, 'Why?' I said, 'I just don't want
17 to good back down there again', but even myself I don't
18 know why, or if I had seen something or heard something
19 or ... but I never, ever went back down there again.

20 Q. In your statement you say:

21 'It is something I have erased from my memory and no
22 matter how hard I try, I'm unable to recall.'

23 A. Yeah, yeah.

24 Q. Towards the end of your time at the school, 'Peter', you
25 tell us that you had some ongoing issues with your

1 throat?

2 A. Yeah, I suffered periodically from tonsillitis.

3 Q. And did you have your tonsils taken out at Edinburgh

4 Royal Infirmary?

5 A. Yeah, they called the doctor and he came out to the

6 school and he must have said: 'You'll have to go to ...'

7 He'd been out a few times because this problem had

8 been going on for a few month, on and off, so ...

9 Q. When you returned to the school, having had your tonsils

10 removed, were you put in a particular part of the

11 school? To sleep?

12 A. Yeah, I was put in the house where the dormitories are,

13 the house that was on the picture, but I was told that

14 I would go in a sick bay, which, having been there for

15 two-and-a-half year, nearly three year, I never heard of

16 this place before, these words used, that sort of thing;

17 'sick bay'. There's no sick bays. And they said, 'No,

18 you'll go into the lower part of the house in a room and

19 you'll be a few days to see how you recover', and I

20 says, 'Yeah, okay then', so I went.

21 They put me in a room which I'd never been in before

22 and I was told maybe I'd be there for a few days, until

23 I sort of was able to, you know, come out of there. And

24 I just sort of agreed to that. I thought: yeah.

25 Q. Did something happen while you were in the room?

1 A. Something happened, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. What happened?

3 A. I don't quite know what happened.

4 Q. Who was involved in whatever it was that happened? Who
5 was there?

6 A. Father LOE was there again, in the room. He was in
7 the room asking me how I was doing, how things were, and
8 I said, 'Oh, I've got to stay here', and by this time
9 I was very wary of this chap, you know. I was older now
10 and I could see things differently. And I was probably
11 quite frightened of him. You know, I'd be right. And
12 I thought: yeah.

13 And he says, 'Well, you'll be here for a few days
14 and you'll be okay', and blah, blah, blah. And I says,
15 'Yeah, okay'.

16 And, again, I recall a nun coming in, which -- I had
17 never even spoke to a nun all the time I was in that
18 place. And she had words with Father LOE, and it
19 was like an argument of some sort. And he left and she
20 says to me, 'Are you okay?' and I says, 'Yeah, I'm
21 okay.'

22 'Are you sure you're okay?', and I says, 'Yeah, I'm
23 okay', and, as far as I knew, I was okay.

24 I just don't recall why that situation happened.

25 Q. In your statement, you tell us that you have blocked

1 this from your memory, but suspect the nun was trying to
2 protect you from Father **LOE** ?

3 A. Yeah, it definitely looked like that, yeah, to me.
4 Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. Was it shortly after that, 'Peter', that you left the
6 school?

7 A. It was the day after it. There was no plans for me to
8 leave. I had never heard of any plans for me to leave
9 that school the day after that, if you call it
10 an incident, or whatever it was. But I was told that:
11 you will be going home tomorrow, to your mother's and
12 father's, and you won't be coming back here.

13 And that's what happened.

14 Q. Do you link that in some way to what had happened in the
15 sick bay?

16 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. It sounds as if -- when I say
17 I can't remember what happened, it sounds a bit strange,
18 but it's not strange because that is the situation.
19 I don't know what ...

20 Q. You tell us in paragraph 65, 'Peter', that you managed
21 to get home to your parents' house; did your parents
22 know you were coming home that day?

23 A. No, no.

24 Q. So when they saw you; were they surprised to see you?

25 A. Yeah, yeah. And I said: no, they've told me to come

1 home and I don't go back there now.

2 Q. Was any explanation given to you by the school as to why
3 you were leaving at that time?

4 A. No, just -- no, no, no.

5 It wasn't like I was told that -- 'On a certain date
6 you'll be leaving'. It was just decided and it was the
7 day after whatever, the sick bay or whatever. And
8 probably myself I was thinking: I don't know.

9 You know what I mean? It was quite sudden.

10 Q. Can I ask you now, 'Peter', about reporting of things
11 that happened to you while you were at St John Bosco's?

12 In paragraph 56, you talk about this. I think, did
13 you tell your mother about the treatment you got after
14 you had tried to run away?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Was that on a visit your mother made to the school?

17 A. My mother -- no one contacted my mother, but I think
18 after a few days my mother contacted them saying, you
19 know, 'I wanted to know how he's doing. Has he settled
20 in?' or whatever. She never knew about any of this and
21 they said, 'Yeah, he's taking a bit of time to settle,
22 but maybe if you leave it a few weeks it would be better
23 if you came and seen him, you know. Give it a few
24 weeks', and I always put that down to -- you just want
25 the bruises to heal up; you know what I mean? That was

1 the way I looked at that. And the way I looked at it
2 was right; you know what I mean? And -- although I was
3 still young -- and when my mother did eventually, a few
4 weeks after, or three weeks after, come and see me,
5 I said to her, 'They've beat me up with a belt, but the
6 bruises have all gone now, most of them', you know what
7 I mean. And she said to -- she wanted to talk to
8 Father **LOB**, who was **SNR**, and she asked
9 him what was sort of going on, you know what I mean.

10 Q. Did your mother speak to Father **LOB** during a visit?

11 A. Yeah, I was in the room at the time it happened as well.

12 And Father **LOB** said, 'We had a problem with him
13 and -- but we think he's settled now and he understands
14 the way things are', and I said to my mother in front of
15 Father **LOB**, 'No, yous beat me up with that belt.

16 That was terrible', you know what I mean. And my mother
17 says: 'Why would he be saying that if it didn't happen?'

18 And he said, 'No, what you've got to understand is he's
19 quite a violent kid and we've got to keep them in check
20 here', you know what I mean.

21 But the truth is I wasn't a violent kid anyway.

22 I was never a violent kid. And I said to my mother:
23 he's lying. He's lying.

24 And that was it, so ...

25 Q. Did you ever have visits from social workers or anything

1 like that?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Were there ever any inspections of the school while you
4 were there?

5 A. There might have been, but not that I know of.

6 Q. Do I take it from that that no inspector, if there were
7 any, spoke to you?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. During your years at the school; did anybody ever ask
10 you how you were getting on there, or whether you had
11 any concerns or problems?

12 A. No, not really. No, no.

13 Q. You tell us in your statement, 'Peter', that much later
14 on in life, in more recent years, that you were
15 contacted by the police about St John Bosco's?

16 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. And did you provide a statement to the police?

18 A. Yeah, I did. Yeah, yeah.

19 Q. In relation to that, 'Peter', you say that the police
20 officer discussed with you that what you were telling
21 them, that that may have amounted to sexual abuse; is
22 that something that was discussed with you?

23 A. They said that some of the things that I was saying
24 would amount to sexual abuse, yeah, yeah. Which --
25 I wasn't really necessarily thinking on that. The thing

1 that I was upset about and -- even years later, was the
2 assault, because --

3 LADY SMITH: That was after you had run away?

4 A. Yeah. I was able to see that for a long time and that
5 was a bit difficult, you know.

6 I know for a fact if a child outside school, any
7 normal school, was subjected to that, that the police
8 would be involved and they would -- there would be
9 serious consequences for the people. But, obviously,
10 that didn't happen, so ...

11 Q. And in relation to the discussion with the police about
12 sexual abuse, you say in your statement that the
13 evidence you have provided about the showers and the
14 touching in bed, for example, that you had considered
15 that -- that you had understood that that was normal at
16 the time?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. I thought: it's happening to everyone,
18 so ...

19 Q. Is that because it was happening to others as well, and
20 because it was happening on a regular basis?

21 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

22 If I was in the shower with five other cubicles
23 full, it was happening to the other five as well.

24 Q. You provide us with some information, 'Peter', about
25 your life after your time in St John Bosco's, and that's

1 from paragraph 65 onwards. And you tell us that you
2 married when you were 19?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And had two children?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And that, after that, you had a short period of time
7 where you were in prison, for example, for two years
8 around that time?

9 A. That's right, yeah.

10 Q. And that since then you've spent most of your life doing
11 labouring jobs?

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. Again, you make the point that you had no training and
14 qualifications?

15 A. No. Anything I could sort of turn my hand to was more
16 or less self-taught, or just, you know.

17 Q. You tell us in the statement that you got remarried in
18 the early 1980s?

19 A. That's right. Correct, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. And that you and your wife had three children, and that
21 you've also got grandchildren?

22 A. Yeah, that's right.

23 Q. You tell us in your statement that you have a loving
24 relationship with your grandchildren?

25 A. Yeah, that's correct, yeah.

1 Q. In the final sections of your statement, 'Peter', you
2 talk about the impact that you consider your time in
3 St John Bosco's to have had on your life?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I just want to ask you about a little bit of what you
6 say there.

7 You make the point again here that some of the
8 things that have happened, you have shut them out of
9 your memory?

10 A. Yeah, that's correct, yeah, yeah.

11 Q. And you say:

12 'All I know is that something did happen.'

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. One of the impacts you mention is that you say you had
15 a difficulty sticking to jobs sometimes?

16 A. Yeah. That's right, yeah, yeah.

17 Q. You say that you have had mental health problems and
18 that you had been seeing a psychiatrist?

19 A. Yeah, that's correct. Yeah.

20 Q. You say that you've been part of a mental health group
21 who help people with mental health issues?

22 A. Yeah, yeah.

23 Q. And that it took you time, but you've settled into that
24 group?

25 A. Yeah, that's right. Yeah.

1 Q. And do you also sing in a choir?

2 A. Yeah, I've actually been singing in a choir for -- I was
3 singing in a choir for nearly ten years, yeah, yeah.

4 Q. In paragraph 72, you say:

5 'There is an expression amongst people who have
6 spent time in institutions which is "having been round
7 the houses".'

8 A. Yes, that's correct.

9 Q. Can you just develop that for me, and the point you want
10 to make about that? You say you feel it's an accurate
11 description and it's what happened to you?

12 A. Yeah, because I've heard the description from other
13 people. It's a description that's used quite commonly.
14 'Being round the houses' would be an Approved School.
15 It would be a detention centre, would be a young
16 offenders institution, would be a prison. That would be
17 'round the houses', yeah. If someone said to me they've
18 been round the houses, they wouldn't have to describe to
19 me what they were saying.

20 Q. You say that in more recent years, the last 15 or so
21 years, that you've taught yourself how to cope with
22 things a bit better?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that you are managing your life a bit better?

25 A. Yeah, yeah.

1 Q. In terms of lessons that could be learnt, 'Peter', you
2 set out some points about that in paragraphs 77 and 78
3 of your statement, and something you say is:
4 'Children are young and society should take
5 responsibility for them.'

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And you go on to say:
8 'By being in care and being abused it is easy to put
9 children, who become adults, on a path where marriages
10 are broken, prison is a strong possibility, and
11 suffering mental health problems is very common.'

12 A. Yeah, yeah. I see it as a breeding ground for that,
13 yeah, yeah.

14 Q. And you say:
15 'I hope the Inquiry can find a way to prevent the
16 abuse happening again.'

17 A. Yeah, yeah. That's right.

18 Q. 'Peter', is there anything that you would like to add to
19 what you have already provided today in terms of
20 evidence, which has been very helpful?

21 A. Well, I would like to say that the three years I was in
22 St John Bosco's, now that I'm a lot older, I think from
23 the age of 12 to 15 were very important, and they would
24 be to anyone at that age, that -- just under three
25 years. And I think when you go back to your own

1 neighbourhood, even at 15 year old, people see you as
2 you're branded in a way and you feel a bit lost because
3 you hadn't went to school with all these kids in your
4 own neighbourhood, so you feel a bit isolated. You
5 don't know how to cope with this. You've been in
6 a place where you've not had any contact with a girl,
7 like normal people at high schools. You didn't get
8 that, that didn't happen, so it's quite alien. And
9 I think all that put together, it's quite -- it could
10 have a lot of consequences, maybe, to your mental
11 health.

12 I don't want to sound like 'poor me'. I don't like
13 that, you know what I mean. I like to look after
14 myself, but anything I've said here is true. I've not
15 told any lies here.

16 MS MACLEOD: Thank you very much for that, 'Peter'.

17 My Lady, I don't have any questions and no
18 applications have been made for questions.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 'Peter', can I add my thanks. I'm very grateful to
21 you for coming along today and helping us with your
22 evidence as clearly and cogently as you have done.
23 I note what you've just been saying about you being
24 clear that what you've told me is the truth. That's not
25 lost on me. Thank you very much and I'm now able to let

1 I'm very grateful to you for coming along to engage
2 with us today, particularly since -- another apology --
3 I know you've been waiting to do this for years, not
4 just weeks or months, because you gave us your written
5 statement some years ago. The fact that it's taken
6 until now to get to this stage doesn't mean that your
7 evidence is not important. It is very important to me.
8 It's all to do with our scheduling of bringing parts of
9 our evidence logically together at particular stages.

10 But we're there now and we want to hear you today.
11 And I know when we're doing that, what I'm asking of you
12 isn't easy, because you are speaking in public about
13 things that are very personal to you, that happened to
14 you when you were a child, and weren't great, some of
15 them very upsetting, and you may get upset today, even
16 if you think you're not going to. I understand that,
17 and if at any time there's anything I can do to help,
18 such as giving you a break here, just pausing or leaving
19 the room, or explaining things better than we're doing,
20 or anything else; if it works for you, it will work for
21 us, so don't hesitate to speak up, please.

22 If you're ready I'll hand over to Mr MacAulay and
23 he'll take it from there. Mr MacAulay.

24

25

1 Questions by Mr MacAulay

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

3 Good afternoon, 'Nathan'. You have in front of you
4 a red folder and in there you'll find the statement that
5 you have provided to the Inquiry. I'm going to give the
6 reference of the statement for the purposes of the
7 transcript, and that's WIT-1-000000340.

8 Now, the first thing I'd like you to do, 'Nathan',
9 is to go to the final page of the statement, that's
10 page 23. Can you confirm that you have signed the
11 statement?

12 A. I have.

13 Q. Can I just put to you what you say in paragraph 102?
14 And that is:

15 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
16 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
17 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
18 true.'

19 Is that correct?

20 A. Yes, they are.

21 Q. You want to remain anonymous, 'Nathan', and we respect
22 that, but to get some context to your evidence, I don't
23 want the date of your birth, but simply the year of your
24 birth; can I confirm that you were born in 1956?

25 A. I was.

1 Q. You begin in your statement by providing us with some
2 information about your life before going into care. In
3 particular, you provide us with some information about
4 your family set-up. One of the early things you tell us
5 is that your parents split up when you were very young?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Did you lose contact for some time with your father?
8 A. I lost contact with my father until the age of eight.
9 Q. And you also tell us that when you were about four or
10 five, your mother had a new boyfriend and he became her
11 partner from then on; is that correct?
12 A. Yes, that is correct.
13 Q. How did you get on with this new partner?
14 A. I was four and five. I didn't find him a man that
15 really showed much interest. I really didn't have
16 an opinion. Four and five is a very young time in your
17 life. My interest was my mother.
18 Q. But as your younger years went on --
19 A. No, that relationship, if it was any kind of
20 relationship, totally broke down with my stepfather.
21 Q. And in relation to the relationship between him and your
22 mother; how did that develop?
23 A. It was toxic. The abuse of alcohol, which would lead to
24 the abuse of my mother. My mother, I don't believe
25 drank at the time, but I believe that -- in words that

1 I can use now, that I didn't have as a child -- she was
2 under coercive control of my stepfather. I believe he
3 was a narcissist.

4 Q. And what you tell us also, at paragraph 5, is that the
5 police had to be called --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- because of his violence towards your mother?

8 A. Yes, this is true.

9 Q. But you also go on to tell us that when you were five or
10 six, your mother became pregnant again; is that right?

11 A. Yes, my mother became pregnant again and gave birth to
12 my sister, [REDACTED].

13 Q. Yes, and we don't really need to have names, but did she
14 have another child after that --

15 A. Sorry, could I stop for a moment? Could we strike the
16 word, the name [REDACTED], from the --

17 LADY SMITH: Of course. Don't worry, names can be used here
18 that actually are protected by the restriction orders
19 that I've issued. These are orders that mean people
20 can't be identified outside the room. So don't worry if
21 a name comes out that you realise shouldn't.

22 MR MACAULAY: It's almost natural for a name to come out in
23 that way, so I wouldn't worry about it.

24 I think I had asked you if your mother had any more
25 children after that?

1 A. She did. She had [REDACTED]

2 Q. You also tell us that, at the age of five or six, that
3 you started to suffer from [REDACTED]?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you tell me about that? How did that come on?

6 A. I did not have any awareness of [REDACTED]. Obviously, at
7 the age of five one doesn't.

8 But one of my most painful memories is that my first
9 [REDACTED], I temporarily [REDACTED] before I went into the
10 [REDACTED]. I had the [REDACTED], I do not know how long
11 I was under -- in the [REDACTED]. When I came out of the
12 [REDACTED], my mother was obviously concerned, but she was
13 preparing with my stepfather to go out for the evening.
14 There was a babysitter present. She and my stepfather
15 proceeded to go out for the evening. That is a deep,
16 deep scar.

17 Q. And thereafter did you have more [REDACTED] then?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. How regular at that time, do you think?

20 A. I would say maybe every couple of months I was -- it's
21 difficult to remember a timeline [REDACTED], but
22 I certainly wasn't [REDACTED] every month.

23 The doctors put me under a regime of four
24 [REDACTED] tablets a day, quite a strong medication.
25 And that worked to an extent, but I was still having

1 [REDACTED].

2 I believe that the [REDACTED] and the pressures,
3 emotionally, that I was under contributed to my
4 [REDACTED].

5 Q. But what you've just told us is you were put under
6 medical supervision for your [REDACTED]?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You go on to tell us, 'Nathan', at paragraph 10 of your
9 statement, that you started to get a particular
10 reputation as a wanderer; can you just develop that for
11 me?

12 A. I had aunts who would visit, would laugh and call me
13 'the wanderer'. I remember one of the worst beatings
14 that I ever received from my mother was following the
15 Orange Walk from Garscube Road, Raglan Street, all the
16 way to Govan. This was not for any religious reason;
17 I'm a Roman Catholic. It was -- I was in -- the music;
18 I was very much carried away with it.

19 I came back. I'd been probably away about three to
20 four hours and my mother totally freaked out and gave me
21 a very bad -- well, as you would say, a good hiding.

22 Q. She was probably worried about you.

23 A. Yes, yes.

24 Q. You also tell us about the importance in your life at
25 this point in time of your grandparents; can you just

1 develop that for me?

2 A. My grandparents were my escape. I would run home from
3 school. I -- being the youngest son -- got out of
4 school earlier, and I would run home to make sure that
5 I could go to my grandparents for the weekend. The
6 difference in the atmosphere in my grandparents' home
7 was the difference between chalk and cheese. It was
8 relaxed. It was safe. There was no arguments.

9 You know, I'm not saying it was hugs and kisses and
10 presents. It wasn't. But it was a safe place. I loved
11 my grandparents. I still love the memory of them. They
12 saved me, I believe, from -- Friday, Saturday would be
13 occasions for the alcohol to be consumed. As I said,
14 I believe they saved me because if I didn't have that
15 escape, I don't know what would have happened.

16 Q. But you do tell us, 'Nathan', that things did not get
17 any better at home?

18 A. No, things got worse. My mother's doctor started to
19 prescribe her tablets, I think basically to begin with
20 for her nerves. There were suicide attempts. There
21 were all sorts of -- I was really basically just
22 watching the decline of my mother.

23 Q. And you go on to tell us that against that background
24 you weren't just wandering, you were running away?

25 A. Well, it started with wandering, where I would leave the

1 house and -- can I just pull back a bit?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. School. I was dragged to school. I was thrown into
4 school at the age of five. But, after a while,
5 I started to love school. I was out of the house.
6 I loved education. I loved history. I loved English.
7 I just -- I was like a sponge.
8 I started to wander, and this wandering, when
9 I found the city centre, really, of Glasgow -- I knew
10 the city centre of Glasgow, but I would meet people in
11 the city centre of Glasgow of my age, and it became
12 a thing of not going home at six, seven, eight, nine,
13 staying out as late as we could. That would roll over
14 into not going home at all. Sleeping up closes. But it
15 wasn't a -- you know, like a fun thing to do. I didn't
16 want to go home.

17 Q. What age do you think you were when this was going on?

18 A. When this started -- of not wanting to go home --
19 I would say, around about the age of eight, seven/eight.

20 Q. Coming back to schooling, you were nevertheless going to
21 school at this time, were you, and enjoying school?

22 A. Yes. I didn't truant. There was not a problem with my
23 schooling, anything but.

24 Q. But when you started running away; did that have
25 an impact upon your attendance at school?

1 A. Not really, because when I ran away it wasn't sort of
2 like -- I wasn't running away and would be found five
3 days later. I would be maybe found the next day or
4 I would -- it didn't affect my schooling in so much as
5 it affected my relationship with my mother.

6 My stepfather, I believe, took advantage of this
7 situation. I was being singled out as not quite right.

8 Q. You do tell us about an episode that occurred when you
9 had run away -- and this is at paragraph 13 -- when you
10 might have been the age of ten or so. And you met a man
11 on a pavement; do you want to talk about that?

12 A. Yes, I'm prepared to talk about it.

13 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

14 A. It must have been the height of summer, as it was very
15 late at night, but it was still very, very light. I met
16 this man [REDACTED] in Springburn. That
17 will give you an idea of how far I'm wandering.

18 Just before I met this man, I could see the back
19 window of my grandparents' house. I wanted to go to my
20 grandparents. I didn't go to my grandparents. I regret
21 that bitterly. This man stopped me. He was very
22 friendly. He -- I noticed that he had been drinking
23 alcohol, but he was overall very friendly. He then
24 said, 'Come back to my place. I have a house'. I did
25 not realise the danger that I was in.

1 I went back to his house. There was a conversation
2 about the couch and the bed. I don't know how he
3 manipulated me. Anyway, I ended up in the bed beside
4 him. I tried to go to sleep. The man then proceeded to
5 bugger me for a very long period. He whispered in my
6 ear, [REDACTED]. I think [REDACTED] might have been his
7 girlfriend. [REDACTED] is also my mother's name. I froze.
8 I didn't resist; I totally froze. I thought I was going
9 to be killed.

10 Q. But what age were you?

11 A. I believe I was nine.

12 Q. And this man, was he -- what age do you reckon he might
13 have been?

14 A. About 45, 50. No, sorry, I withdraw that. I think
15 about 35, 40.

16 Q. So this was a grown man taking advantage of a young
17 child?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And how did this end up?

20 A. In the morning, I got up and got dressed. I was still
21 wearing short trousers at the time. I remember crossing
22 the road, and I had got away from him, and the thoughts
23 in my mind were that I had -- were not that I had been
24 buggered; that I had survived. I went to the toilet and
25 I was bleeding. This caused me a great amount of

1 anxiety. I think the questions maybe that most people
2 would ask me now would be: why did you not speak to your
3 mother or your father, or the police, or anybody about
4 this?

5 I was not taught to speak in the house. None of the
6 children were taught to speak. We were taught to
7 listen. I did not want to bring trouble. I was
8 keeping -- I suppose I would say I was keeping my head
9 under. Previous to this happening, it was not the
10 environment to express emotions or feelings. There were
11 emotions and feelings that were important -- were my
12 stepfather, firstly, my mother, secondly, and these were
13 the voices that I had to listen to.

14 Q. And I think what you're telling us: you didn't tell
15 anybody --

16 A. I told no one.

17 Q. -- that something bad like this had happened to you?

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: 'Nathan', I don't know if you appreciate this,
20 but it is very, very common for children to say nothing
21 about being abused in all sorts of ways. And I have
22 heard from many people, sitting where you are just now,
23 exactly that. They couldn't speak up about it for all
24 sorts of reasons, ranging from wondering well, 'is this
25 just what life is like if you're a young child?',

1 because you're learning about life all the time, to
2 being in an environment where not clyping or keeping
3 your mouth shut was the thing to do, and as a child you
4 quickly worked out that that was probably the safest way
5 to be. And the result is you don't speak up and nobody
6 knows, and children suffered in silence.

7 So I'm not going to say to you: why on earth
8 didn't you tell anybody at the time?

9 I hope you realise that.

10 A. No. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR MACAULAY: You go on to tell us about another incident,
13 'Nathan', at paragraph 16, where you were still running
14 away more and more and you say it became a habit. And
15 on one occasion, you ran away to one of the west coast
16 seaside towns and something happened there; do you want
17 to talk about that?

18 A. You use the word there, a 'habit'. I would suggest a
19 'need'. I had to remove myself from the anxiety, the
20 deep fear that my mother was going to be murdered by my
21 stepfather. I believe I -- I can't remember where I got
22 the money from. But I believe it to be Largs, it could
23 have been Ayr. I had been swimming in the sea -- not
24 swimming, paddling in the sea. I returned to a changing
25 room to arrange my socks and shoes and get them back on,

1 when a man burst into the changing room, accused me of
2 looking through a hole in the wall and then, as had
3 happened previously with the man [REDACTED], he
4 buggered me. He buggered me very quickly. He used very
5 violent words towards me. I can't remember those words
6 now. I would say the whole thing took no longer than
7 a minute.

8 Again, I told nobody. I didn't tell anybody, but it
9 was very, very shocking.

10 Q. And this time, what age do you think you were?

11 A. I think by that age I must have been about 11.

12 Q. And the man?

13 A. I would say the man was, again ... I would say maybe 45,
14 50.

15 Tall, dark man. Tall man with dark hair.

16 Q. Although you didn't tell anybody; were you found by the
17 police after this event had happened?

18 A. Yes. I was found by the police in an arcade, hanging
19 round the arcade, and the police took me to the station
20 and I still remember the kindness of the policeman that
21 was looking after me. There was no possibility of
22 getting me back to Glasgow that night, so he put me to
23 bed, and I found that a very -- comforting. It was
24 a caring act.

25 My brother came the next day. I had to travel all

1 the way back to Glasgow with the thoughts in my mind
2 that I would be beaten or -- ██████, my stepfather,
3 played good cop when it came to chastisement, so I was
4 thinking that my mother would give me a good hiding when
5 I got home.

6 I got home and, you know, it was: why do you do
7 these things?

8 And, you know: don't you know? Have you no idea?
9 Are you -- are you stupid? You know what's happening in
10 this house. My sisters are wetting the bed. No
11 mattresses are being changed. Food is sparse, though my
12 stepfather works in the oil industry. I don't have
13 clothes. I haven't had new clothes in years.
14 I'm scruffy. My clothes are bought at Paddy's Market,
15 yet ██████ probably pulls in the biggest wage of the
16 street.

17 Q. And how did your mother react to this?

18 A. I think my mother was under tremendous pressure, now
19 having six children, and we had moved from the
20 ██████ to ██████. Her alcoholism really started to
21 expand. It was now drugs and alcohol. She would -- the
22 suicide attempts, trying to ██████
23 overdoses, all sorts of cries for attention. And it was
24 destroying my relationship with my mother. I loved my
25 mother dearly, but it was slowly destroying my respect

1 for her.

2 Q. Was it after this time that the Social Work Department
3 became involved with you?

4 A. Yes, I told the Social Work Department. I had to tell
5 somebody what -- I did not disclose to the Social Work
6 Department the sexual abuse of the rapes.

7 I disclosed to the Social Work Department the
8 violence, which I forgot to say that my stepfather had
9 been sentenced to six months in prison for. I explained
10 the violence. I explained everything that I could to
11 them. Again, no action. No ...

12 I was still the perpetrator of this problem, if
13 that's the right words.

14 Q. This is then the background of you ending up in court?

15 A. Yes, and that, again, was a very, very, very traumatic
16 experience.

17 On the day that I went to court, I wasn't told by my
18 parents that I was going to court. I thought I was
19 coming to see a social worker. So I did find it strange
20 though, that my stepfather was accompanying my mother on
21 this particular occasion.

22 When I arrived at Ingram Street, I still had no idea
23 what was going to happen. The social worker briefly
24 spoke to me before I went into court, saying to me that
25 this couldn't go on as it was going on. I still was not

1 fully aware.

2 I was in the court. The magistrate or sheriff --
3 I don't know -- spoke of the danger to me that my
4 behaviour was causing; that I was -- the buzz words, if
5 we can call them that, were 'out of parental control'.
6 If I was out of parental control, my parents were more
7 out of control, but I still felt the victim in this.

8 The judge or sheriff, or whatever, then mentioned
9 a special school. I thought because of my disability,
10 my [REDACTED], I really couldn't understand what he meant
11 by that; did he mean that I would be going to a special
12 school for children with disabilities? I did not know.

13 Q. But did you find out?

14 A. Oh, I did find out. I did find out that, even in the
15 state of confusion, that I was being sent to Aberdour.
16 Then the traumatic -- I went from confusion to trauma.

17 I was taken down and placed in a cell. A young boy
18 full of confusion. I broke down and I cried like
19 I don't think I've ever cried before. Not only was I in
20 a cell, it was a locked cell. It did not have a solid
21 door. It had bars, something out of a Western movie.
22 I was a young boy; I wasn't some heavy criminal.

23 But the worst part was saying goodbye to my mother,
24 with my stepfather standing behind her. They would not
25 unlock the door for me to properly say goodbye and

1 I think that was -- I'll never forgive the legal system
2 for that.

3 Q. But as we know, when you tell us in the statement,
4 'Nathan', the place that you were going to was
5 St John Bosco's School in Aberdour.

6 Now, just to get dates. I think you yourself
7 recovered some records from the Salesians in connection
8 with these dates and you do actually mention that in
9 your statement; can I say it coincides with the
10 recovery of records that the Inquiry has made. So if
11 you turn to paragraph 97, on page 22.

12 At 97, you say:

13 'The only record I've been able to obtain is
14 a letter I got confirming my admission to
15 St John Bosco's on [REDACTED] 1968, and that I was no
16 longer required to attend to the school on
17 [REDACTED] 1970.'

18 And you tell us who signed that letter.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. As I've said, that does coincide with the information
21 that the Inquiry has recovered. And that means that
22 when you were admitted to St John Bosco's, you were aged
23 12?

24 A. Thinking about this, I must agree that I was 12. My
25 memory is telling me that I was younger.

1 Q. That's why I wanted to put this to you.

2 A. Yes, thank you.

3 Q. And you left in [REDACTED] 1970, when you were aged 14?

4 A. Yes, yes, yes. I agree with that.

5 Q. So you're there for about two years?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now, can we just look at your first day experience at

8 St John Bosco's, then?

9 Were you given a tour of the building?

10 A. Driven from Glasgow to St John Bosco's -- I believe

11 Father LUF [REDACTED], a much-loved priest, he became

12 a much-loved priest, and I believe a friend of mine, was

13 in the car and I believe my social worker was in the

14 car. We travelled to Aberdour.

15 I -- the first thing I was given was clothes, new

16 clothes. I hadn't received new clothes for some time.

17 I remember being given Tuff shoes, with a compass in the

18 heel. I was -- I wouldn't say excited, but I was

19 pleasantly surprised to receive new clothes.

20 I was then sort of quickly taken to the refectory as

21 dinner was going on, or -- either lunch or supper,

22 I can't remember. And that was -- you know, if you walk

23 into a room and there's 40, 50 other boys, you know

24 everybody is looking at you. That was my beginning, and

25 obviously at nighttime shown the beds and ...

1 But on the very first day, or maybe the second, I --
2 there was a boy and I don't know why he had chosen me,
3 but he bullied me mercilessly for the whole two years
4 that I was there.

5 Q. I'll come on to look at that, because that really became
6 a significant problem for you.

7 Would you have any problem looking at a photograph
8 that might show the building?

9 A. Absolutely no problem at all.

10 Q. This is INQ-0000000872. It will come on the screen.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Do you recognise the building?

13 A. Yes, this is the building. On the bottom floor was the
14 rector's office. These rooms, we were never allowed to
15 enter.

16 The rooms above were the dormitories that the young
17 boys -- that all of us used for sleeping. There were
18 showers, and that's where the sleeping arrangements
19 were.

20 Q. During your time, up to when you left in 1970; were
21 there other building works carried out to extend the
22 building?

23 A. Yeah. To the right of this building that I'm looking at
24 just now, there was a new building being built. I did
25 move from this building that I'm looking at just now, to

1 the new building, but I was nearing my time of exit from
2 St John Bosco's.

3 Q. When you say you moved; were there dormitories in the
4 new building?

5 A. Yes, there were dormitories in the new building.

6 Q. Did the new building and the old building mean that they
7 could accommodate more boys at the school?

8 A. I think so. Because the old school, if we want to call
9 it that, I remember the sort of numbers were maybe 45 to
10 50, but there seemed to be more -- on the new build,
11 there seemed to be more sectioned off. It was
12 a completely different plan. It was more of an open
13 situation, where you would have four beds to a room,
14 where you'd also have a glass panel which ran all the
15 way along the room, which was particularly -- I found it
16 really disturbing that you had people walking up and
17 down, looking in at you sleeping. It made you very
18 uncomfortable.

19 It's a Catholic school, but the boys -- the idea of
20 this was that this was to stop impure thoughts and
21 actions.

22 Q. And the classrooms; were they moved to the new building?

23 A. Yes. The classrooms, everything was moved from the old
24 green huts, which were down to the left of this
25 building. There was a large, square playground with

1 very high netting, metal netting. It's something you
2 would probably think of more as a baseball court than
3 a football court. The green buildings, they had
4 a refectory, they had classrooms, they had a largish
5 gym, they had some offices that Father LOB SNR
6 SNR used, a cinema room, and that was the
7 general -- and a library. But I don't know -- it seemed
8 to be adequate, but I don't know why they -- and a
9 kitchen, I beg your pardon. And a kitchen. I don't
10 know why they changed it. I don't know why the new
11 build went ahead.

12 Q. You have mentioned Father LOB, and I just want to
13 ask you about the staff; was he SNR when you
14 went there?

15 A. Yes, Father LOB was SNR. He was the man
16 that after I had said goodbye to Father LUF, who was
17 an acting Father at St John Bosco's, Father LOB had
18 me to his office. He told me that he did not expect me
19 to be there very long, that if I behaved myself --
20 I liked Father LOB. You could always tell if he
21 was in a bad mood; he would go bright red. You knew
22 what was coming if he came towards you bright red.
23 I think he was a good man, but I think he let me down
24 very badly.

25 Q. Well, we'll perhaps come on to look at that.

1 But just to get the other names that you can
2 remember. You mentioned Father LUF already. You
3 also mention a Brother LNB and a Brother IHU ?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And Brother LMW ?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Did you have interaction with all of these?
8 A. Sorry, could you explain?
9 Q. Did you have some dealings with --
10 A. Well, aye, they were people -- Brothers there that were
11 in my life when I stayed there.
12 Brothers came from England, mainly from England, who
13 would pass through St John Bosco's, and may stay for
14 three months, six months. I think it was part of their
15 education. Some were more likeable than others. You
16 mentioned Brother LNB. Brother LNB was a kind
17 of -- like, the star Brother. He was very down with the
18 kids sort of attitude and was very well liked by all of
19 the children. I don't think anybody really disliked
20 him. I certainly liked him. My best friend definitely
21 liked him.
22 Q. I'll come on to look at that in a moment or two. But
23 you told us about the numbers of boys; what age range do
24 you think was there when you were there? You are 12,
25 so --

1 A. Yeah, the oldest boy that I remember being there was
2 [REDACTED]. Now, [REDACTED] was 14/15. He was 15 when he left.
3 The youngest were a set of twins, and I don't think they
4 were any more than eight years old.

5 Q. So quite a range?

6 A. Quite a range, yes.

7 Q. You go on to tell us about aspects of the routine in
8 your statement. For example, looking at meal times and
9 food, you say the food was good?

10 A. Yes. I had come from a situation where food was not
11 good, where food was sparse and repetitive. I came into
12 a situation now of three meals a day. I certainly put
13 on weight. And, yes, I think from that perspective I
14 have absolutely no criticism, apart from the fish on
15 Friday.

16 But I would say, connected to the food, the food was
17 prepared by women in the kitchen. We were never allowed
18 any contact with these women. I thought it was a very
19 cruel thing for young children not to have that element
20 in their life.

21 We were not allowed to talk to them. We were not
22 allowed to talk to the laundry staff. The only woman
23 that -- whose presence was in St John Bosco's was the
24 nurse. An older woman, I would say in her 70s at least,
25 who administered my medication, grazes and skinned knees

1 and all of that, that was her job.

2 Q. Looking at the routine, washing and bathing, you
3 describe the shower area to us. You say it was private,
4 sectioned-off showers, not communal. You were able to
5 protect your modesty, as you put it.

6 A. No, the -- you had a door in -- to close behind you
7 while you showered, but they insisted on modesty, that
8 you took your underwear off while having a towel round
9 you.

10 The only issue I had with that is that while 12 boys
11 at a time, or whatever the number were, were being
12 undressed or undressing themselves, that there was
13 always one or two Brothers there and it was like you
14 were being watched, somebody was staring at you. It was
15 very, very weird. It was a very weird set-up. You were
16 not allowed to -- you didn't have the freedom to just go
17 for a shower, you know.

18 Q. And can I look at schooling, just that aspect of your
19 life there? How would you describe the education,
20 schooling that you received?

21 A. Well, I considered it worse than my primary that I had
22 left in Glasgow. I had went from St Joseph's in Glasgow
23 to St Agnes's in Cadder, when we moved from [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]. The gardener took technical drawing. The
25 English always seemed to consist of essays: write

1 an essay, write an essay.

2 I don't remember spelling. I don't remember grammar
3 being introduced. I don't remember arithmetic. I don't
4 remember any maths. Those are really the subjects --
5 of course, I do remember religious education, because
6 that was an important issue, but I don't remember much
7 more than that.

8 And I don't really think now, as an adult, that
9 these young Brothers that were attempting to teach us
10 were anywhere near the standard of what would be
11 acceptable as a teacher.

12 Q. Chores. You had some chores to do; can you elaborate on
13 that for me?

14 A. After breakfast, we were -- our chores within the large,
15 green, wooden building was that of -- given a room to
16 clean. We were given heavy mops, polish, dusters and it
17 was our job to clean. At that time, we were left alone.
18 Pop music was put through the speaker system, but it was
19 a terrible time for bullying because we were left alone,
20 with no real supervision. I think maybe the guys were
21 off having a coffee or something, or a chat, whatever.
22 But it left great opportunities for bullying.

23 Q. I think one of the tasks you seemed to have been given
24 was to -- building a road and breaking up large rocks?

25 A. Yes. The gardener -- we had a road which was maybe

1 40 yards long and that had to be redone. Now, I don't
2 know, but it consisted of being given picks and large
3 hammers. We broke up large stones and we broke up --
4 for the base there were small stones and then larger
5 stones were placed on top and those were broken up. And
6 at the end -- I must say I think it was actually quite
7 a good piece of work, but I found that the younger
8 children in this, even myself, I was finding it
9 difficult to lift these tools and I think at times under
10 supervised -- unsupervised, I beg your pardon.

11 Unsupervised. It was very dangerous.

12 Q. Did you have to use a sledgehammer, for example?

13 A. Yes, a sledgehammer to break up rocks. No protection
14 for your eyes or ... you know, I'm not talking about
15 breaking up huge boulders. But, certainly, I think it
16 was a dangerous environment for children. I don't
17 really think that we should have -- I think that should
18 have been done by a contractor. I don't think we should
19 have been asked to do that.

20 Q. What about the cleaning duties you mentioned; were there
21 other cleaners, by that I mean lay cleaners?

22 A. No, no.

23 Q. You go on to talk about trips and holidays, but I'll
24 come back to that --

25 A. Sorry, could you repeat that?

1 Q. You go on in your statement to talk about trips and
2 holidays.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I'll come back to that, if I may, in a particular
5 context.

6 You also mention birthdays, and your birthdays were
7 marked by a cake?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. And you could invite your closest friends to be involved
10 in that?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. In relation to visits and inspections, first of all, in
13 relation to your mother; did your mother visit during
14 this time?

15 A. My mother visited probably twice within the two years.
16 Again, she -- her health was not at its best. I think
17 that I'm referring to her emotional, mental health.
18 I received letters from her, but these had to be --
19 these were intercepted and read, but the reasoning was,
20 behind that, that they were taking the money that was
21 being sent to put in your account, which I had.

22 My mother had to be stopped sending me letters
23 because the letters were turning into notes and they
24 were not about me. They were all about her. How ill
25 she was, how badly she felt, and that was obviously

1 having an effect on me.

2 Q. Did you write back to your mother?

3 A. Of course. I wrote back to my mother every week.

4 Q. Were these letters looked at by somebody before they

5 were sent out, do you know?

6 A. Yes. All letters were censored out and in.

7 Q. You tell us you don't remember any social work

8 involvement after you arrived at St John Bosco's; is

9 that right?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. What about other school inspections? Do you remember

12 school inspections?

13 A. Yes. The -- well, if we can call a doctor... I don't

14 remember much. I don't ever remember a dentist.

15 A school inspector, or, if we can call it that,

16 a doctor, I only think I seen a doctor once there. You

17 had everybody in their underwear all lined up behind

18 each other, and this doctor would drop your pants, grab

19 your testicles, and ask you to cough; right? Look at

20 your ears and that was really it.

21 The only other time we ever went to a hospital is --

22 was because of a reaction to an inoculation where we had

23 to go and have an X-ray.

24 The other people that arrived was -- a psychologist

25 arrived. Didn't know, really, what a psychologist was,

1 but he spoke to me about my life at St John Bosco's and
2 I told him how deeply unhappy I was. And his response
3 to that was -- it was outrageous, he more or less was
4 calling me a wimp, that I should buck up my ideas.
5 'I've never met a boy like you', he said.

6 Q. Did you tell him about the bullying?

7 A. Yes, I told him about the bullying. I told -- I'll come
8 on to this with you. The bullying, I didn't hold back
9 about speaking about the bullying, you know.

10 Q. You mentioned your [REDACTED] before. You mentioned the
11 nurse in connection with your medication; were you still
12 [REDACTED]?

13 A. Yes, I was still [REDACTED].

14 Q. How were you being looked after?

15 A. Well, I have a speedy recovery from my [REDACTED].
16 Some -- not all of the time. But most of the time I was
17 just left to recover; sometimes I was taken to bed, just
18 put in bed. I never seen a doctor. I was never taken
19 to a hospital.

20 I remember -- sorry, I'll come on to another

21 [REDACTED], which is part of the relationship with

22 Father LOB [REDACTED] and, you know, what was not being done.

23 [REDACTED] was not an unknown disability, you know.

24 There was medication, there was treatment. But some of
25 the dangerous situations that I was put in by Brothers

1 who maybe did not have the knowledge of the condition,
2 I think were, you know, pretty outrageous, pretty
3 outrageous.

4 Q. I'll return to that in connection with a particular
5 incident. But you also tell us, at paragraph 54, that
6 you did try to run away with another boy?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. And I think you got into trouble because of that?

9 A. Yes, me and KNI --

10 Q. We needn't know the name. We can use the first name?

11 A. Yeah -- KNI, stole a bike and we were off and because
12 we had transport we got a bit further than most
13 runaways. But we were captured by Brother LNB and put
14 in the minibus, taken back and given a black conduct
15 mark, which holds you back on your release. You cannot
16 go home for a month. That was the punishment.

17 Q. Do I take it from that that there wasn't any physical
18 punishment?

19 A. No, there was an option. There was an option.
20 Father LOB did have a tawse and if you --
21 I think -- I don't know where he drew the line. I don't
22 think I remember any boys that he ever used the tawse
23 on, but I believe it had been used.

24 Q. I think what you tell us is that the ultimate sanction
25 at St John Bosco's was getting the belt from

1 Father [REDACTED]; did you get the belt from
2 Father [REDACTED]?

3 A. No. I feared getting the belt from Father [REDACTED] over
4 that issue, but I cannot remember getting the belt from
5 Father [REDACTED].

6 Q. At all?

7 A. At all.

8 Q. Or from any other --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- member of the Order?

11 A. There may have been occasions of slippers being used by
12 priests and Brothers, particularly in dormitory
13 situations. Things could get a bit out of hand, you
14 know, boys carrying on. You know, that sort of thing,
15 but boys being boys.

16 Q. And you have a section in your report, at page 13,
17 looking at bed wetting; were there boys who did wet the
18 bed?

19 A. Yes, there were boys who wet the bed. And I believe
20 they were embarrassed by the -- there was no privacy in
21 the matter that, you know, they had wet the bed.

22 Today, if a child wets the bed we would maybe say
23 'Oh, you've had an accident', but it was treated as
24 a no-no. It really was. The boys had to strip the bed,
25 carry the sodden sheets to the women to have -- you

1 know, obviously to have them washed. And just, you
2 know -- I just thought: I'd come from a house where my
3 sister wet the bed, so I did feel sorry for these boys
4 that wet the bed.

5 Q. You do tell us, at paragraph 58, that if a boy soiled
6 underwear, that the laundry ladies were not prepared to
7 deal with that?

8 A. Yeah, they weren't going to deal with it, so what would
9 happen is you were given the underwear, you were told to
10 go to the sink, you were given a nailbrush, you were
11 given some soap, carbolic soap, and you were told to
12 scrub the underwear before it would be sent to the
13 laundry.

14 Q. Now, what you tell us, at paragraph 60:

15 'It was before my time there, but I was told that
16 Brother LMW would go round the dormitories at night
17 and feel if the boys had wet the beds by feeling the
18 sheets. There were complaints that he was touching the
19 boys.'

20 Do I take it that is something you were told?

21 A. That was something that I was told. Now --

22 Q. And Brother LMW ; was he still there when you were?

23 A. Yes, he was still there. But the story that I was told,
24 that he was touching the boys and the boys had then
25 complained -- I think that's important, that they had

1 complained, you know to -- actually taken that to
2 Father [REDACTED]. They were then told to get rucksacks
3 on, where there was heavy stones put in the rucksacks,
4 and they were told to march round, you know, the
5 playground, which I will explain to you later. Whether
6 it's true or whether it's not true, that's what I heard.

7 Q. Now, there's a section of your report, 'Nathan', that's
8 headed:

9 'Abuse at St John Bosco's.'

10 And you begin by telling us there about an
11 announcement that was made by Father [REDACTED] some six
12 months after you had arrived; what was the announcement?

13 A. I believe you're referring to the fact that we were
14 being visited by [REDACTED]; is that what you
15 are referring to?

16 Q. You refer to him as Father [REDACTED]?

17 A. I will always refer to him as [REDACTED]. I did not
18 know of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the time.

19 We were told that [REDACTED] was coming and he was
20 [REDACTED] of the Order of St John Bosco's
21 and Salesians, that we were to be on our best behaviour,
22 that it would not be tolerated that -- if we behaved
23 badly.

24 I didn't think any more of it. But other boys told
25 me that he brings you a box of Dairy Milk or chocolates,

1 and I thought 'That's interesting. I'll look forward to
2 that'.

3 And he arrived and I was very, very impressed by the
4 man. I didn't know the word 'charisma'. I had no
5 thingmy about that, but he certainly had charisma. He
6 also brought a copy of the life of St John Bosco, and
7 that was a movie. It was a special treat to watch
8 a movie, reel to reel, so that was really it as far as
9 I was concerned.

10 I didn't really see much of him. I think we may
11 have had a religious festival, where himself and the
12 rector washed their feet. This is something Catholics
13 do. And I believe that for the 12 boys that were picked
14 for that, they were given a huge treat of, you know,
15 a huge sugar hit of buns, cakes, and whatever. And
16 I was one of those. So that's what I remember -- is,
17 you know, a celebration, you know.

18 And so -- excluding other boys and, you know, you
19 were -- just because you were picked out of a lottery
20 sort of situation, you were getting this. I didn't
21 think any more of this. I didn't expect to see

22 LRM [REDACTED].

23 I was in class and I was pulled out of class and:
24 what is it?

25 I thought I was in trouble. I was taken to -- the

1 previous photograph you showed me of the building, and
2 I told you about the bottom floor being for the rector,
3 I was taken to the rector's office. I didn't know what
4 it looked like inside the rector's office. I had no
5 reason to ever be in the rector's office, but I was
6 taken to the rector's office. And I was very sort of,
7 you know: what is this all about, you know? Why am I
8 seeing this man, you know? He started to speak to me
9 about --

10 Q. Just to stop you there. Who was in the office when you
11 were taken to the office?

12 A. LRM .

13 Q. Was there anybody else there?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And were you left alone with LRM ?

16 A. Yes, yeah.

17 Q. Can you tell me what happened?

18 A. Well, I went into the office. The -- he sat behind
19 a huge, ornate table, but there wasn't a chair there for
20 me to sit opposite. He had put a chair opposite him on
21 the other side of the table, so I was facing him. He
22 spoke to me. I spoke to him about my troubles, my
23 childhood, everything. I broke down. I actually
24 thought this man was interested in my welfare with his
25 charisma, which I told you I was impressed by.

1 I was just happy to speak to somebody about my
2 feelings and my emotions and all of -- I had been
3 experiencing bullying for -- the time I had come into
4 St John Bosco's to the time I spoke to LRM .

5 Q. Do I take it that bullying was something you did discuss
6 and tell him about?

7 A. Yes, I told him about the bullying. I'd also previously
8 told -- I made no issue -- problem about telling
9 Father LOB .

10 Q. Did something then happen?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that?

13 A. As I say, I cried and I think people, if you're speaking
14 to them, you maybe get a signal, look, things are over,
15 and I stood up. Being much smaller, because I'm much
16 younger, he pulled me towards him. Now, his legs were
17 open. I was very embarrassed that our genitals were
18 very close to each other. I had not had -- a priest had
19 never touched me. I had never -- in this way, no
20 priest. The only person that could maybe hold me in
21 that kind of intimate embrace would be my mother. Not
22 LRM .

23 I turned to the left so that my backside was against
24 his inner thigh, but his hand was still on the top of my
25 trousers, I would say the top of my bum, when he was

1 speaking to me, but I found it confusing. I didn't know
2 really what was going on. It was like: why? What is --
3 a priest --

4 You know, the most I'd ever got from a priest would
5 be maybe a thingmy on the cheek or a tap on the head,
6 but not -- this was something completely different.

7 I wouldn't say that it was a deal breaker that
8 I would never speak to him again or thingmy, but
9 I thought: that was strange.

10 But I'm only whatever age I am at the time, 11 or
11 10 -- sorry, I'm getting confused about my age now. But
12 I just -- I was confused.

13 That conversation ended and I left. He returned
14 again and --

15 Q. Before we go on to that. During this incident, you said
16 in your statement that he brought a pamphlet out?

17 A. Yes. He either brought the pamphlet out on the first
18 occasion or the second occasion. I can't be
19 100 per cent clear about that. I think it might have
20 been the second occasion.

21 Q. Let's look at the second occasion then. So the second
22 occasion; how long after the first occasion was that?

23 A. It may have been -- it wasn't weeks, months. Maybe six
24 months again or something, you know. It wasn't the next
25 week or -- I'm not entirely sure about that timeline.

1 Q. No, but that doesn't matter really. On the second
2 occasion; were you back in the rector's office?

3 A. Yes, I was back in exactly the same situation.

4 Q. What did he do to you?

5 A. No, there was no embrace this time. But he stood up and
6 we were standing in the middle of the room and he
7 produced this pamphlet and he said: I'd like you to have
8 a look at this.

9 He opened it and it was drawings of women's
10 genitalia, their wombs, there was a picture -- the next
11 page, there was a drawing of a man's genitalia,
12 testicles, and again, as with the cuddle or embrace,
13 this was more confusing.

14 The Catholic faith teaches young boys about impure
15 thoughts, masturbation, those things, and I couldn't
16 understand -- there was no such thing as sex education
17 and I couldn't understand -- you know, I wasn't thinking
18 at the time about sex education. But, later in life,
19 I would think: well, maybe he was trying to teach me
20 sex -- you know, I just was confused by this.

21 Q. You go on to tell us that he did talk about hygiene and
22 cleanliness?

23 A. Yes, he spoke about hygiene and cleanliness, and he said
24 to me: if you pull your penis -- if you peel your
25 foreskin forward on your penis and you pee and you do

1 not let the urine out, that will help maintain a certain
2 amount of cleanliness to your penis. You know, that's
3 crazy. You know, that's just not the sort of thing that
4 I would hear from Father LUF or any -- but, again,
5 I'm a child and I don't know. He then sort of -- well,
6 I believe as an adult, but certainly not as a child, he
7 then dangled what I would say is the carrot. He asked
8 me if I would like to go to London. I was very excited
9 about the idea of going to London.

10 I said yes. That led to me being taken into
11 Father LOB's office, where Father LOB advised
12 me not to go to London. Didn't tell me not to go to
13 London; advised me not to go to London.

14 Q. Did he explain why he was giving that advice?

15 A. He explained he was giving me that advice because he
16 thinks it would -- it would terribly hurt my mother,
17 because this was our holidays, this is when we went home
18 for a small extended period at home.

19 I was angry with my mother for me being in
20 St John Bosco's, although I don't believe it was really
21 her fault. I believe she was, as I've said previously,
22 she was coercively controlled by my stepfather.
23 I believe he was behind it all.

24 So I agreed to go to London. I think I was -- in my
25 own way, I was making a bit of a statement.

1 Q. You tell us in your statement that's what happened. You
2 were in a car with -- this is paragraph 65 -- with
3 LRM, another boy, who was an orphan and used to
4 be a pupil at St John Bosco's, you thought he was 22,
5 and there was also another boy. I think the four of
6 you, including LRM, travelled to London by car?

7 A. No, we didn't travel directly to London by car. We
8 would stop off at -- I don't know what you would
9 describe them as. Monasteries or holy houses run by
10 nuns, where we were looked after fantastically,
11 fantastic food. I mean, we were really, really looked
12 after, you know.

13 We would sleep overnight at these places and the
14 next day we might travel another 75, 100 miles. So
15 I think all in it took about three days to get to
16 London.

17 Q. But what you do tell us is that -- and I'll look at one
18 of the other boys in a moment. But so far as your
19 involvement with LRM was concerned, he did not
20 do anything to you in the course of that trip to London?

21 A. No, no. I mean, there was minimum contact with
22 LRM even when we got to Battersea College for
23 Salesian Priests.

24 Q. As far as the other -- what you refer to as 'the orphan
25 boy' and former pupil of St John Bosco's, there was

1 sexual contact involving him?

2 A. Yes. I had been -- the first choice that we were given
3 was to go to the -- a museum or Battersea fun fair. And
4 I think, you know, Battersea fun fair was the more
5 attractive. It was this boy that was, I believe,
6 an ex-pupil, that took us to Battersea fun fair. I had
7 a jolly day, really sort of good and some -- just wasn't
8 like the shows in Glasgow. This was something
9 completely different.

10 Got back to the Salesian college. He had a bedroom.
11 Just yacking, chatting. He then produced his penis and
12 kept on at me and kept on at me and kept on at me to
13 masturbate him, which I did. That was all over in, say,
14 five minutes. Really it -- was that traumatic? I
15 wouldn't say it was as traumatic as the sexual assaults.
16 He was Glaswegian, he was friendly. My sexuality was
17 starting to emerge. I'm a gay man. He was
18 an attractive man, a young man. And I didn't find it as
19 traumatic as the previous assaults.

20 Q. Can you tell me, if you know, what his connection with
21 LRM was?

22 A. I don't know what his connection with LRM was.
23 But I believe that being a former pupil and an orphan,
24 I believe that he had maybe been offered accommodation
25 at the -- you know, because I don't think he would be

1 able to stay forever at St John Bosco's, and I believe
2 that because of his -- he was an orphan -- this is not
3 a conversation I've had with him. But I'm thinking that
4 he may have lived there because he was an orphan and had
5 really nowhere to go.

6 When I made police statements I pointed out who this
7 person was, the connection, the act. But, again, like
8 the previous rapes, the police could find no trace. If
9 you're making a claim for criminal injuries, to me it
10 seems -- you know, the level of evidence, you know, that
11 you need to do that -- I was refused on both those
12 rapes, I was refused criminal injuries.

13 Now, the reasoning behind it was a long legal
14 letter. I find it devastating that -- not the money,
15 because I wasn't aware of how much money or -- it was
16 that I felt I hadn't been believed. And I think that's
17 something that I think every victim may feel, that
18 they're not believed.

19 Q. Can I now turn to the bullying then?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You go on to talk about that in relation to a particular
22 bully who -- let's call him [REDACTED], just to have
23 a reference.

24 A. Can we call him something else? His name is [REDACTED].

25 Q. Very well. Let's call him 'Peter' then.

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Now, you say he was a bully from the day you arrived
3 until the day you left?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. How did that manifest itself?

6 A. I would say about 40 per cent physical and about
7 60 per cent psychological, emotional.

8 Q. When you say 'physical'; what did he do?

9 A. Kicking, punching, you know. I would respond.
10 Fighting. We were then taken in front of
11 Father **LOB** **SNR** and would not put
12 up with boys fighting. So I would find myself punished
13 for protecting myself.

14 Q. So did you tell Father **LOB** that you were being
15 bullied by this --

16 A. Many, many, many times.

17 Q. And is that what you meant earlier by saying that you
18 felt let down by him?

19 A. Yes, because he told me once, and I will never forget
20 these words: 'stay out of his way'.
21 Right. Now, why should I stay out of this boy's
22 way? I'm living in a community with him.
23 And I did stay out of his way, because I turned to
24 the Church. I was a devout Catholic, even at that age.
25 I was an altar boy. I believe in Jesus Christ. I went

1 to Mass every Sunday. I had [REDACTED] on the
2 altar, so that put paid to my days as an altar boy, but
3 I was still allowed to lead prayers at night. But
4 I really got very into my religion.

5 I once asked a Brother, I said: you know, I think
6 I could be a Brother, you know.

7 And he laughed in my face. He laughed. And I found
8 that, again, a devastating way to treat a child.

9 Q. Coming back to the bullying then, 'Nathan', you were 12
10 when you went in?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You say the bullying started from day one; what age do
13 you think this bully, 'Peter', was?

14 A. Ages with myself. Not any years older than me. We were
15 the same size, except he was a lot heavier than me. He
16 came from Barra. He didn't ever really get home very
17 much because of the logistics of, you know, travelling
18 to Barra and back. I'm not going to sit here -- I don't
19 want to sit here and make excuses for him, because it
20 was a terrible, terrible psychological -- you know,
21 every day your self-esteem is being pounded and pounded
22 and pounded, you know.

23 Q. The way you put it in your statement is:

24 'Every positive memory I have of St John Bosco's
25 evaporates when I think of him.'

1 A. Yes. I think St John Bosco's could have been
2 a wonderful, wonderful place. It had sprawling grounds.
3 It was just a beautiful, beautiful place.

4 Q. Is it your position, though, that Father **LOB**, who
5 **SNR** should really have put a stop to
6 this?

7 A. Yes. I mean, would you like me to go on and speak about
8 one particular act where I feel that I was failed?

9 Q. If you wish, yes. Of course.

10 A. We were taken swimming and I was not allowed to swim in
11 the deep end because of my condition. I had to stay in
12 the shallow end and I was approached by -- sorry, what
13 are you calling him now?

14 Q. 'Peter'.

15 LADY SMITH: The boy from Barra.

16 A. That's a better -- the boy from Barra approached me and
17 he had a sidekick -- he never got involved, he was just
18 a sort of an onlooker. He started to punch me under the
19 water and then sat on me under the water, actually sat
20 on me.

21 Now, I was in a bad -- I was in a very bad way.
22 I was panicking. I was inhaling water. I was drowning.
23 A 15-year-old boy, **█**, who I think I mentioned
24 earlier, came over and sorted the situation out. I had
25 to be taken out of the pool and I was -- I believe that

1 █████ could have saved my life that day.

2 When █████ got back to Aberdour, like myself, he was
3 given a good conduct mark, which is the opposite of a --
4 the thing of -- a black mark. You know, you're
5 grounded, all of that. A good mark is going to help you
6 get out quicker, away from St John Bosco's. But the
7 funny thing is that █████ became the hero. Every boy
8 was, █████, you know. I was offered no emotional
9 support.

10 Q. What about the boy from Barra? What happened, if
11 anything, to him?

12 A. A black conduct mark. But, as I say, you would think
13 that, okay, we have a punishment situation here. He's
14 being punished. Now, what about 'Nathan'? How is
15 'Nathan' -- I was asked: how are you?

16 I would say, 'All right'. I had said, 'All right',
17 many times when, you know, things are -- were really
18 bad. 'I'm all right, I'm all right', you know. So
19 I found that painful that he was given the kudos and
20 I was left, you know.

21 Q. You also tell us about being bullied by another boy.
22 This is at paragraph 72. This was witnessed by
23 Brother IHU █████. And you were fighting with the other
24 boy; are you protecting yourself?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You tell us that what Brother IHU [REDACTED] did was, he got
2 boxing gloves?
3 A. Yeah. The boy that was bullying me -- and this is very
4 unusual because he had never bullied me before. I had
5 no sort of problem with him. And he did start sort of
6 bullying me, and Brother IHU [REDACTED] had noticed this. And
7 in some way I think Brother IHU [REDACTED] was trying to
8 toughen me up. He had said, 'Right, come on, right,
9 we're going to get the gloves'. And we got boxing
10 gloves, and there were a few stragglers, hangers-on
11 boys, and we went into a room beside the gym.

12 Now, taking into account that I have a condition, a
13 disability, [REDACTED], I suppose one of the worst ideas
14 that you could ever come up with is to put me in
15 a boxing match. Three rounds. I felt very ill while we
16 were fighting. I think I could have went into [REDACTED]
17 quite easily. I was declared the winner, with bruises
18 all over my face. I wasn't the winner.

19 Father LOB [REDACTED], I don't know how the word got back,
20 but Father LOB [REDACTED] appeared, and I think for
21 Father IHU [REDACTED] all hell broke loose. I think he had
22 made a huge mistake.

23 Father IHU [REDACTED] didn't take us for any lessons or
24 anything anymore, and he left -- he disappeared from the
25 school. He didn't even say goodbye. He disappeared

1 from the school, I think two or three weeks later.

2 Q. This idea of giving boys boxing gloves to fight it out
3 among themselves; had you witnessed any of that before?

4 A. No. I didn't even know we had boxing gloves.

5 Q. And you also -- this is going back a bit in your
6 statement, you also talk, again, about Brother LNB,
7 as you have already said, who was a popular Brother, in
8 that he was funny, he would joke with you. But you also
9 think there was a 'darker side to him' is how you put
10 it?

11 A. Yeah. We were playing football down at the --

12 Q. Before I come to the football pitch incident, what
13 you're talking about here is a particular friendship
14 that he may have had with another boy that we don't need
15 to name; can you just tell me a little bit about that?

16 A. Well, me and KNI were good friends. I didn't really
17 ever have a group of friends. I just usually had one
18 friend. I think I've always had this problem all of my
19 life in relationships. So me and KNI were, I would
20 consider, good pals.

21 He would -- I would not always be with KNI, but
22 I would see that he walked -- Brother LNB had
23 a habit of walking up and down the playground while we
24 were playing football, like a referee, but quicker. He
25 wasn't a referee, but he would walk up and down. And

1 KNI was always with him. It was like a dog, you know
2 he was up and down, and he was always there.

3 I really couldn't really understand it, but I didn't
4 think about it. It wasn't something that I had a lot of
5 thought to.

6 He then told me one day that he was having
7 a relationship of a sexual nature with Brother LNB
8 and I didn't believe him. I just didn't believe him
9 because I thought he was hawering, you know. But there
10 was an occasion that led me to maybe think about that
11 again.

12 I was on the sports ground and we had -- I think it
13 was half time. He was lying in front of me, probably
14 eight yards, ten yards away --

15 Q. When you say 'he'; are you meaning Brother LNB?

16 A. Brother LNB. Eight to ten yards in front of me --
17 no, maybe call it eight yards, a bit closer. He was
18 lying on his side with his legs sort of up, and so this
19 arm here --

20 Q. Left arm?

21 A. This arm here is free.

22 Q. Right arm.

23 A. He looked round and he was staring at me, and I sort of
24 was feeling slightly uncomfortable when he continued to
25 stare. He then proceeded to take his finger and he was

1 circling his finger round his anus. I'm not talking
2 about rearranging your clothing; I'm talking about he
3 was staring at me and he was circling his finger,
4 through his shorts, round his anus. And now I blushed
5 heavily at this, turned away. I couldn't understand
6 what he was doing, you know. He'd never done anything
7 like that before. I had no reason to think that he had
8 any interest in me in any way.

9 Q. You mentioned shorts; he's wearing shorts?

10 A. Yes, football shorts.

11 Q. You go on to talk about the reporting of the way you
12 were being bullied, in particular, both to
13 Father LUF and Father LOB. And as you've
14 indicated already, that didn't stop the bullying?

15 A. No. I mean, either both of us were being punished for
16 fighting -- I cannot understand -- I think bullying is
17 still -- it's obviously still a problem today. But it
18 was affecting me. It was affecting my mental health.
19 I would speak to Father LOB about it, and I really
20 got no action from him on that. I think maybe there was
21 an idea that eventually I would in some ways toughen up
22 or give him a doing one day and it would end. I really
23 don't know what his thinking was on that.

24 Q. Very well then.

25 We come to when you came to leave St John Bosco's

1 and we focused on the date already; that was

2 [REDACTED] 1970, when you were aged 14.

3 You went to a secondary school in Glasgow and what
4 you say was you couldn't cope and you were skipping
5 school?

6 A. Yes. I came from a community of maybe 50 children and
7 maybe 10 staff. Now, I got to St Augustine's, in
8 Milton, and there was about 1,500 children. I had
9 arrived at St Augustine's, the term had already started.
10 I was put into a position of going into classes,
11 chemistry, French, things that I just had no idea about.

12 I don't know why, but they put me into this low
13 grade of class and the discipline was non-existent. The
14 boys were throwing chairs. I felt so sorry for the
15 music teacher.

16 You were getting the belt if you didn't have
17 a football strip. You mother might not be able to
18 afford one, but if you didn't have one and you turned up
19 for sport, you were belted.

20 I just thought: right, I'm just not playing this
21 game. I'm out of here.

22 Q. As you put it in paragraph 78, you decided enough was
23 enough, particularly for going home. And what did you
24 then do at that part of your life? If you want to talk
25 about it.

1 A. Yes. I'll talk about it. I stayed at home. I slept
2 overnight at home. But, during the day, when I was
3 supposed to go to school, I would go into Glasgow city
4 centre. I would meet boys of my own age and boys talk.
5 There would be girls there as well. And they talked
6 about punters and I'd be: punters? What's punters?
7 'Right, come with me', blah, blah, blah, blah:
8 'He'll give you such and such amount of money if you go
9 with him.'

10 So that started in Glasgow. So St Vincent Street,
11 Buchanan Street Bus Station, Queen Street. Glasgow was
12 a cesspit then, I mean a total cesspit. The amount of
13 men searching for boys and young girls, and -- it was
14 just mind blowing.

15 They -- being gay as well, the atmosphere of life in
16 Glasgow against any type of homosexuality was toxic. So
17 that continued. And I had learned -- I think I had
18 learned from my previous assaults. I was quite careful
19 in what I done and who I associated with, in the sense
20 of going off with somebody.

21 I had to make choices. It's not as if I was
22 kidnapped or -- you know.

23 I met a boy called [REDACTED]. I then started work in
24 the [REDACTED]. He came to me one
25 night and he said to me, 'How do you fancy London?'

1 I thought: that's a great idea.

2 So we hitched from Glasgow to London and ended up in
3 a place called Playland, in Piccadilly. I think that
4 Piccadilly had been mentioned to us -- well, no, it was
5 mentioned to us that that was a place where you could
6 meet men and, if you were lucky enough, you would get
7 a sugar daddy and the streets were paved with gold, and
8 all the nonsense.

9 Q. I think you did meet somebody?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And became involved with this person, who I think you
12 describe as a paedophile?

13 A. Yes. He, [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]. I met
16 him in Playland. He had a house [REDACTED]; a Rolls
17 Bentley car. He also had flats attached to this very
18 large building, like bedsits. So his wife was in South
19 Africa at the time, and when she returned I was a tenant
20 in one of the bedsits.

21 But the lifestyle that I moved from, from poverty in
22 Glasgow -- I was now shopping at Harrods. I wore
23 ostrich leather shoes. I had jewellery. I had anything
24 I wanted really for a period of about, I would say, 14
25 months to maybe a year-and-a-half.

1 It didn't come free. There was sadomasochism and
2 other things that I do not wish to discuss.

3 Q. I fully understand that. I think you do tell us that
4 you moved on to work as a street prostitute in London.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But then you came back to Glasgow in about 1975/1976.
7 And not long after that, 1979, your mother died from
8 a heart attack?

9 A. Yeah. A heart attack, but I believe that alcohol played
10 a huge part in this.

11 Q. Now, if we go to paragraph 87, what you say there is
12 this:

13 'I think it would be unreasonable to lay all of the
14 responsibility for my problems at the door of
15 St John Bosco's, but the solution to my childhood
16 problems that was offered at St John Bosco's didn't help
17 to address my problems. It made things worse. There
18 was really nobody at St John Bosco's that I could talk
19 to about my problems.'

20 When you are talking there about your problems; are
21 you talking about the bullying or other problems?

22 A. Well, if you take into account that I'm not only dealing
23 with bullying, I'm dealing with -- I am a sexual abuse
24 victim. I have an alcoholic, drug addled mother.

25 I have many pressures on me. What I'm suggesting to you

1 is that I did not have a childhood.

2 You know, with respect, sir, you skipped over my
3 time in London as a male prostitute.

4 Q. Do you want to talk about that?

5 A. Yes, I'll certainly talk about it. It's important.

6 I was thrown onto the streets by [REDACTED].

7 So I went from the comfort of things that I had never
8 experienced before to the streets. I didn't -- I don't
9 think I was a very good prostitute. I don't think my
10 esteem was high enough to value myself. People told
11 me -- men told me that I was extremely beautiful and
12 I couldn't see it. I just couldn't see it. I thought
13 they were talking nonsense.

14 I then slipped into more alcohol abuse myself, and
15 drugs. Drugs -- people say drugs are there to blot out,
16 well, yeah, to blot out, but to have a good time, to in
17 some sense have a life or some sort of pleasure or
18 leisure or whatever.

19 I suffered assaults in London as a male prostitute,
20 held at knife point. All sorts of situations which
21 would terrify you.

22 I contracted syphilis at the age of 17. I'm really
23 surprised that I hung around to get the 12 injections of
24 penicillin that I got to cure that condition. The
25 shame, real shame that this is what life had become.

1 I fell in love. But I don't think that would
2 ever -- it's never worked for me, because I can love,
3 but I have difficulty when people say to me that they
4 love me, in believing it. Trust issues. All of that.

5 Returning to Glasgow, my mother dies. Week after my
6 mother dies, my stepfather moves in with her sister. It
7 was -- I really -- I can't, you know -- selfish,
8 selfish, selfish people.

9 I believe they were only looking after themselves
10 and have no idea, and don't really have the right to
11 call themselves 'father' or 'aunt'.

12 Q. Can I move on then to that section of your statement,
13 'Nathan', where you talk about impact in paragraph 89
14 and you begin by telling us that all your life:

15 'All my life I have suppressed my emotions and
16 feelings. That is how I cope.'

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You have mentioned this before:

19 'The behaviour of LRM [REDACTED] was confusing to me at
20 the time and has continued to confuse me throughout my
21 adult life. When I saw him in Edinburgh with Pope John
22 Paul II, I remembered my experiences with LRM [REDACTED]
23 and this left me feeling further confused.'

24 We know he [REDACTED].

25 A. Yes. I cried and I cried when I seen him with Pope John

1 Paul because I was just overcome that this man --
2 I just -- it brought emotions out in me. I loved
3 John Paul and -- but there was this man standing beside
4 him that I had great doubts about. And, you know, we
5 hear about the taboo subject today of sexual abuse in
6 the Catholic Church, so I think a mixture of that, you
7 know, was really impacting my thinking; that I believed
8 the Pope was everything -- was there and everything you
9 wanted him to be, but I was not so sure about
10 LRM, you know.

11 Q. Looking to your health, and health issues; can you
12 summarise that for me then?

13 A. My health issues. I had a heart attack probably
14 12 years ago. I suffer from diverticulitis.
15 I suffer from CPTSD. I'm being assessed for ADHD.
16 I think that's the majority of the major illnesses that
17 I have.

18 Q. You did have alcohol problems --

19 A. Yes, alcohol.

20 Q. But you do tell us in your statement that you have
21 sought to address that.

22 A. Yes, yes, I've started to address my alcoholism. I went
23 to Alcoholics Anonymous probably for about 15 to
24 20 years. Unfortunately, when COVID came along it sort
25 of -- things dissolved.

1 For AA you are only allowed to -- you could only go
2 online and I couldn't really do meetings online with AA.
3 I have fallen off the wagon since, but I have quickly
4 picked myself up. I -- I'm battling cigarette smoking.
5 I used to smoke large -- copious amounts of marijuana.
6 I do not -- I haven't smoked now, marijuana, for maybe
7 a year. I don't see the point. It's only suppressing
8 whatever I've got left. It's dulling me. It creates no
9 motivation. It's an expensive, lazy sort of drug, you
10 know. You sit -- you do nothing.

11 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 94, that you've had great help
12 from Future Pathways?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And also The Anchor, which is a trauma service.

15 A. Fabulous help, fabulous help.

16 Q. And you end that particular paragraph on a positive
17 note:

18 'I feel I am heading in the right direction. I feel
19 my sense of isolation is getting better. I am going out
20 more often.'

21 A. I would say to you about that, that that would be at the
22 time. I think this is a battle, an ongoing battle that
23 I have. That I think it is connected to -- I'm awaiting
24 assessment for ADHD. But I think -- and with the CPTSD,
25 the isolation is such a habit. It's something I've done

1 a lot in my life, is lock myself away. But I think
2 I can -- I try at least once a year to go on holiday, to
3 get away. I'm not suggesting that is a jolly where
4 I'm out on the beach. I can still isolate on holiday.
5 I don't go on holiday with people; I go myself.

6 So I've been a bit of a lonely journey. But I think
7 I'm in a better place psychologically of understanding
8 me and the impact that life has had on me. I have
9 a counsellor just now and we're about to embark on inner
10 child work, and I think that's going to be very
11 important, because as I've said to you earlier, I don't
12 believe I ever, ever had a childhood, so I think it will
13 be interesting for me to go over that.

14 Q. And you have spoken to the police about abuse, and you
15 talk about this at paragraph 96. What you say is:

16 'They were only interested in speaking about abuse
17 at St John Bosco's, not the abuse I suffered when I was
18 running away from home.'

19 A. No, I felt their focus was on St John Bosco's. I got
20 the feeling sometimes -- I have a tendency to go off on
21 tangents as I've already said. But they have to make
22 written statements, and I felt that they were getting
23 slightly bored. They were getting slightly pissed off
24 that I had more to say than just: listen this happened.
25 I'm not feeling good, thanks.

1 Because my story, as you know, you're aware yourself
2 by the notes you have in front of you, it didn't start,
3 you know -- I wasn't born an alcoholic, I wasn't born
4 a drug addict, I wasn't born abused. So the journey
5 has been a lifetime, but I'm still here. I'm still
6 here.

7 Q. Can I just pick up a couple of points about what you say
8 about lessons to be learned, from paragraph 99 onwards.
9 The first thing you say is:

10 'I think we have to remember that children are
11 children.'

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that is very important.

14 A. Yes, of course. I understand the pressures of poverty,
15 but when children witness adults doing adult things,
16 drinking, fighting, the impact that that has on the
17 child -- I mean a child should be able to go to bed at
18 night and sleep. A child should not be lying at
19 3 o'clock in the morning -- I empathise strongly with my
20 mother's pain, but she did not empathise with mine.

21 Q. And just following through from that, you say at 100
22 that you were put into care, but there was a lack of
23 care?

24 A. Yes. A lack of, you know -- I could suggest that three
25 square meals a day, you know, what are you wanting,

1 but... emotional care. A great lack of emotional --
2 I would say there was -- there was no emotional care for
3 the children. Keeping you away from women, a totally
4 male dominated situation, that you would have to fight
5 or behave yourself for three weeks to get home for
6 a weekend. The only time they would come and see you,
7 or were allowed to come and see you, would be one sports
8 day a year. You were not allowed in the village of
9 Aberdour. You were taken for a walk on a Sunday, like
10 a dog.

11 It was a nice walk, but I always felt we were being
12 trailed about.

13 Behaviour, they really thingmied down on: you must
14 behave, you must behave.

15 Q. In your final paragraph, you talk about apologies --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- both from the Church and the State. Of course, there
18 have been some apologies in the past?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Are you not satisfied with the extent of the apology; is
21 that the message you're making?

22 A. Well, I was compensated and that's fine. I'm not making
23 any gripe about the level of compensation. But I think
24 the damage done, I don't think -- you know, there's --
25 the apology -- an apology, I sometimes think, is a get

1 out of jail free card, you know. Is the apology
2 sincere? Is the apology coming from the heart? Even if
3 it is, the damage is done. And I think that the
4 Catholic Church needs to have a reboot of some thingmy.
5 I believe that priests should be allowed to marry.
6 I'm going -- I'm going off on a tangent here.

7 But, no, I think sometimes an apology doesn't do
8 enough.

9 Q. 'Nathan', I know you want to say something at this
10 point, at the end of your evidence. Can I just say,
11 my Lady, that no questions have been submitted.

12 'Nathan', I do understand that there is something
13 you would like to say at this point.

14 A. I would like to thank you, Lady Anne, for having me to
15 come today to make this statement. I did -- in your
16 opening statements, I did think that St John Bosco's had
17 maybe been forgotten.

18 I think -- I hope my statement explains that to lose
19 many loved ones to alcohol and drugs -- both my brothers
20 died of drug overdoses. Those brothers I believe
21 died -- as I've said, you are not born a drug addict --
22 I believe they died of the family situation. I think
23 that impacted them. So their deaths in some way --
24 I ran away, they took drugs.

25 It's just -- I think abuse is a -- it's a deep,

1 deep, deep scar on many levels, and I have said before
2 that I believe sexual abuse -- emotional abuse is up
3 there with sexual abuse. It's part -- emotional abuse
4 is part of sexual abuse. But emotional abuse I believe
5 as well is such a ... it's something that I have had to
6 work very hard to deal with; both of these issues. But,
7 again, I would like to thank King's Counsel and I would
8 like to thank yourself today for listening.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Nathan', the thanks come from me. Thank you
10 for everything you've given us to assist with the work
11 that we are doing here. You have been frank and open
12 and incredibly helpful and very clear in what you have
13 explained about your life. I'm really grateful to you.

14 You're going to be exhausted when you leave here
15 today because you have given so much in addition to the
16 written statement we already had from you. Safe home,
17 and I hope you have got a quiet evening planned.

18 A. No, I'm having a night in Edinburgh.

19 LADY SMITH: Oh, wow. Well, I hope you are going to have
20 time to put your feet up first. It's wild out there.

21 A. Thank you.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 LADY SMITH: Some further names to take account of. There
24 was [REDACTED], the witness's sister; two boys who were also
25 at St John Bosco's, one called [REDACTED] and

1 another called KNI ; Brother LNB ; Brother IHU ;
2 and there was also mention of LRM , also referred
3 to as Father LRM , also referred to as LRM .

4 These people are not to be identified outside this room.

5 MR MACAULAY: That is it.

6 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I think we have finished the
7 evidence for today.

8 MR MACAULAY: Three more oral witnesses tomorrow.

9 LADY SMITH: Starting at 10 o'clock. I'll rise until then.

10 Thank you all very much.

11 (4.53 pm)

12 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
13 on Wednesday, 7 August 2024)

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