

Tuesday, 13 August 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to Chapter 8 of
4 Phase 8 of our case study that's looking into various
5 forms of provision for children in secure establishments
6 and similar places.

7 In this Chapter, of course, we're looking at three
8 places: St John Bosco's, which we completed the evidence
9 in relation to last week; St Andrew's, Shandon, which
10 we're about to begin; and St Philip's, Plains.

11 Now, I think we're actually going to start with
12 a read-in today; is that correct, Ms MacLeod?

13 MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady. Yes, that is correct.

14 We were to have an oral witness first thing, but,
15 unfortunately, due to his ill-health, he's unable to be
16 with us. So I do propose to start today by reading in
17 the statement of that witness.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Let's do that.

19 MS MACLEOD: The witness will use the pseudonym 'James' for
20 his evidence.

21 'James' (read)

22 MS MACLEOD: The statement can be found at WIT-1-000000837:

23 'My name is 'James'. I was born in 1951. I was
24 born in England. I have a full brother, two
25 half-brothers and a half-sister. We lived on a farm and

1 it was a happy time. But then my mother and father
2 split up and my mother moved back to Scotland. Myself
3 and my brother went with my mum.

4 'When we moved, we lived in a tenement that had
5 an outside toilet. Myself and my brother used to play
6 in a nearby model, a homeless unit, and the men there
7 used to give us pennies.

8 'I started primary school, before then going on to
9 secondary school at the age of 12. I had been late
10 starting primary due to being in and out of hospital due
11 to problems with my ears.

12 'When I was six or seven years old, my mother had to
13 go into hospital, and myself and my brother were sent to
14 a children's home. Up until then, life had been good at
15 home, and I don't recall anybody explaining why we had
16 to go to the children's home, or why it was exactly that
17 my mum had to go into hospital.'

18 Between paragraphs 8 and 16, the witness speaks
19 about his time at a children's home in Renfrewshire.
20 I'll move to paragraph 17:

21 'I don't recall much about the children's home, nor
22 do I recall how we left or how we got home. When we did
23 go home, it was just me, my brother and my mum staying
24 at home. Mum was fine by then and things at home were
25 good, even though we didn't have much money.

1 'I attended high school and there were constant
2 fights every day, especially involving one of the
3 teachers. The school was a thousand times worse than
4 St Trinian's. I hated the school as I was still trying
5 to catch up with the other pupils and only attended
6 things like metalwork and woodwork, so I was skipping
7 school a lot and eventually got caught.

8 'One night, I was playing football and there was
9 a [REDACTED] factory nearby, and next to that was a wee
10 hall and we used to play five-a-side. One night we were
11 playing, we saw that two or three of the windows in the
12 factory were open, so some of us went into the factory
13 and stole some sweets.

14 'We were caught by the police, who said we had
15 actually broken into the factory. I had been on
16 probation for breaking lots of windows at school, and
17 for skipping school, so I went to the District Court.
18 I got a really bad report from the probation officer,
19 whose name I don't recall, and I got sent to
20 St Andrew's. This was a shock to me as I didn't expect
21 to be going to an Approved School. I was 13 or 14 years
22 old.

23 'I think before I appeared at court I had been on
24 remand in Larchgrove for three weeks, and went from
25 there straight to court. I had also been in another

1 place for about three weeks, but I really have no memory
2 of either of those two places.

3 'I don't recall how I got to St Andrew's, but two of
4 the masters, which is what we called the male staff,
5 picked me up somewhere, and we went through Helensburgh,
6 Shandon and Rhu. We arrived at what looked like
7 a castle, which I later learned was called Andrew House
8 or the big house, beside which was Fruin House, which we
9 called the wee house. There was also other smaller
10 houses where staff lived.

11 'Andrew House had two levels. On the first level
12 was the matron's room, the kitchens, the assembly hall
13 and the shower rooms. On the second level, which you
14 reached via two big staircases, were two dorms and the
15 headmaster's room. There were 15 to 18 boys in
16 Andrew House and 8 in Fruin House, so roughly 26 boys in
17 total, aged between 12 and 16. I was 13 or 14.

18 'There was no actual school, but there were teachers
19 in charge of the garden, the paint shop and the joiner
20 shop. Mr Burns was in charge of the paint shop and he
21 was hard but fair, and the lads all looked up to him.
22 Mr Richmond was in charge of the joiner shop, and
23 I don't now recall the name of the teacher in charge of
24 gardening.

25 'I was put in the Andrew House and for the first

1 couple of nights was in a private room, which was
2 apparently to help me settle in, and a few days later
3 I was put into the dorms. After a few days, I was put
4 to work and told by staff to call them "Sir" or
5 "Master". The first work I did was with the gardeners.

6 'The gang warfare between youths was rife at the
7 time and in the big house were 18 to 20 guys from
8 different gangs, so there was a lot of fighting and
9 bullying. I was a small and cheeky wee bugger and was
10 a target for bullying, but I could tell jokes which
11 tended to ease the problem. The others used to ask me
12 what gang I was in and I just made up a pretend gang.

13 'After three or four months had gone by, I got moved
14 to work in the joiner shop, which I enjoyed. About the
15 same time, I was also moved to Fruin House from
16 Andrew House. There was only one master in Fruin House
17 who was called Mr HMK or HMK, or something
18 like that. I settled in there and there was only
19 between eight and ten boys in the dorm.

20 'We would get up at 7.00 am, but I would get up at
21 6.00 am at times because I had to help prepare the
22 breakfasts. There was also times I had to get up before
23 5.00 am to have a shower because I had wet the bed.
24 After breakfast, we would clean the kitchen, then go to
25 the assembly hall. After that, we went to the various

1 workshops for most of the day, after which we would have
2 dinner, then some free time and we would go to bed at
3 9.00 or 10.00 pm.

4 'The food was varied and filled you up. Some boys
5 wouldn't eat it and wanted their own food brought in,
6 which they sometimes did by way of parcels sent to them
7 by family members. The only punishment, if you didn't
8 eat your food, was that you went hungry. There were no
9 baths; it was all showers, but they were hot and we were
10 given soap.

11 'The school gave us grey suits, working clothes and
12 casual clothes of trousers and crew-necked jumpers with
13 shirts. We were also provided with socks and underwear
14 which were cleaned about twice a week.

15 'There was a TV and games room, which had a small
16 billiard table and a table-tennis table, and a selection
17 of puzzles. The atmosphere was fairly relaxed. We also
18 had boxing matches and I was usually the one people
19 wanted to box because I was so small.

20 'We did 50-mile walks for charity and also went to
21 discos and dance halls.

22 'We didn't have any of what you would call
23 traditional classes. Instead it was all work based and
24 we would spend our time in the joiner shop, the paint
25 shop or working in the garden.

1 'There was a matron who looked after our healthcare,
2 but I don't remember her name. I remember I once had
3 a cleg bite that got infected and she dealt with it.
4 I don't recall seeing a doctor or dentist.

5 'The school was officially a Catholic institution
6 and we would say prayers in the morning, but I don't
7 recall a chapel or ever having to go to Mass.

8 'You had to keep your dorm clean, and I worked in
9 the kitchen, the laundry and in the garden, but I did
10 extra housework to get pocket money. You got a wee bit
11 of pocket money, but if you smoked you had to earn extra
12 money to afford them. Some boys would get extra money
13 sent to them from home.

14 'Birthdays weren't celebrated and at Christmas they
15 maybe put up a tree. Most boys went home for Christmas,
16 but I didn't. The only day that was actually celebrated
17 was St Andrew's Day when we probably just got a few
18 extra sandwiches.

19 'Sometimes we would receive a small parcel from
20 home, maybe with sweets or something in them. However,
21 it was crazy how often they delivered the wrong parcel
22 to the wrong boy. If you got a parcel meant for
23 somebody else, you tended to tear it open and keep it
24 for yourself.

25 'I started wetting the bed after being sexually

1 abused, and would often have to get up at 5.00 am to
2 shower after doing so. The first couple of times I had
3 to just leave the wet sheets and would cover them with
4 blankets to cover the smell. Eventually, I would have
5 to take the sheets off and put them in the laundry
6 baskets which were dealt with by an outside firm. If
7 other boys wet the bed, then I wasn't aware of it.

8 'I only got about two visits from my brother and
9 some of his mates. My half-brother also visited me, but
10 mum was never well enough to visit me. I did write home
11 and also helped some of the other boys who couldn't
12 spell. I don't know if the letters were vetted, but
13 there was probably no need to vet them as they were all
14 fairly basic.

15 'At no time did anybody ever sit down and tell me
16 how long I would be in St Andrew's or when I would be
17 getting out. I later spoke to a psychiatrist who told
18 me that those in Fruin House were expected to be there
19 for about six months before being released, but I had
20 been in there a lot longer than six months before
21 I heard that. The housemaster of Fruin, Mr HMK ,
22 used to say that I would be going to borstal, which
23 terrified me.

24 'I did think about running away many a time, but
25 Mr HMK had always threatened me by saying I could

1 end up in a borstal. I thought if I ran away I would
2 get sent to borstal, so I never did.

3 'Mr HML, SNR, was the only person who
4 issued the belt, which you got for swearing at the staff
5 or fighting. Somebody would get the belt every day,
6 including a Sunday, and it would happen after assembly.
7 At assembly, those who were to get the belt would have
8 their name read out and then they would have to go
9 upstairs to SNR room and wait outside until
10 it was their turn to get the belt. The belt was made of
11 very hard leather and could stand up on its own.

12 'I cried after the first two occasions he gave me
13 the belt, but then I felt that he got satisfaction from
14 making us cry. After that, I was determined never to
15 cry again when he belted me.

16 'After we had our tea at night and got changed into
17 casual clothes, we would play table-tennis, which
18 I really enjoyed. After about seven months of me moving
19 into Fruin House, Mr HMK was playing me at
20 table-tennis and was showing me how to spin the ball and
21 I enjoyed this.

22 'We had been doing this for a few weeks when he
23 started getting his body too close to me while showing
24 me the moves. He started putting his hand near my groin
25 and I let that go. Later, I would be the only boy there

1 and he started getting me to touch his penis and he said
2 he would look after me and that he would give me extra
3 money and fags.

4 'If you worked in the garden, laundry or kitchen,
5 you could earn extra points or money and I started
6 helping out in the kitchen. Mr HMK would come
7 into the kitchen, close the door and make me masturbate
8 him. This happened after breakfast for quite a while.
9 He would always say, "Remember to wash your hands".

10 'After a while, I had to give him oral sex in
11 a shower room. There were only four showers and he
12 always made sure I was the last boy to shower. After I
13 finished showering, he would dry me and that's when
14 I had to give him oral sex.

15 'This continued, but after a while, masturbating him
16 and giving him oral sex wasn't enough for him.

17 'I couldn't go to work one day and most of the lads
18 had gone to Helensburgh. I was in the shower and
19 HMK came in. I thought I was just going to give
20 him oral sex or masturbate him, but that was the first
21 time he stuck his penis up my bum. Thereafter this
22 would then happen three or four times a week.

23 'After this, and probably even before it, my
24 behaviour had become what I suppose you would call
25 disruptive. On one occasion, I had taken a screwdriver

1 out of the joiner's shop and when I went on to the
2 school bus I wrecked the roof with the screwdriver.
3 I also started pissing the bed and was throwing things
4 about the joiner shop.

5 'After that first time that he raped me, I went to
6 see the matron. I didn't know what to say, but when she
7 asked me what was wrong, I pulled down my pants and
8 showed her the blood. I was in a lot of pain and told
9 her what HMK had done to me. I had to tell her
10 because it was so painful. She put cream or gel on my
11 bum and said it would go away.

12 'The next morning, I was at assembly when Mr HML,
13 SNR, called out my name to go upstairs.
14 I was standing outside his room with some others and
15 could hear what sounded like running feet followed by
16 whacks and crying. I wasn't sure at that time what was
17 going on, and couldn't work out why I was there.

18 'I went into Mr HML room and was told to bend
19 over a chair. He then took a run and whacked me on the
20 bum, over my trousers, four or six times. I was bawling
21 and was thinking that after the pain of being raped,
22 this was making things worse. I couldn't work out why
23 I was getting the belt, but HML said that it was for
24 telling lies and causing trouble. He told me to get
25 out. I was shaking and wondering what had just

1 happened.

2 'After enduring the sexual abuse from HMK for
3 several months, my behaviour apparently became an issue
4 of concern and a psychiatrist, or somebody like that,
5 came to see me. I don't know his name. I would say the
6 abuse had been going on for about 18 months by then.

7 'The psychiatrist said that most people had thought
8 that I would only have been in St Andrew's for six
9 months, but that that had been extended because of my
10 behaviour, and he asked me if there was anything wrong
11 that I wanted to talk about. I then told him what had
12 been going on and what HMK had been doing to me,
13 and how long and how often it had been going on.

14 'I also told him that HMK had told me he would
15 look after me, but that if I told anybody he would get
16 me sent to borstal. HMK had said he could make
17 reports that would get me sent straight to borstal from
18 St Andrew's. I also told him that HMK told me
19 that what he was doing to me was to be kept between the
20 two of us; that it was "our wee secret".

21 'About three days later, I was again at assembly and
22 my name was again read out to go to SNR
23 room. Once again I got the belt from him because of
24 what I had told the psychiatrist. At that point I was
25 in despair and thought I was never getting out of the

1 situation. The abuse continued.

2 'The police attended St Andrew's on a regular basis
3 because of all the fighting. I assume they were from
4 Helensburgh police office. On one occasion I told them
5 what HMK had been doing to me. I spoke to a big
6 cop and took him to Fruin House, where I pointed out
7 HMK to him and told him it was HMK who had
8 been abusing me. The cop put me into the games room and
9 told me to wait while he spoke to HMK.

10 'I assumed that HMK would then be taken away,
11 but nothing happened, so I went back to the joiner's
12 shop. When I went back to Fruin House, HMK was
13 still there and, yet again, I got called up to SNR
14 SNR room and was belted for telling lies.
15 I had told the police what had happened and yet they did
16 nothing about it, nor even came back to speak to me
17 about it.

18 'There was an occasion when we all went on a 50-mile
19 walk for charity. We were taken to Helensburgh, then
20 some place 50 miles away, and every couple of miles
21 there was what you would call check-in points, where you
22 would get water or something to eat if you needed it.

23 'At one of these check-points, HMK pulled up
24 in the school bus, which could hold about eight of us.
25 I don't know how many miles I had done by then, but

1 I had blood blisters on my feet. HMK then let the
2 others walk on and started looking at the blisters on my
3 feet. I then had to travel in the bus, and he pulled
4 into a layby and I had to masturbate him. That was the
5 only time he abused me outside of Fruin House.

6 'The shower was the only place he actually raped me,
7 which he did countless times. But because I had started
8 to wet the bed, I had to take a shower in the middle of
9 the night, and HMK thrived on this. The rest of
10 the lads would be asleep in their bed and he would come
11 into the shower and rape me. I would say he raped me
12 two or three times a week over the best part of a year,
13 and it was more regular in the latter period of my time
14 in St Andrew's.

15 'Throughout this time I was convinced that HMK
16 would have me sent to borstal, which terrified me.

17 'Not long before I was due to leave St Andrew's,
18 I was allowed home for a week. Nobody had told me that
19 this was actually preparation for me leaving the place.
20 I didn't know I was being prepared for leaving and still
21 believed I would be going to borstal after St Andrew's.
22 When I returned from the weekend leave, I got off at
23 Helensburgh train station and who was waiting for me,
24 but HMK in the school mini-van.

25 'As soon as I got into the van, he asked me how my

1 weekend had been and said, "I hope you haven't been
2 telling anybody our secret". I looked at him and said,
3 "See you ya bastard, if I had told anybody you would
4 have been in hospital, literally for the rest of your
5 life".

6 'When I said this, he drew back a bit. He asked me
7 what I meant by that, and I said, "You would have been
8 dead by now". When I look back to that weekend,
9 I remember I more or less just shut myself in my room,
10 and that was probably for the best. If I had told any
11 of my brothers then God knows what they would have done.

12 [HMK] said, "You know they're thinking about
13 sending you to borstal". By this time we were near
14 either Rhu or Shandon, and he pulled into a layby and
15 told me to get into the back of the van. I had to give
16 him oral sex and he was trying to get me to have
17 an erection. He then penetrated my bum with his penis.

18 'I had enjoyed my first weekend home in years and
19 here I was, not even half an hour back and not even back
20 at school, and he was again abusing me. This turned out
21 to be only a couple of weeks or a month before they
22 eventually let me out of the school.

23 'That, however, wasn't the last time [HMK]
24 abused me. The boys were all doing a run around the
25 massive grounds and I was last. [HMK] stopped me in

1 the woods and I had to give him oral sex. I was out of
2 breath and knackered, but he still made me do it.

3 'Not long before I left, I faced up to HMK and
4 told him I would be back and that I would kill him. To
5 my shame, I said, "I'll kill you and I'll kill your
6 children". I was in a murderous mood and I told him
7 this before I even knew I was getting out. I still had
8 this awful fear of being sent to borstal, but I didn't
9 care anymore.

10 'I had taken enough abuse from him and told him that
11 he could send me to borstal, but that I would eventually
12 get out and I would come back and get him. I actually
13 felt rotten about saying those things to him, especially
14 about his kids, but I had had enough.

15 'That was the last time I spoke to HMK, and I
16 expected the police to arrive that night and take me to
17 borstal. It didn't happen and it was just shortly after
18 that I got transferred to Andrew House, and I didn't see
19 him again.

20 'The nearest I came to being abused by anybody other
21 than HMK was by the gardener, and I'm not sure you
22 would describe it as abuse.

23 'When you were working in the greenhouse, he would
24 get quite close to you and maybe touch your leg. He did
25 this to a few of the boys several times. We knew it

1 wasn't right and the boys would tell each other to stay
2 away from him. However, compared to HMK, that was
3 nothing.

4 'I reported the abuse on three separate occasions.
5 I told the matron, a psychiatrist and a police officer.
6 After each occasion, I was belted by SNR, so
7 I never told another person. What was the point?

8 'I wasn't given much notice about leaving
9 St Andrew's, but it was just a sense of relief to
10 actually be going home, and I was getting away from
11 HMK. I got my original suit back and couldn't
12 wait to get out. They gave me a train ticket and
13 I probably got a taxi to Helensburgh train station. The
14 relief of knowing that I wasn't going to go to borstal
15 was incredible. That thought had been with me for so
16 long.

17 'I went back home and was 16 at the time. I didn't
18 go back to school. When I got home, my brother, who was
19 like a father to me, tried to hug me and I hit him.
20 I didn't tell him why I couldn't accept such affection,
21 but it was because of what HMK had done to me.'

22 In the next few paragraphs, my Lady, the witness
23 speaks about various jobs that he had, meeting his wife,
24 that he got married at the age of 21 and had a daughter.
25 He speaks about problems with alcohol. He says at first

1 it was social, but that he was really using the alcohol
2 to forget about flashbacks from his time at St Andrew's.

3 At paragraph 85, he tells us that by the age of 30
4 he was an alcoholic, although he didn't realise it at
5 the time; that he and his wife divorced; and that his
6 son was actually born a short time later.

7 In paragraph 88, he explains that, when he was 40,
8 he ended up in prison because of drink. He says:

9 'That was a shock to the system.'

10 He says:

11 'I got four months for assault and that sobered me
12 up for a while.'

13 In paragraph 89, the witness says:

14 'I was allocated a counsellor and wrote my
15 background for him. I found that while I couldn't speak
16 about what happened in St Andrew's, I could write it
17 down. That was the only time, other than this
18 statement, where I told somebody of my time there. That
19 stopped me having headaches.'

20 In paragraph 91, the witness explains that, in more
21 recent years, he has felt more settled.

22 I now look to the part of the statement where the
23 witness provides evidence in relation to the impact his
24 time at St Andrew's has had on his life. That is from
25 paragraph 92 onwards, and I'll read part of that:

1 'My wife, who I married at 21, was a beautiful,
2 wonderful woman who could have had any man she wanted.
3 She was a great cook, a hard worker, and loyal to
4 a fault. Life with her was fantastic, but I was still
5 having flashbacks to what HMK did to me. I had
6 nightmares, night terrors. There were times I honestly
7 thought I could smell HMK in my sleep.

8 'My wife used to keep asking me what she had done
9 that had made me have such nightmares and always be on
10 edge. But I couldn't talk to her, I couldn't tell her
11 the truth about what happened to me as I felt it would
12 have destroyed her to hear that such things could have
13 happened.

14 'This caused immeasurable damage to our
15 relationship, which is why we separated, which meant
16 that HMK even destroyed my marriage. The fact
17 that I took ten years out of her life while she lived
18 with me makes me feel guilty to this day. She didn't
19 deserve that. When I look back to what happened to me
20 at St Andrew's, I've often wondered if I could have done
21 something to stop HMK. I have no doubt he abused
22 others and I wonder, if I had done something, could
23 I have prevented him from hurting others, though
24 I realise I was only a child at the time.

25 'There's no doubt that it affected me on a personal

1 note, but I found it difficult to make friends
2 throughout my life. The way St Andrew's was run, with
3 there being absolutely no schooling, clearly affected my
4 education and left me feeling worthless from an academic
5 point of view.

6 'There was an occasion, when I was drinking heavily
7 and I was getting really bad flashbacks, that I even
8 tried to cut my penis off. Fortunately, I recovered
9 from the injuries. Turning to drink was my way of
10 trying to get rid of the flashbacks and it's what led me
11 to drinking so much throughout my life.

12 'There is a physical pain and I've had plenty of it,
13 but the mental pain is burned into you and never seems
14 to leave you. You wish it would go away and I would
15 love to go some months without those thoughts.

16 'I have never reported what happened to me to the
17 police. I did on one occasion while I was at St
18 Andrew's, but he obviously reported to the school or SNR
19 SNR what I said and I got belted for what I told
20 him. Since then, my confidence in the police is zero
21 and I would be reluctant to tell them anything.

22 'The main lesson to be learned for me is that
23 children have to be listened to. There are people who,
24 like me, suffered abuse when they were children and it
25 destroyed their lives to such an extent that they

1 committed suicide. Their lives ended tragically without
2 them ever having told what happened to them or being
3 believed.

4 'I tried to commit suicide twice, but I am lucky
5 that I'm still alive to tell my story and be believed.
6 It breaks my heart that so many felt that they had to
7 take their lives without ever having got to say what the
8 world needed to hear. My hope is that this Inquiry will
9 allow so many such people to tell their story and that
10 children will be better listened to in the future, and
11 I hope, by telling my story, it will help prevent
12 children being abused in the future.

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

17 'James' signed the statement on 26 October 2021.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. What is the plan now?

19 MS MACLEOD: I think the plan now, my Lady, is to have
20 further read-ins.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22 Mr MacAulay; you're going to take over?

23 MR MACAULAY: Yes.

24 So, my Lady, this is an applicant. He wants to
25 remain anonymous and to use the pseudonym 'Bruce'. His

1 statement is at WIT-1-000000788.

2 My Lady, although this is a lengthy statement, much
3 of it has already been read in.

4 LADY SMITH: Yes, I recognise his name.

5 MR MACAULAY: And he was read in for the SPS Chapter on
6 Day 392. That was 17 November 2024, and the transcript
7 reference is TRN-12-000000024.

8 He was read in for the De La Salle Chapter on
9 Day 410, and that was 22 January of this year, and the
10 transcript is TRN-12-000000043.

11 He was also read in for Chapter 7 on Day 458. That
12 was 4 July of this year, and the transcript reference is
13 TRN-12-000000091.

14 'Bruce' (read)

15 MR MACAULAY: Looking to his statement, he begins by talking
16 about life before going into care, and it's evident he
17 was part of a very large family.

18 I'll just skim over this, because it has been read
19 in. But he tells us, at paragraph 4, that his home life
20 was 'brilliant'.

21 He goes on to tell us, at paragraph 5, how his
22 father had an argument with a social worker and, at
23 paragraph 6, how he himself was led astray by an older
24 boy when he was very young, and that's what led him to
25 get into the care system.

1 At the end of paragraph 7, he says:

2 'My life fell to pieces after that.'

3 He talks about being before the Children's Panel.

4 At paragraph 11, he tells us that he was in
5 Cardross Park twice: the first time when he was seven
6 years old, from [REDACTED] 1968 to [REDACTED] 1968, and
7 the second time was when he was eight, in 1969.

8 That has been read in, so if I can go on to
9 paragraph 45, that's when he leaves Cardross Park on the
10 second occasion.

11 If one goes on to paragraph 48, he's then at
12 Bellfield Remand Home, and he was there three times
13 between the ages of 10 and 13; that is 1970 to 1973, and
14 again that has been read in, in Chapter 7.

15 If I go on to paragraph 72, that's when he tells us
16 that he left Bellfield for the first time.

17 Moving on to paragraph 73, he tells us that he went
18 into St Ninian's, Gartmore, in 1971, and again that was
19 read in for the De La Salle Chapter.

20 Moving on to paragraph 135, he leaves St Ninian's
21 when he was 13, but he's back in Bellfield, as he tells
22 us in paragraph 137. My Lady, thereafter he's in
23 Bellfield, he's in Longriggend, he's in Barlinnie.

24 If I go on, then, to paragraph 174, this is when
25 he's admitted to St Andrew's, Shandon.

1 The records show that he was admitted on
2 ██████████ 1976. I think he thought it was 1975, but
3 the records suggest 1976, and he was there until just
4 after his father died, in 1977.

5 I'll just read on from there:

6 'I was 16 when I came out. St Andrew's was a List D
7 School and going there was a punishment for me.
8 St Andrew's was also to show you how to work. I was to
9 be held in St Andrew's until somebody said they'd let me
10 out.

11 'There were three houses called Fruin House,
12 Shandon House and Andrew's House. There were about 20
13 boys in each house and they were aged 13 to 16 years
14 old. The houses were separate buildings. I was in
15 Fruin House. The grounds were massive. St Andrew's
16 wasn't locked and you could walk out if you wanted.

17 'Mr FQH ██████████ was SNR ██████████. He was a good guy.
18 KEB ██████████, Miss Carsewell and Big Dodgy were the three
19 housemasters. The staff had living quarters at the
20 bottom of the driveway. St Andrew's treated you more
21 like an adult. When you asked to do things, the staff
22 would let you as you didn't break the rules.

23 'Mr FQH ██████████ met me, then I met KEB ██████████, Miss
24 Carsewell and Big Dodgy. Mr FQH ██████████ said they didn't
25 know how long I would be in St Andrew's for. He told me

1 I'd pick my own work party and I'd get money to go home
2 through that work party.

3 'Mr FQH said all they wanted me to do was keep my
4 nose clean, do my work, go home and come back on time.
5 He said the staff at St Andrew's would take care of the
6 rest of it. That was the way Mr FQH worked. He was
7 straightforward.'

8 He then goes on to describe aspects of the routine,
9 and in paragraph 180 he says:

10 'My biggest fear was wetting the bed. I was
11 15 years old now and, if anyone found out, I was going
12 to get a headache. I'd been in three or four weeks and
13 I'd managed to hide it for that long. Then Miss
14 Carsewell found out. She was great about it. She took
15 me aside and asked me why I hadn't told her. I put my
16 head down and was all embarrassed. Miss Carsewell said
17 she would get it sorted out for me. She told me if
18 I wet the bed, to stay back in the morning and not go to
19 work, then to take the sheets to the laundry. Miss
20 Carsewell put me into a single room. That was a relief
21 right away. I didn't wet the bed so much in the single
22 room.'

23 Then he mentions some aspects of the general
24 routine. Moving on to paragraph 189, he describes the
25 work:

1 'Work was all you got. We worked all day with
2 a break for lunch. There were 16 or 17 boys in a group.
3 The boys were all ages. You'd choose your work party.
4 There were brickies, mechanics, painters and joiners.
5 I wanted to be a brickie or a joiner and got put into
6 the brickies. You got one pound seventy five, or two
7 pounds, a week. There was one member of staff
8 supervising who we called "The Boy" because he had
9 a wee, baby face. The Boy asked if I could work like my
10 brother and I said I could work harder. He told me my
11 brother put 120 bricks in a barrow and pushed it up the
12 hill. I put 130 in the barrow and got three quarters of
13 the way up. I was gutted.

14 'If the staff needed something done in their garden,
15 like a wall or patio, then we would do it. We made
16 slabs by bolting together templates in steel. That was
17 inside work if it was raining. It was at St Andrew's
18 that I got my first whisky in a coffee. We were doing
19 the patio for old Mr Burns and Mr Burns gave me a coffee
20 with whisky. I said it tasted funny.'

21 Then visits and inspections at paragraph 192:

22 'I never got any visits the first three weeks I was
23 in St Andrew's. I was 15 years old and my ma and da
24 were tired of it. I knew my da couldn't visit anymore
25 because he was ill and in pain all the time. Some of my

1 brothers and sisters were older and married, others had
2 left the house and moved to England. I never saw
3 anybody from social work. I don't remember
4 an inspection, but I saw people I didn't know walking
5 about. I don't know why they were there.'

6 He tells us that after three weeks he was allowed
7 a home visit.

8 Moving on to paragraph 199:

9 'As places go, St Andrew's was easier than others
10 I'd been in and I'd have preferred to have been there
11 earlier. Then my da died and I never went back the
12 weekend after his funeral. My brother caught up with me
13 on the Tuesday in the street. He took me to the police
14 station and I felt like punching him. He told the
15 police I was meant to go back and had done a runner.
16 The police took me back. I never spoke to my brother
17 for a long time after that. I suppose he did the right
18 thing because I would have ended up locked in
19 Longriggend.

20 'A number of boys were a wee gang from Blackhill.
21 At first, I felt afraid and worried because [another
22 boy] was in St Andrew's with them, before me. They
23 asked if I was his brother and I said I was. Then they
24 repeated it. I asked if they were deaf. I had trouble
25 with those four and so did the rest of the boys. They

1 gave me general grief, but they didn't try to assault
2 me, except the time one tried to assault me, but he got
3 put in his place. He knew I wasn't going to back down.
4 'I had sorted [another boy] out in the toilet when
5 he was on his own. On a Friday before you went home,
6 you cleaned the toilet. We had all the cleaning
7 materials and I took the squeegee mop off him. I told
8 him I wanted to go home that day and I was taking the
9 squeegee to get the job done. He tried to take it off
10 me and didn't manage. Then [two boys] got me in the
11 boot room. [Two other boys] were at the back of them.
12 [Two boys] pushed me into a locker and were trying to
13 lock the door. There was no way they were shutting that
14 door on me. I think [one boy] hurt himself more than he
15 hurt me.

16 '[Another boy] called me a bully. I didn't answer
17 because they knew who the bullies were. [One boy] got
18 charged with murder on one of his home leaves. That
19 shows you the type of person he was.

20 'When [that boy] got charged with murder, [another
21 boy] left St Andrew's, and [the other boy] turned into
22 a mouse. [Another boy] thought he could be a bully by
23 himself, but he got leathered in the dining room by some
24 of the boys. It wasn't me, but I saw it. He was hit
25 with chairs and everything and that put him in his

1 place.

2 'I didn't go to a Panel, but I got a date to get out
3 of St Andrew's. Mr FQH got the date in a letter and
4 told me. It was about three months after I ran away
5 that I got out, in or 1977. I was 16 years
6 old.

7 'I was sad to go and, at the same time, I couldn't
8 wait to go. I was emotional saying cheerio to
9 everybody, especially the members of staff. The staff
10 were first class. They were good people. I got hugs
11 and handshakes. I got taken on the bus to Glasgow with
12 the rest of the boys. The boys were going on weekend
13 leave and I was going home for good. It was good.'

14 Thereafter, my Lady, he's in a number of
15 establishments; Polmont, Castle Huntly, Glenochil, and
16 all of that has been looked at, as indeed have the
17 sections dealing with reporting and impact and lessons
18 to be learned.

19 On page 54, I can just confirm that this applicant
20 signed his statement on 28 August 2021.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Ms MacLeod.

23 'Archie' (read)

24 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is from

25 an applicant who will use the pseudonym 'Archie'. The

1 statement can be found at WIT-1-000001350:

2 'My name is 'Archie'. I was born in 1956. My mum
3 and dad were firm but good people and my childhood was
4 a happy one. I'm one of fourteen children.

5 'I had a few accidents when I was a kid, and banged
6 my head. I had concussion and was in hospital when
7 I was around five or six years old. I always ran away
8 and didn't want to tell anyone when I was hurt. I don't
9 know if there's any permanent damage there.

10 'Through the friendships I had, I used to get into
11 trouble. I also wasn't going to school and, because of
12 that, I was taken to some Children's Panels. The first
13 time I was arrested was for playing football in the
14 street, and I was remanded to Larchgrove Remand Home in
15 Glasgow for two weeks. I was given a fine after that.
16 I was about ten or eleven years old, and I remember it
17 was around [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] time.

18 'The second time I was remanded was for eight weeks,
19 and I was about 13 years old. I think it was around
20 [REDACTED], just before my 14th birthday. I had been
21 stealing cars this time. I wasn't stealing them for any
22 financial gain. It was just to run away from all the
23 scars of being in Larchgrove the first time.'

24 Between paragraphs 7 and 29, the witness speaks
25 about his time in Larchgrove.

1 I move to paragraph 30 of the statement.

2 Paragraph 29, my Lady, my apologies:

3 'I went to a Children's Panel after my second stay
4 at Larchgrove and I was given a sentence of twelve
5 months to five years residential training. I then went
6 back to Larchgrove after the Panel and a wee mini-van
7 took me to St Andrew's Approved School in Shandon, by
8 Helensburgh. I don't remember who took me.

9 'I think I spent about ten months in St Andrew's
10 when I was 14 years old. It seemed all right and was a
11 big fancy house, maybe a bit creepy. It had two
12 sections built on the main bit, which was called Shandon
13 and where I stayed. I think one section was called
14 Fruin and I can't remember the other one. There was
15 maybe about 40 boys in each section. We were all aged
16 13 to 17 years old.

17 'When you went into Shandon, there was a big hall to
18 the left, where they would invite people in from the
19 outside and we would maybe have a disco or something.
20 They did that at Christmas. There was a cookhouse on
21 the other side, where they made and served all the food.

22 'We slept in two dormitories, away at the top of the
23 building. There was a big middle section with stairs,
24 and the dormitories were up on the second floor. On the
25 first floor, I don't know what was on the left, but on

1 the right was a big door that was always ajar, and three
2 or four wee sets of pews. You couldn't see them until
3 you opened the door. To me, it was like it used to be
4 a chapel, but we never got any chapel.

5 'I'm sure the governor's name was McDermott, and the
6 only other chap I know was the one that hit me, HLL .
7 I don't know his second name, but he was a big, stocky
8 man, about six foot two and maybe in his late 50s or
9 early 60s.

10 'The governor took assembly every morning at this
11 wee bit at the back of Shandon. Each section had a
12 different assembly room and ate separately. In the
13 mornings, we would get breakfast first, then straight to
14 the assembly room for about 8.30 or 9.00. The governor
15 would tell people where they were working that day and I
16 got put into the builders. I just worked away there all
17 day, building a big house for the governor. I would be
18 back to the home for lunch and dinner, but sometimes
19 they would keep me there until 6.00 at night and I would
20 miss dinner. I would maybe get a sandwich then or
21 something, but nothing hot. Bedtime was 9.30 to 10.00.
22 There was a chap that did nightshift that made sure
23 everyone was in their own bed and not jumping about
24 crazy or whatever. I never noticed any issues with him.

25 'The food was okay -- I found the food okay. I got

1 to know the cook, LOA we called him, and he
2 was all right. He cooked for Shandon and took trolleys
3 through to the other sections. There were no issues if
4 you didn't eat anything.

5 'The showers were up near the dormitories. We had
6 showers mainly in the morning and were told to go.
7 I was given working clothes, and that was denims and
8 a jumper or something. Then we wore our own clothes at
9 the weekend.

10 'We had free time at the weekends and just sat about
11 talking to the other boys. I would walk about and see
12 the other halls. Sometimes I would work overtime,
13 building the house on the grounds for the governor.
14 There was a swimming pool at Faslane, but they didn't
15 like us going up there. I think I maybe was there once.
16 We were taken to the Highland Games, and I did
17 gymnastics in the summer. I liked that.

18 'I never saw any doctors or health visitors or
19 anything like that. No one from the outside came to
20 check up on me.

21 'The job that I got was building this house for the
22 governor on the grounds. He already had a house next to
23 the football park. I was working with a builder guy,
24 and it was too much work. They had me in a trench for
25 200 yards, just to find this water mains to put into the

1 new house. They had me there until 9.00 pm sometimes.
2 It was in a wee forestry bit. When I finished my work,
3 he would come up to see how we were getting on and tell
4 me to go over to his house and to speak to his stepson.
5 He was getting old and would forget he told me this and
6 then send me back to Shandon when I got there.

7 'I did go back and visit years later, and the house
8 is now still there, fully built.

9 'Other people could be working at Faslane, at the
10 naval base. At that time, there was no security there
11 and it was just all open. There was no fence or
12 anything like that.

13 'At Christmas, the home would get people from
14 outside communities together, and bring them in to have
15 a disco or something. I remember it because girls would
16 come along. There was nothing done for our birthdays.
17 I saw a lot of boys fighting with each other and a lot
18 of bullying. There was no security in there.

19 'As I had been locked up in Larchgrove, I liked to
20 go over to the other halls a lot. There was this guy in
21 another hall that everybody was afraid of, and I hit
22 him. He was older and said he was the leader of the
23 wing. He was bullying all the other boys so after I hit
24 him all the boys then got on with me and I could talk to
25 anyone. There was a lot of bullying in the other

1 sections, but not in my bit, as I wouldn't allow it.

2 'There was a social worker that would take us out on
3 a wee run in her car. That was about it. It was a lady
4 called Miss Smith that took us out around the area, and
5 we didn't discuss much with her. She would tell us
6 about other establishments that we didn't want to go to
7 after St Andrew's, but I never told her about my abuse.
8 She was a nice person.

9 'My dad and family came up to the open day where we
10 were doing running and gymnastics. I enjoyed that. The
11 first time I ran away was when I was allowed a visit
12 into the town one day. A few friends came to meet me in
13 town and there was a fight with the locals. I just went
14 home with my brother and got lifted at the train
15 station. I was held at the police station and my
16 brother was sent on his way. I was taken back to
17 St Andrew's and, when I got back, this HLL [REDACTED] guy put
18 me in a cell away from the rest of Shandon. It was
19 a wee separate complex bit, where I think the social
20 workers were. I was in there overnight and then he took
21 me back to Shandon the next day.

22 'When we got back to Shandon, HLL [REDACTED] took me up to
23 this room with pews, on the first floor. I must have
24 heard he belted you on the backside from other boys as
25 I had put books down my trousers to try to stop the

1 pain. In this room I was belted with my trousers down,
2 on my bare backside, six times. When I pulled my
3 trousers down, the books fell out and I looked around.
4 I could see these four guys masturbating. I didn't
5 recognise these guys at all and I never saw them again
6 after that. They were like travelling monks with big,
7 long overcoats. I didn't see them when I walked in. It
8 was only after I turned around, I saw them tucking
9 themselves away and fixing themselves. The governor,
10 Mr McDermott, came in as well, but I thought he was all
11 right. I think they tucked themselves away because
12 I saw them, not Mr McDermott, but he must have seen them
13 too. He just said, "Get it done with" or "Get it over
14 with", or something like that. This only happened this
15 one time and I never told anyone, as I found it a bit
16 embarrassing.

17 'I ran away a second time after my dad died and
18 because of the abuse the first time. I knew my dad
19 wasn't well and in hospital, then staff told me I would
20 be getting out for his funeral. I remember being in the
21 car going home and one of my family members saying, "You
22 need to go back to St Andrew's", and I didn't want to
23 go. That night, I ran away about 10.00 pm. I remember
24 someone telling me to go through the fields and not to
25 follow the railway, as the cops were always waiting

1 there. When I got home, my mum just called the home to
2 come and get me. I didn't get to my mum's until about
3 9.00 am. I was tired and fell asleep. When I woke up,
4 one of the staff was there to take me back. Nothing
5 happened to me because of that, I think maybe because
6 my dad had just died.

7 'HLL [REDACTED] was the main man and he dealt with all the
8 punishments. You never saw him or any of the staff in
9 these places really, only when you were getting punished
10 or a doing. There were no regular beatings and doings
11 from the staff like you got in Larchgrove, as far as
12 I was aware, but there must have been, as someone must
13 have told me about putting the books down my shorts.
14 I wasn't aware of anyone else being put in that cell
15 beside the social workers.

16 'I thought St Andrew's was okay, apart from the
17 abuse by that HLL [REDACTED]. He disappeared and I don't know
18 where he went after that. It was just a hard place and
19 you had to stand up for yourself.

20 'I remember being in the assembly hall and McDiarmid
21 said to me he had good news, and I was getting out the
22 next day. I think because I was a hard worker, he let
23 me leave early. I was shocked when he told me. They
24 just used to spring that on us and we were never told
25 when we were getting out. I went back home after I was

1 let out and I was still 14 years old. I started hanging
2 around with the same people again and continued getting
3 into trouble. When I was 16, I was remanded to HMP
4 Barlinnie.'

5 Between paragraphs 59 and 62, the witness speaks
6 about his time in Barlinnie.

7 Between paragraphs 63 and 69, he speaks about his
8 time at Longriggend Detention Centre.

9 Between paragraphs 70 and 74, he speaks about his
10 time at Polmont Young Offenders Institution. And
11 between paragraphs 75 and 79, he speaks about his time
12 at HMP Castle Huntly.

13 I'll move to paragraph 80, where the witness
14 provides some information about his life after care:

15 'I went off the rails a bit after care as my mum and
16 dad both died in their 50s and close together.'

17 He describes earlier in his statement, my Lady, that
18 his father died when he was about 15, and his mother
19 when he was about 16:

20 'I worked as a carpet fitter for a short period,
21 maybe about six weeks as an apprentice, and I did the
22 odd labouring job on building sites. I couldn't keep
23 a job down as I was committing crimes so getting short
24 sentences in prison. I would get six months here, four
25 months there, for stupid things. That went on for years

1 and years, most of my life. I was sent to Low Moss --
2 Loss Moss -- Low Moss Prison as an adult and that was
3 a really wicked place for short sentences. I saw a lot
4 of stabbings in there.

5 'I got no schooling at all in any of these
6 establishments and sat no exams, so I have no
7 qualifications. I have irritable bowel syndrome now as
8 a result of all the different establishments I was in
9 and different food I ate. I didn't have this problem in
10 these places, but I did afterwards. I don't like lies,
11 so if friends lie, I can't trust them after that.
12 I find it hard to trust anyone and to keep
13 relationships.

14 'After care, when I was going out and committing
15 crime, it was because when I was in care I would see
16 people being bullied and having their clothes stolen off
17 them. That made me go stealing, just to run away from
18 it all.

19 'All the friends I have that were in these places,
20 they are all either dead now with drugs or alcohol.
21 I know it was all to blank out the fear of being in
22 there. I used to suffer from nightmares about my time
23 in care, but not as much now. I sometimes have
24 flashbacks, but it's mainly about the adult prisons and
25 what I witnessed in them.

1 'I recently told the police what happened to me at
2 Larchgrove and St Andrew's. I never told them anything
3 about these other places. This was last year and I made
4 a complaint at a police station in Glasgow, and I was
5 then referred to the Chief Inspector.

6 'There was no one there for me to ever report any
7 abuse to. No one ever checked on me and I could not
8 trust anyone. There should be more monitoring of these
9 places. In Larchgrove, I never even got one visit and
10 I don't know how to get one if I could. That one guy
11 I did speak to and -- I spoke to one guy and he asked
12 for my mum. More people should have been coming in to
13 see you and check if you were all right. They should
14 have let you know they were there for you, to help you.
15 They shouldn't just dump you in a cell. I don't think
16 older children should be put in with younger children.
17 Where I was, fourteen-year-olds were in with
18 five-year-olds, and that's not right.

19 'In the care system now, I don't think ex-convicts
20 should be employed as carers. I have seen people I was
21 in prison with now working in the care system and
22 I don't think that's right.

23 'I have no objection to my witness statement being
24 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true.'

2 'Archie' signed this statement on 13 December 2023.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Mr MacAulay.

4 MR MACAULAY: Yes, my Lady. This an applicant who wants to
5 use the pseudonym 'Mel' in his evidence.

6 'Mel' (read)

7 MR MACAULAY: 'Mel' was born in 1966 -- and I should perhaps
8 just give the reference: WIT-1-000000975.

9 As I said, he was born in 1966. He begins by
10 telling us about his life before going into care and
11 about his family background.

12 At paragraph 4, he says:

13 'My dad died and my mum was given an insurance
14 policy of fifty-two thousand pounds, which in 1978 was
15 a lot of money. My mother was only in her 40s and,
16 after losing her husband at such a young age, she turned
17 to alcohol and eventually paralysed herself from the
18 waist down. She ended up being in hospital for six
19 months.

20 'While she was in hospital, I went to stay with my
21 brother in Luton and my sister went to stay with my
22 other sister. My brother had married by that time and
23 he and his wife had young kids. I suppose his wife
24 didn't bank on having another child when I came along,
25 and so things weren't very happy.

1 'Mum got out of hospital, but she was still drinking
2 and so eventually her mother told her to come back up
3 the road to Johnstone with my younger sister. They
4 moved up and stayed with my granny, but I stayed with my
5 brother until the summer holidays when I went to visit
6 my mum and never went back.

7 'I was about 13 by that time. Although I wasn't
8 committing crimes, I was a bit of a tearaway. I was
9 enrolled in a high school, but I was staying out at
10 night and I only went there for about two or three days.
11 My mum had no control over me. She tried her best, but
12 she was in a bad place at the time.

13 'Social work from Johnstone got involved and I was
14 assigned a lady social worker. She remained my social
15 worker until I turned 16. Eventually, I was taken to
16 a Children's Panel and it was decided that I should be
17 put in an assessment centre.'

18 He goes on to discuss the assessment centre by,
19 beginning at paragraph 10, saying it was 'great':

20 'It was clean and tidy and the staff were good, and
21 there was a nice atmosphere.'

22 At paragraph 11, he says that:

23 'I had my 14th birthday when I was in the assessment
24 centre. Mum and my partner, [REDACTED], who I'm still with,
25 actually came to see me there on my birthday and brought

1 a cake for me.'

2 He goes on to say that after several weeks in the
3 assessment centre, he was transferred to a children's
4 home in Greenock. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

5 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

6 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to the Panel, and it was after that that he
7 was sent to St Andrew's. I can pick that up at
8 paragraph 16.

9 LADY SMITH: So if we've now got to past his 14th birthday
10 while in the assessment centre, it must be the back end
11 of 1980, or beginning of 1981; would that be right?

12 MR MACAULAY: The records indicate that the date of
13 admission to St Andrew's was [REDACTED] 1981, when he was
14 aged 14. And he left, aged 16, in [REDACTED] 1982.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR MACAULAY: 'The Panel decided that I should be sent to
17 St Andrew's List D School at Shandon, and that I would
18 be there until I was 16. St Andrew's was where my
19 nightmare began.'

20 He then describes the building and the layout, and
21 the different units that we've heard about. He tells
22 us, at 20, that he was in Douglas Unit for the whole of
23 his time at St Andrew's.

24 And at 21:

25 'I found out later on that St Andrew's was owned by

1 the Catholic Church, but it wasn't run by monks.
2 I can't remember the name of SNR, but his
3 nickname was "FQH" because of his big eyes. We had
4 nicknames for everybody. SNR was called
5 HLQ or HLQ, or something like that. He was
6 a big, strapping man with giant hands. There were three
7 staff for each of the two units, but they worked shifts,
8 so there were always two on during the day, as well as
9 another member of staff at night. I don't know if the
10 member of staff on duty at night stayed in each unit or
11 if they patrolled all three units.

12 KCR was the top man, the housemaster of
13 Douglas Unit, and the staff were a woman called Ann or
14 Anna, who was only in her late-20s and foreign, and a
15 man called KXX. They were the three that dealt with me
16 in Douglas Unit and who had the most access to me.

17 'There were two or three teachers in the school.
18 There were also teachers that ran the workshops for
19 engineering and carpentry, and also one for the gardens.
20 There was a chef in the main kitchen in Shandon House,
21 who prepared the food for all the boys, and his wife was
22 the matron and she did the laundry.

23 'It was all boys at St Andrew's, probably around 60
24 or 70, ranging in age from about 11 to 16. In Douglas
25 Unit, there were about 25 boys and that was probably the

1 same in the other units.

2 'There were some good times at St Andrew's. I was
3 in the football team and I enjoyed that, but on the
4 whole I would describe my time at St Andrew's as pure
5 hell.'

6 At 28, he says that his social worker:

7 '... took me straight from the Panel to St Andrew's,
8 and we got there at about 4 o'clock, just as it was
9 getting dark. Passing all the trees and bushes in the
10 dim light, and coming up the driveway to Shandon House,
11 I was scared. I had heard all these stories about
12 List D Schools and borstals, and seeing this creepy, old
13 building freaked me out a bit. I didn't know what to
14 expect.

15 'I was taken in to see the headmaster in his office
16 upstairs in Shandon with the social worker. In front of
17 the social worker, he laid down some rules for me, not
18 in an angry way, but letting me know that he was the
19 boss. He made sure I knew that he ran the school, and
20 that I had to do what he told me. I suppose I was
21 pretty anxious at that point, because I knew I wasn't
22 going to be getting mollycoddled like I might have been
23 in a children's home. I knew that I'd put myself in
24 that position, but I wondered whether it was what
25 I really wanted.'

1 He goes on then to discuss the routine.

2 At paragraph 33, he says:

3 'After breakfast, we had to go to the boot room and
4 put our boots and jacket on, and then line up on the
5 Parade outside Douglas Unit. The boys from Shandon and
6 Fruin all had to line up on the Parade outside their
7 units as well. Once we were lined up, we were told
8 where we were each to go for the morning, whichever work
9 shed or class each boy went to.'

10 And then, at 35:

11 'After workshop or class in the afternoon, we'd head
12 back to Douglas Unit, get our boots and jackets off in
13 the boot room and have a wash at the sink. Then we'd
14 wait to get our dinner, watch the TV afterwards, then
15 have a cup of tea and some bread and butter, before
16 going to our dorms and getting ready for bed.

17 'After that, we were locked into our dorms for the
18 night. The windows in the dorm wouldn't open and the
19 only way you could get to the toilet during the night
20 was if you banged the door for the member of staff on
21 duty to let you go. You could be standing at the door
22 for ages waiting on him.'

23 As far as food is concerned, he says that:

24 'As far as I can remember, the food was actually
25 okay.'

1 He mentions aspects of routine, like washing and
2 bathing and leisure time.

3 On paragraph 45, he says:

4 'At the weekends, most of the boys would go home,
5 but those that didn't have anywhere to go, like me, were
6 all put into the one house unit. There would maybe only
7 be 15 or 20 boys left, so they would shut the other
8 units down. Over the weekend, you were left to your own
9 devices and you could go and play football in the park,
10 or watch TV, or play pool. There was nothing put on for
11 us.'

12 In paragraph 50:

13 'I had been put to Shandon for not going to school,
14 and yet, when I got there, I only had three weeks of
15 classes. After that, I was taken out of classes and put
16 in an engineering workshop. I could never understand
17 that. When I got there, I had to sit a maths test and
18 an English test, and I must have passed enough to get
19 put into a work shed. I wasn't told what my mark was,
20 but, if it had been low, I would have had to go to
21 classes.

22 'You didn't really get a choice which work shed you
23 were going to, you went where the spaces were, but
24 I would have chosen engineering anyway. We mostly
25 learned how to braze and how to weld, and we actually

1 made a canoe and telephone tables, and we learned how to
2 turn metal on a lathe.'

3 Moving on to paragraph 58:

4 'Everybody got turns doing things, like working in
5 the kitchen each week, if they were able. The chef used
6 to actually ask for me to help him because I couldn't go
7 home at weekends. I knew it was to get me out of the
8 problems I was having in Douglas. All I was doing was
9 helping to prepare the vegetables and washing the
10 dishes. There was no cooking.

11 'A group of boys had the duty of cleaning the sinks
12 and the toilets every day, and we also had to Hoover our
13 own rooms on a Friday, and polish the floors with big
14 heavy weights on a pole. You had to put polish on the
15 floor, and a cloth under the weight, and push and pull
16 it forward and back. It was really heavy and I was only
17 small, and I struggled. Sometimes I used to get a slap
18 by one of the staff for not getting it done right and
19 having to get somebody else to come and do it for me.
20 I wasn't capable of doing it, but weakness just wasn't
21 tolerated and they didn't like failure.

22 'Birthdays weren't celebrated at all; they were just
23 another day. Boys went home for Christmas, although
24 they would put up a tree in the chapel and there were
25 a few decorations in the house unit. There was also

1 a Christmas dinner before all the boys went on home
2 leave, which was not too bad.'

3 And then at 61:

4 'I never got to go home at Christmas, so I just
5 spent the day watching TV, and things like that, with
6 the other boys who couldn't go home either. There was
7 nothing for us to do because the staff were celebrating
8 Christmas with their families, although they did give us
9 half an ounce of tobacco and some chocolate. They
10 weren't all bad; they did do some nice things.

11 'We weren't allowed anything of our own at all. Even
12 our clothes were put into a store.'

13 At paragraph 64:

14 'You were allowed a visitor, but you had to see them
15 in the dining room at Shandon House. There was no visit
16 time as such, any visit had to be arranged with the
17 school. Most of the visitors that came were boys'
18 social workers, because most of them were getting home
19 leaves and didn't need to see their families. I never
20 had any visits from my family at all.

21 'My social worker was great. She did everything
22 that she could for a small tearaway and she looked after
23 my mum as well. She used to come and see me every six
24 to eight weeks. I could speak to her on my own, but
25 although she was okay, she was a social worker and she

1 never believed anything I told her. I was just seen as
2 a troublemaker.'

3 Looking at external inspections, at 67:

4 'If anybody came to inspect St Andrew's, I never saw
5 them. Certainly nobody spoke to me to ask how I was
6 getting on.'

7 He then talks about family contact, and at
8 paragraph 72:

9 'The only discipline was physical punishment. They
10 didn't stop your money and there was no point in
11 grounding us because we never got out anyway. I suppose
12 they could give you more chores, like scrubbing the
13 floor with the heavy polisher, but mainly they hit us.

14 'There was a thing called "boys response" if you
15 went on home leave and didn't come back. I always came
16 back from home leave, but if a boy didn't, the rest of
17 the boys in their unit wouldn't get their next home
18 leave, and that meant you would be in trouble with them.

19 'After I'd been in St Andrew's for about six months,
20 I ran away with another boy. We were caught by the
21 police about four hours later, on the railway line near
22 to Helensburgh, and taken back. We were taken to SNR
23 SNR office and the other boy went in before me,
24 while I had to stay outside. I could hear him squealing
25 like a pig before he came out and I was taken in.

1 'I was caned by SNR [REDACTED] while SNR [REDACTED]
2 held my hands. I was told no matter how many times
3 I ran away, I would be brought back. They told me I was
4 going nowhere and I would be staying at St Andrew's
5 until I was 16.

6 'After I had been at St Andrew's for about
7 six months, I started wetting my bed regularly.
8 I wasn't allowed to shower, and as a result I was
9 starting to smell and the room was starting to smell,
10 and I got bullied so badly by the other boys. It was
11 constant. I was an outcast. I wasn't part of anything.
12 I'd get boots thrown at me in the boot room. I'd be
13 punched in the face by other boys and I would be called
14 names.

15 'The staff weren't making it any easier. Every time
16 I wet my bed, KCR [REDACTED] whacked me with his leather
17 belt and made me take my wet sheets off the bed and
18 stand in the queue for breakfast with them. I had to
19 take those wet sheets into the dining room with me for
20 breakfast, and I had to stand out on the Parade with
21 them afterwards in front of everybody. Only after
22 everybody left the Parade was I able to take the wet
23 sheets to the laundry.

24 'Even if KCR [REDACTED] was off, because he said that
25 had to happen, the other staff had to abide by what he

1 said. Anna had a bit of compassion and sometimes she
2 would tell me to put the wet sheets in the office while
3 I had breakfast and then she'd give them back to go out
4 on the Parade afterwards. That only happened when she
5 was by herself though, which wasn't very often.

6 'If KCR had known, he would have gone mad at Anna.
7 The matron was sometimes in tears when she saw what was
8 happening to me, standing out on the Parade with the wet
9 sheets. She kept asking me what was going on and I told
10 her about the bullying and getting beaten by
11 KCR. She had a heart, but there was nothing
12 she could do.

13 'As a child, I was only small and very timid, and
14 I was badly bullied by some of the other boys. I lived
15 in fear of the staff and the boys. I don't want to name
16 any of the boys, but some of them ended up big figures
17 in the Glasgow underworld. Some of them were nasty and
18 ended up murderers, and they were the leaders in
19 St Andrew's.

20 'I actually saw some boys getting bad beatings in
21 the showers and elsewhere. One of them, who was from
22 Johnstone and was a big, stocky guy, stuck up for me
23 a few times. As a result, he himself got leathered by
24 the other boys. He kicked a boy in the face in the boot
25 room, and, the next day, four or five of the other boys

1 really laid into him.

2 'If you refused to clean, your housemaster would
3 give you the leather belt several times across your
4 hands, which was a matter of course. If that didn't
5 work, you were sent to SNR [REDACTED] and you would get
6 the cane. Normally, KCR [REDACTED] would belt you, but,
7 if he wasn't there, one of the staff would do it. Anna
8 never hit anyone but KRX [REDACTED] did, although not very often.
9 We had to hold our hands out and we would be hit between
10 two and six times across them, like you would get at
11 school. I got either three or four hits every time
12 I wet the bed, which was two or three times a week.

13 'KCR, KRX [REDACTED] and staff from the other units, and the
14 teachers, also used to slap boys on the back of the head
15 or give them a kick if they were cheeky. There was
16 always something. It was commonplace.

17 'I can remember SNR [REDACTED] hands because he
18 and SNR [REDACTED] used to cane us. Boys were caned by them
19 on a daily basis and it could be for anything. Some
20 boys would get it for attacking the staff, or refusing
21 to go to work or refusing to clean. One boy was caned
22 frequently, and I got the cane twice, once for running
23 away and once for fighting. I had just been standing up
24 for myself, but I was caned and so was the other boy.
25 The first time I was caned was after I had run away with

1 [the boy].

2 'I was made to bend over the back of a chair with my
3 hands holding on to the arms. HLQ covered my hands
4 with his and held me there while FOH hit me with
5 the cane across my backside over my jeans. It didn't
6 make any difference being over my jeans though. It was
7 a thin cane and he hit me six times, full pelt, and it
8 hurt. I had big black and blue lines across my backside
9 for days afterwards and one of [the other boy]'s welts
10 was actually bleeding.

11 'After that, they took us across to the cell in the
12 admin block and locked us in there. The windows in the
13 cell were metal framed with small squares, and some of
14 the glass in the squares was broken. It was cold and it
15 was raining outside, and all we had to sleep on was
16 a thin gym mat, two hairy blankets and a pair of
17 pyjamas. Our food was brought up from the kitchen by
18 one of the boys, and we were only allowed out to use the
19 toilet. [The other boy] did three days and I did
20 another five on top of that, so I was locked in that
21 cell for eight days.

22 'KCR sexually abused me and, although it
23 sounds bad, I let it happen. I still have so much anger
24 towards that man, but at the time he was like a safe
25 haven. When he was doing that, he wasn't hurting me.

1 It was after he started sexually abusing me that
2 I started wetting my bed, however. Although the sexual
3 abuse was bad, it wasn't as bad as anything else.

4 'If I did what he told me to do, he protected me to
5 some extent. I got tobacco and extra money. As I have
6 got older, I have realised he was grooming me.

7 'It started the second time the rest of the boys
8 went on home leave, which would have been about 12 weeks
9 after I arrived at St Andrew's. He asked me to help him
10 with boxes in the storeroom upstairs, and when we were
11 there he started touching me under my trousers. I kind
12 of freaked out, but he told me not to panic, that he
13 would make sure I was okay and the boys wouldn't beat me
14 up.

15 'After touching me, he masturbated himself and then
16 he let me out of the storeroom. I didn't know what to
17 do. I just cried. I didn't understand. He was the man
18 who was in charge, who was hitting everybody with the
19 belt, and then he was doing that. He gave me a small
20 bit of tobacco and carried on as if nothing had
21 happened.

22 'About a week later, he took me in the van to drop
23 logs off at some of the staff houses and, in the van, he
24 did it again. Just as he'd done the first time, he
25 touched my genitals under my trousers and then he

1 masturbated himself. This happened for the rest of the
2 time I was at St Andrew's. It wasn't on a weekly basis,
3 but it was frequent, every few weeks. Sometimes he made
4 me touch him, but he never raped me, and it never went
5 further than that. It was always over in a matter of
6 minutes, but I know that if he had more access to me, he
7 would have done more. I could see it in his eyes. We
8 were never away for more than 10 or 15 minutes because,
9 if we had, some of the other staff might have started
10 asking questions.

11 'It got to the stage, with the bullying from the
12 other boys, that I felt KCR was my safety. If
13 I kept him happy, I knew I was okay. I could sit in the
14 TV room and I knew he was outside and that he wouldn't
15 let anything happen to me. He also made exceptions for
16 me. There were no staff in the boot room and when we
17 used to go in there to get our boots on, I used to get
18 kicked and have boots thrown at me. KCR would let me
19 stay back until most of the boys had left the room and
20 then let me go in.

21 'If it had just been the sexual abuse and the
22 physical punishments from KCR, St Andrew's would almost
23 have been bearable, but that combined with the bullying
24 from the other boys for wetting my bed made it so hard.

25 'I told my social worker about the abuse when she

1 came to see me at St Andrew's. I told her about being
2 bullied by the other boys and being beaten by the staff,
3 and I told her about KCR touching himself, but
4 she never did anything. I'm not just blaming her,
5 because it didn't just fall on her deaf ears. I don't
6 think she even knew what to do about it.

7 'I also told the policeman in the police station at
8 Helensburgh after we had run away. Before I could even
9 finish what I was saying, I got the hardest slap across
10 the back of my head from the policeman that I had ever
11 had. He told me to stop bad-mouthing those people who
12 were trying to look after me, and that I was just trying
13 to cause trouble. Nobody believed me. We were just
14 thought of as troublemakers and scum, and we were taken
15 back to St Andrew's. I think the reason I was locked in
16 the cell for five days more than the other boy was
17 because I had told that policeman and he must have told
18 SNR .

19 'One member of staff did take me aside once and ask
20 if everything was okay. He was the housemaster from
21 Fruin Unit, but I can't remember his name. He was known
22 to us as "KEB". He said that he knew I was getting
23 bullied by other boys and he asked if everything was
24 okay. I don't know if he knew something, but I just
25 told him everything was fine. I knew he was reaching

1 out to me, but I was suspicious and wondered why.

2 Perhaps I was scared to tell him.

3 'I knew that on my 16th birthday, I would be leaving
4 St Andrew's, and before I left the school I had
5 an interview for a job. I had applied while I was still
6 in St Andrew's, and the job was on a youth training
7 scheme.'

8 He says that he left in [REDACTED] 1982:

9 'The school sorted things out with my brother, for
10 me to stay with him, and I got a grant from the social
11 work and the school for some clothing. My social worker
12 picked me up on the morning of -- when I left, and took
13 me to my brother's house, but I never saw her after
14 that. She just dropped me, the school dropped me, and
15 I was left to get on with it myself, with no support
16 whatsoever.

17 'I finished the YTS job and started seeing [this
18 girl] again, and eventually we got a house together
19 after she fell pregnant with our oldest daughter. I was
20 17 at the time, and that's when the nightmares about
21 St Andrew's started. I felt disgusted and depressed,
22 and I started to self-medicate with alcohol and drugs.
23 I had blackouts and I ended up in jail, and that has
24 been the story of my life.'

25 He goes on to tell us in the next paragraph that:

1 'I have worked out that I have spent 15 years in
2 jail for silly things and for serious things.'

3 And at 102:

4 'The only good part of my life is my partner and my
5 daughters and grandchildren.'

6 He goes on to talk about the impact:

7 'I have been through some nightmares trying to
8 forget St Andrew's. As soon as I left, I stopped
9 wetting the bed, but that's when all the alcohol and the
10 drug abuse started. I still get the nightmares and the
11 flashbacks, but I think that my partner's illness has
12 stopped me from turning to alcohol more recently.
13 I have to be there if she needs me.

14 'She has stuck by me all these years when I was
15 getting drunk and getting sent to jail, and that,
16 of course, affected our relationship. If I've had a bad
17 day and I've been thinking about what happened to me,
18 she might try to cuddle me, but I push her away.'

19 At 106:

20 'I am paranoid with people and I am so protective of
21 my family. I hate leaving my grandkids with anybody
22 because I know how easy it would be for them to be
23 abused, and I know they wouldn't tell me. I can't trust
24 other people. I have asked kids in the street if
25 they're okay, if I think something doesn't look right.

1 My partner questions what I'm doing, and tells me it's
2 probably just someone with his child.

3 'I managed to educate myself when I was in prison.
4 There were no TVs when I was in prison and so I read all
5 the time. I went to classes and taught myself. That's
6 the only way I learned anything, because there was
7 nothing in St Andrew's. I think if I had received
8 a proper education there, it would have made a big
9 difference. Maybe I could have got some qualifications
10 and moved on to college somewhere.

11 'So often I have felt disgusted about what
12 **KCR** did to me and wondered why I didn't stop
13 it. I try and justify it to myself and I get so
14 depressed. I have never told anybody about it. I feel
15 so dirty and I wonder why I was so weak and let it
16 happen.'

17 He says, at 111:

18 'Now that I have opened up to the Scottish Child
19 Abuse Inquiry, I think I could probably open up to
20 somebody else. The next step is to tell my daughters
21 and then I'll work out a plan.'

22 He goes on, at 114 onwards, to talk about lessons to
23 be learned, and he says:

24 'I know that abuse of children is never going to
25 stop. It will never be eradicated completely, but

1 I hope in the future there will be more people with
2 their eyes on the ball. Children need to be told that
3 people are listening. They need to know that there is
4 help available.'

5 And at 116:

6 'There needs to be more supervision of the people
7 looking after children. Even in prison, inspectors come
8 and ask how you are or if you have any complaints.

9 'I know that it is a cliché, but time is a great
10 healer. I try to compartmentalise and put things to the
11 back of my mind and leave them there, but then I might
12 read something and it all comes flooding back.

13 I decided that I needed to tell my story. If my doing
14 so could help somebody else, I knew I needed to do it.
15 A jigsaw is made up of small pieces, and all those small
16 pieces need to be added together so that people can see
17 the whole picture.

18 'The big lesson for the Inquiry is awareness. If
19 there is more awareness, there is less opportunity for
20 abusers to abuse.'

21 He ends by saying:

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

24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
25 true.'

1 'Mel' has signed the statement on 5 May 2022.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

3 Well, I think we should stop now for the morning
4 break, and then hopefully we'll have a witness in person
5 after the morning break.

6 Before I rise, some names of people whose identities
7 are protected by my General Restriction Order and these
8 are people who are not to be identified as referred to
9 in our evidence outside this room.

10 There was a Mr HML, a Mr HMK, KEB,
11 HLL, FQH, Mr HLQ or HLQ, and KCR
12 KCR. Thank you very much.

13 (11.26 am)

14 (A short break)

15 (11.45 am)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

17 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who
18 will use the pseudonym 'James' when giving his evidence.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

20 'James' (sworn)

21 LADY SMITH: 'James', thank you for coming along to engage
22 with the Inquiry today to help us with your oral
23 evidence. I already have, of course, your written
24 evidence. That's in the red folder that's beside you.
25 You'll remember signing your statement and making that

1 available to us. It's been really helpful to have that
2 in advance, so thank you for that.

3 'James', otherwise, I want to do all I can to assure
4 you that my wish is to help you give your evidence as
5 well as you can, give the best evidence you can and as
6 comfortably as you can, despite the fact that you're in
7 a public place and we're going to ask you about some
8 things that happened to you when you were a child that
9 might be quite distressing to talk about.

10 I understand that. If you need a break, that's not
11 a problem. You just tell me. If there's anything
12 you're not following, it's our fault not yours, so ask
13 us to explain ourselves better than we're doing, or, if
14 you've got any question, you must feel you can speak up.
15 You may not have felt when you were a child you were
16 allowed to speak up, but you are allowed to do that.

17 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms MacLeod and
18 she'll take it from there.

19 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. Good morning, 'James'.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. You have provided a statement to the Inquiry and there
22 is a copy of that statement in the red folder on the
23 desk. I'm just going to give the reference of the
24 statement for the transcript: WIT.001.003.0236.

25 'James', if I can ask you to turn to the very last

1 page and to confirm that you've signed the statement?

2 A. Yeah, that's my signature.

3 Q. And in the very last paragraph, do you say:

4 'I have no objection to my witness statement being

5 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

6 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

7 true.'?

8 A. Yeah, that's true.

9 Q. If I can take you back to the beginning of the statement

10 and what you tell us there, and just ask you a little

11 bit about your life before you went into care.

12 I think you tell us that you were born in Glasgow?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. And I think you say that life was -- you describe that

15 life was quite hard for you because your family didn't

16 have much at the time?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And I think you go on to tell us that you got into some

19 trouble as a young boy?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. And did that ultimately lead to you refusing to go to

22 school and appearing before the Children's Panel?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Could you tell me a little bit about your recollections

25 of appearing before the Children's Panel?

1 A. It was a strange event. I had never done something like
2 that before, so the day I get took there, everything was
3 all new to me. It was strange, and there were people
4 talking about me and talking on my behalf and things
5 I'd done. It was quite a strange thing to see and to
6 listen to, basically. A wee bit daunting because
7 I really didn't believe it was happening at the time,
8 what was really going on.

9 Q. You mention in your statement that you recall people
10 talking about you, and that you weren't asked to
11 contribute to the discussion yourself?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And I should have asked you this at the beginning,
14 'James', I don't need your date of birth, but just to
15 give a timeframe, were you born in 1966?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. At the Children's Panel, at the Hearing, was there
18 a decision made at the end of the Hearing?

19 A. What I can recollect, because obviously it was a long,
20 long time ago, yeah, I think it was an initial -- either
21 three month or six month and then we would get called
22 back to the Panel and see how things were then.
23 Basically, if I done good, I would get out sort of
24 thing, and I'd be put back -- obviously to the custody
25 of my family, which did not happen.

1 Q. And that period of three or six months that you're
2 talking about, was that for you to be sent to a List D
3 School for a period of time?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Were you taken to a school called St Andrew's List D
6 School?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. In Shandon?
9 A. Shandon, yeah.
10 Q. I think you tell us that your recollection is that you
11 were around thirteen-and-a-half at the time?
12 A. Roughly about that, yeah.
13 Q. That would have been around 1979 or thereabouts?
14 A. Yeah, yeah.
15 Q. You go on to tell us, 'James', that while initially it
16 was to be a shorter period of a few months, that you
17 ended up spending three-and-a-half years at St Andrew's?
18 A. Yeah.
19 Q. So was that from around 1979 to about 1982?
20 A. Something like that, yeah.
21 Q. In paragraph 10 onwards of your statement, you talk
22 about your recollections about the school in terms of
23 what it looked like, and arriving there. Would you be
24 okay to look at a photograph if I were to put that on
25 the screen?

1 A. Yeah, definitely.

2 Q. That's at INQ-000000873.

3 A. Yeah, definitely.

4 Q. You recognise that building?

5 A. Oh, yes.

6 Q. As St Andrew's?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. Can you tell me, 'James', what we see there? Obviously,

9 we see it's an old-style building.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. Can you tell me what part of the building that is and

12 what we see there?

13 A. That's the main block. What you can't see on that

14 picture is the actual different units. That's the main

15 building where you get took in where -- what do you call

16 them -- the members -- there was -- what do you call it

17 again -- it was run by a load of people and they were

18 all there at the time. There were loads of them there.

19 You got took in there, basically the front doors there,

20 and you come in, and in front of you when you step

21 inside it, it's this big, beautiful staircase that opens

22 up in front of you and then there's obviously rooms to

23 the right and left before you go up there.

24 Then you got took up the stairs and there's

25 a boardroom there. One of the biggest mahogany tables

1 you'll ever come across and see and you get sat down
2 there, and then this is when you start getting told why
3 you're here and how long you're going to be here and
4 what's happened to you, and what you're going to get
5 into.

6 Q. Who was in the boardroom then when you got there?

7 A. There was a headmaster, deputy headmaster -- I don't
8 know if they knew before I went there, which unit I was
9 going in, because the gentleman that was involved with
10 most of -- the Inquiry for myself personally, he was
11 there. Do you want me to name him? **KEB**.

12 Q. I think you go on to tell us that he was the person
13 responsible for the unit that you were allocated to?

14 A. Aye. He was like a headmaster-type of that unit. He
15 was the head one of that unit.

16 Q. And what was that unit called?

17 A. Fruin.

18 Q. And was that unit in a separate building to the one that
19 we're looking at on the screen?

20 A. Aye, yeah. The way you see the front there, where you
21 see the grass, just to the side, the moss grass you see,
22 just across from that, that's exactly where it was. The
23 unit is sat, kind of a base around about that building.

24 Q. Was there a unit in the main building as well?

25 A. Yes. There was rooms in there, but aye, upstairs there

1 was, there were -- sorry.

2 Q. There was a unit in the main building, and there was the
3 unit you were in, Fruin Unit, and was there a third
4 unit?

5 A. There was another one there. I've lost the name of it
6 in my head. Oh, God. I can't remember the name.

7 LADY SMITH: Don't worry about it. You remember the main
8 building and you remember Fruin.

9 A. Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Somewhere called Douglas?

11 A. Douglas.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS MACLEOD: Was Douglas also in its separate own building?

14 A. Yeah, basically they were right across. Because the
15 picture is showing you straight on to that building, to
16 this side you had Fruin and Douglas across, kind of
17 slightly angled away from it.

18 Q. I'm just going to put another photograph on the screen,
19 to see if we might be able to get more of an idea. That
20 is INQ-000000875.

21 I don't think the separate unit that you are talking
22 about can be seen here, but are you able to explain in
23 relation to what we see in this photograph, where the
24 units were, Fruin and Douglas?

25 A. They were just off to the left and right-hand side,

1 basically. There's a driveway that comes from the
2 right-hand side of this building as you look at it and
3 you come up that driveway and as you come into that --
4 my apologies.

5 When you come up, that's the front building. The
6 actual units are actually behind that, Douglas and Fruin
7 Unit are actually behind that. You come up this
8 driveway and it bends to the left and comes round
9 straight to get into that actual building, and right
10 behind that and to the right-hand side is where the
11 units were -- sorry.

12 Q. Behind the main building, as we look at that photograph?

13 A. Yes, yes. It's just been a long time since I've seen
14 that building.

15 Q. You mentioned in the boardroom there was a headmaster
16 and a deputy headmaster. Are you able to help me with
17 the names of these people?

18 A. I can't remember them.

19 Q. What was your understanding at the time of who ran the
20 school? Who was the organisation in overall charge of
21 the school?

22 A. There was, what was it called, there was -- there was
23 a group of them that ran it. They were in overall
24 charge of the actual place. They were the one who made
25 all the decisions. Obviously, the headmaster or

1 whatever, the main man that ran that building, he had
2 say inside it, but the directors were coming from higher
3 people obviously. It was like a board of people.
4 Q. I think later on in your statement you speak about
5 a board of trustees?
6 A. Aye, trustees.
7 Q. Was it an all-boys school?
8 A. Yeah, all boys.
9 Q. How many boys roughly were in the whole school when you
10 arrived?
11 A. I think there was about roughly 30/40 boys in each unit.
12 Q. In each unit?
13 A. Aye. The members of staff who stayed on the grounds had
14 kids, and some of them were girls. That was the only
15 girls that was there.
16 Q. And the age range of the boys, do you have a memory of
17 that?
18 A. All 12, 13, 14, going from that age. Depending when
19 they come in, what age they were, to when they left.
20 Q. Looking then to your arrival, and being in the boardroom
21 with a group of people, you have said including the
22 headmaster, deputy head and **KEB** ?
23 A. **KEB** .
24 Q. What was said to you at that meeting? Was it explained
25 to you, for example, why you were there and for how long

1 you would be at the school?

2 A. No. It wasn't really explained to you. You were just
3 told what was happening to you and that was that, accept
4 it. You weren't getting an explanation done where you
5 could sit with all these people and explain yourself
6 properly sort of thing. You got to remember, you're too
7 young. You're talking to adults who run this place and
8 they're used to this place and deal with this day in,
9 day out, sort of thing, so no, you didn't have much to
10 say.

11 Q. Were you taken to look at the unit you were going to be
12 in?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

14 Q. Were you shown round, for example, to your dorm and that
15 sort of thing?

16 A. Yeah. Aye, you were took in the front door and the
17 offices and all that were on the bottom level. The
18 kitchen was on the bottom level. The kind of a rec room
19 sort of thing, table-tennis tables and things, and then
20 way back was where the dining room was. There was like
21 a tuck shop thing to the left-hand side, where even at
22 that age we were allowed to buy tobacco.

23 LADY SMITH: 'James', you said there was a 'red room sort of
24 thing'.

25 A. Did I say red room? Rec.

1 LADY SMITH: Got you.

2 Yes, thank you.

3 MS MACLEOD: Were you shown to the Fruin Unit on that first
4 day?

5 A. Yeah, that's the one I'm explaining, and up to the
6 stairs.

7 Q. And who were you going to be sharing a room with? Who
8 was in your dormitory?

9 A. There was three others. There were four of us in the
10 dorm.

11 Q. You have told me already about **KEB** being
12 in charge of that unit?

13 A. Uh-huh, yeah.

14 Q. Were there other staff members in that unit?

15 A. Yeah, there was a gentleman called Brian Webb.

16 Q. What was his role in the unit?

17 A. He was just -- one of the members of staff. I don't
18 think -- he just dealt with -- he wasn't the headmaster,
19 that other -- it's my words here, **KEB** was
20 in charge of that unit.

21 Q. Were there other members of staff as well?

22 A. Yeah, there were a couple of other ones, but there was
23 a lady called Jody who worked in there too, but
24 unfortunately she committed suicide.

25 Q. You do tell us about that in your statement?

1 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. She was a kind person.

2 Q. You tell us in your statement a little bit about the
3 routine in terms of what you did on a daily basis, the
4 timings and that sort of thing. I think you say you got
5 up early in the morning and that staff would come into
6 your room?

7 A. Yeah, definitely.

8 Q. And you say it was strict and you had to make your bed
9 in a certain way?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Would that be checked?

12 A. Yeah. That was always checked.

13 Q. And what would happen if it wasn't done to the way that
14 was --

15 A. Just give you a slap or something, depend on -- get
16 shouted at, whatever, depending how they looked at it,
17 you personally, or what kind of mood they were in.

18 Q. Did you work in the kitchens?

19 A. At some point during my time, yeah.

20 Q. Is that something you got pocket money for, were you
21 paid for that work?

22 A. Yes. From what I can remember, you were given so much.
23 I think that's how you got your tuck.

24 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking you weren't so much
25 given cash as you had a credit you could --

1 A. It was on paper, like a card-type thing, and they added
2 it up.

3 LADY SMITH: You did get paid something?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: 'James', the stenographer's link occasionally
6 plays up, so I'll rise for a few minutes and we can get
7 it sorted out.

8 (12.03 pm)

9 (A short break)

10 (12.12 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: 'James', I'm sorry about the interruption.
12 I gather we're all linked up now and working again so,
13 if you're ready, we'll carry on. Ms MacLeod.

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.
16 Was there a school in St Andrew's that taught you --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- maths and English and things like that?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, there was a school in it, classrooms.

20 Q. How was the education? How did you find that side of
21 things?

22 A. I was just -- well -- at that particular time, obviously
23 when you're in that kind of place you had to be there,
24 so you had to kind of do it to a certain extent.
25 Obviously, I was -- I can't remember what you call it,

1 like they tested you to see where your age span is,
2 basically, and, according to your age, were you behind
3 what your school education should be, sort of thing.
4 And the biggest majority of us were.

5 Q. Did you learn things when you were in there, in the
6 school?

7 A. Yeah, well, you were picking things up, and for some
8 reason I was good at maths. I wasnae good at much other
9 things, but I was good at maths at the time.

10 Q. You tell us there were trades and things that you could
11 learn, as well as the more academic side of things?

12 A. Yeah, there was a couple of different things you could
13 learn. It wasnae like there was a load to pick from.
14 The staff who you were actually working with, who
15 trained you, they were outside staff. They were nothing
16 to do with the home, so they were all nice people and
17 they treated you well enough.

18 Q. Did you have visits from family when you were in the
19 school?

20 A. No, not at all.

21 Q. Did you have visits from social workers?

22 A. Very, very, very, very rarely.

23 Q. Do you recall if there were any inspections of the
24 school during your time there?

25 A. No, honestly I couldnae -- I would have to say no.

1 Q. When you were in the school initially, 'James'; was it
2 your understanding that you were going to get home after
3 a few months?

4 A. Yeah, yeah. Well, I was told -- my understanding was it
5 was anything between three to six months, and you would
6 be took up back in front of the Panel again, and if you
7 done well enough, you would be released back to your
8 parents basically, let go.

9 Q. You do tell us that, during that first six months, that
10 you behaved well and things seemed to be going okay for
11 you?

12 A. Well, in my eyes it certainly was. I wasn't causing any
13 trouble. I was doing what I was supposed to do.
14 I never ran away then. At that particular point
15 I didnae run away from it. So I thought everything was
16 going good.

17 Q. And, after that period of time, when there was a Panel
18 hearing; what happened? Did you learn, for example,
19 that you were going to be there a bit longer?

20 A. What I recollected was: you were kind of watching the
21 time as a kid, trying to work out how long -- making
22 sure you kept in your mind roughly how -- and then
23 thinking this will be roughly about the time when you'd
24 get out. But, obviously, nothing -- they didnae really
25 tell you anything. They didn't tell you anything, so

1 you didnae know. You just got told you were getting
2 kept.

3 Q. Did you realise at some point that you weren't getting
4 out after six months?

5 A. Oh, yeah, definitely. Yeah, because naebody was coming
6 forward to say it to you and you werenae getting out.

7 Q. Was there a change in your behaviour and in your
8 attitude to the school at that time?

9 A. Definitely.

10 Q. I think you tell us that it was after those first
11 six months that you started to run away --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- for example?

14 A. Aye, but there was other things leading up to -- during
15 they six months that played in my head as a kid at that
16 particular time and with other people, and then trying
17 to find a balance or trying to get yourself out of there
18 sort of thing. And then that doesnae happen, and that's
19 when it all kicked off in my head, and what I wanted to
20 do and what I didnae.

21 Q. Did you run away from St Andrew's?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. And on the occasions that you ran away; where were you
24 going? Where were you hoping to get to?

25 A. Back to Glasgow.

1 Q. And what tended to happen then? Did you make it to
2 Glasgow?

3 A. Yes, I always made it. I always -- we knew the places
4 where members of staff would be waiting for you, certain
5 points between Shandon and Glasgow, and it was through
6 the railway line we used.

7 Q. And you tell us, in paragraph 50 of your statement,
8 'James', that you had to be prepared and make plans for
9 running away, so that --

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. For example, you talk about putting clothes, suitable
12 clothes, aside and that sort of thing?

13 A. Yeah, you put them in your pillow case.

14 Q. On the occasions that you were caught running away;
15 would you be brought back to the school?

16 A. Yes, you would be took to your local police station and
17 then Local Authorities were informed, social workers
18 i.e., and then they would send people to pick you up and
19 take you back.

20 Q. And what happened when you got back to the school,
21 having run away?

22 A. They werenae very happy with you. They had a thing in
23 place which was called 'boy's responsibility', and what
24 that entailed was, you -- the whole group of boys who
25 would maybe be getting out for that weekend, if they put

1 you on that 'boy's responsibility', if you ran away that
2 meant that they didn't get out for their weekend. So
3 they put that inference on you, so then you would get
4 a kicking off everybody, because they made sure that
5 they all knew the reason they werenae getting out is
6 because you'd done that to them basically. And
7 obviously certain members of staff would slap you about,
8 too, when you got back and you'd get flung in the padded
9 cell for a few days until they decided what they were
10 going to do with you.

11 Q. I'm just going to ask you a bit about what you've just
12 said there.

13 When you were made the 'boy's responsibility', that
14 meant other boys in your unit lost their weekend leave
15 to go home?

16 A. Yes, yes, definitely they did.

17 Q. As a result of that, they turned on you, and gave you
18 a kicking?

19 A. Yes. And members of staff would make sure they did.
20 They would let them know that.

21 Q. You also said that you might be 'slapped about' by the
22 staff?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Can you remember any members of staff that were involved
25 in that?

1 A. KEB [REDACTED], always, with everything.

2 Q. If KEB [REDACTED] was to slap you when you returned
3 to the school having run away; can you explain to me
4 what that involved? What did he do?

5 A. He would just slap you about the ears, slap you in the
6 heid, slap you in the face. He would get very grumpy,
7 very angry, very confrontational towards you, coming
8 into your face, coming into your space. You would try
9 and retaliate a wee bit as a kid, because you're not
10 wanting slapped about sort of thing, and that would make
11 it worse, obviously.

12 Q. Did he do that to you on several occasions when you
13 returned after running away?

14 A. Aye. He didnae need an excuse to hit you. He done it
15 when he felt like it.

16 Q. Did other boys see him hitting you like that?

17 A. Aye, we all seen each other getting slapped about at
18 times.

19 Q. Did you see KEB [REDACTED] hit other boys like that?

20 A. Yes, on many, many occasions.

21 Q. The other thing you mentioned was being put in 'a padded
22 cell'?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. What was the padded cell?

25 A. It was -- that was when you came inside the actual

1 grounds from the main road, and you were coming up the
2 hill, going towards the main building, to the left-hand
3 side there was a building that sat itself and it had
4 kind of like a padded cell in it, so you couldn't hurt
5 yourself. So you were put down there for two, three,
6 four days at a time when you got brought back. That was
7 just to get you to calm down, get you into their frame
8 of mind of not wanting to run away again. And,
9 obviously, you were secluded to -- whatever they wanted
10 to say or do, or whatever happened at that particular
11 time.

12 Q. What you're calling the padded cell; that was in its own
13 separate building?

14 A. That was in a separate building, completely, from any of
15 the units or the main building.

16 Q. Does that mean if you were in that building overnight,
17 in the cell, you were the only person in that building?

18 A. No. I think -- they used to have a place in there, too,
19 where you got -- away back in they days, you used to get
20 Doc Martens off them, denim jeans. For some reason they
21 gave us all that stuff back then, and that was a room --
22 there were rooms in there they used different things
23 for, but there just happened to be a cell in amongst
24 that building.

25 At nighttime, what I can remember is they would come

1 in and check on you every so often. They would just
2 look through to see you were thingmy -- making sure you
3 were okay, and I suppose not harmed yourself, but you
4 cannae harm yourself in a padded cell.

5 Q. Who put you in the padded cell?

6 A. The members of staff in the List D School.

7 Q. Do you remember any of the staff?

8 A. Yeah, **KEB**. Yes, there was a guy there,
9 Brian Webb, who was a very -- what I can remember, was
10 a really nice member of staff, and obviously he's got to
11 do his duty, so he would be a part of it. You would
12 usually get two or three of them that would take you
13 down, so you wouldnae try and run from them or you
14 wouldnae kick off (indistinct) yourself.

15 Q. On how many occasions were you put in the padded cell?

16 A. Three or four times, what I can remember. At least
17 three or four times.

18 Q. Was that always for running away or could it be for
19 other things?

20 A. No, if you -- if you kicked off in any way, because
21 a lot of kids in there did kick off -- I cannae deny
22 that kids didnae kick off for things that they wanted or
23 didnae get, but there was also a lot of, I suppose, the
24 brutality that they gave against you and you retaliated,
25 and they didn't like your response to it, sort of thing,

1 and then you would get dragged down there and flung in
2 there out the way, for you to calm down. Or else they'd
3 come in there, so they could slap you about when no one
4 could see anything at all. That's when the slappings
5 and the punchings would start. You would get slightly
6 worse hit than what you would in front of other people.

7 Q. So, on the three or four occasions you were taken to the
8 padded cell; how long were you in there?

9 A. Usually about two to three days.

10 Q. Are you able to describe the padded cell for me? What
11 was in that room?

12 A. It was just a padded cell. It was a door that was
13 locked and it was like -- I don't know what you call it,
14 a foam-type stuff that was on the wall, something like
15 that, a rubbery-type stuff. I cannae remember, it's
16 that long ago. But it was --

17 Q. Were there any windows?

18 A. No. No, no windows. No windows, no, no, no, because
19 you were inside the building, so you were in the room
20 inside it. It wasnae a room like this, where you face
21 out here. It's like having the middle -- like sitting
22 in the witness room in there. Oh no, sorry, because
23 that's got a window, sorry.

24 LADY SMITH: It did have last time I checked, 'James'.
25 Was there a bed?

1 A. Aye, yeah. I think it was a bed, a table and a chair,
2 if I remember right. That was all.

3 MS MACLEOD: Were meals brought to you in the padded cell?

4 A. Honestly, what I can remember, you did get meals, but
5 sometimes there was bits that they didnae give you
6 because you were getting -- you got your breakfast in
7 the morning, lunch at dinner time, and then you got your
8 tea at tea time. And sometimes you -- it just depends
9 on your attitude while you're in there, how you spoke to
10 them. If you were all right with them, you would get
11 fed. If you were cracking up because you wanted out of
12 there, because you were isolated, they just wouldnae
13 give you anything.

14 Q. What if you needed the toilet?

15 A. You had a bottle, like a hospital. You had to -- and
16 you had a -- obviously, a potty to whatever. And then
17 they would make you clean it out in the mornings or
18 whatever. It's just like -- I don't like saying this,
19 but like prison. 'Slop out' as they call it.

20 Q. And you mentioned a few moments ago, 'James', that staff
21 hit you, and I think you said punched you, while you
22 were in the cell?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. Can you tell me about that? Who hit you when you were
25 in the cell?

1 A. You'd get two or three staff down from different units.
2 It would depend who was called out. You don't know
3 who -- it wasnae -- they couldnae take them all out of
4 your unit, because there was only a couple of them in
5 your unit. So they would get staff from other places
6 and they would just come down and it would be a mixture
7 of staff.

8 The ones that was on the other units, back then you
9 remembered their names, but their names have all escaped
10 me now. It's 45-year ago, so it's hard to remember.

11 I remember the people in my immediate unit.

12 Q. Was it -- did that happen when you were initially put in
13 the cell, or could people let themselves in to the cell
14 and --

15 A. Aye, obviously, they had access to it. Sorry, I don't
16 mean 'obviously' -- but they had access to it. I don't
17 know where they got the key from, but obviously they had
18 access because at times your door would open and it
19 would be a different member of staff. Whether they'd be
20 checking on you, or whether it was to let you out for
21 the toilet, to clean that out, or to feed you, or
22 whatever. So it could be any member of staff in the
23 place.

24 Q. And do you remember which staff punched you in the cell?

25 A. KEB used to punch me all the time. He

1 was the one that was the main protagonist against me,
2 constantly. He had a ... let's say, a liking for things
3 like that, because of the nature of the person he was
4 and what was in his twisted mind at the time.

5 Just a beast, basically. Sorry, but I had to say
6 it.

7 Q. Were you injured following any of these?

8 A. No, they were fly. They were fly. They never hurt
9 you -- they would punch you in the back of the heid and
10 punch you on the top of the heid. They would punch your
11 shoulders and punch your upper chest, stomach, kick you
12 in the leg or something like that. It was never on your
13 face. Never. Never, ever.

14 Q. Were other boys taken to the cell?

15 A. Oh, aye. Aye, yeah. There was always somebody getting
16 put -- threw in there at some point.

17 Q. You provide some evidence in your statement, 'James', at
18 paragraph 51, about bed wetting. You say, although it
19 wasn't a problem for yourself personally, that you do
20 recall that there were boys who wet the bed sometimes?

21 A. Yeah, yeah.

22 Q. Were there boys in your dorm who wet the bed?

23 A. Aye, aye. There was one boy that done it quite often.
24 He used to get dragged out his bed and slapped about for
25 it.

1 Q. Who dragged him out of bed and slapped him about?

2 A. It was always KEB [REDACTED], because he was the one
3 that always -- he was the one that was always up the
4 stairs with you. He always made sure of it.

5 Q. Did you see that happening?

6 A. Oh, yeah.

7 Q. Did staff say anything to the boy in your dorm who wet
8 himself?

9 A. They would start shouting at him and calling him all the
10 names under the sun. They would call him every
11 profanity name you can think of, slag him about how he's
12 doing that and a reference to kids, babies, to them, you
13 know, how they're acting and whatever. Yes, so they
14 really took him down.

15 Q. Was a belt used at the school?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Who used a belt?

18 A. It was always SNR [REDACTED] that used that. It
19 was never any other member of staff; it was always him.

20 Q. In what circumstances would SNR [REDACTED] use
21 his belt?

22 A. Depending on what member of staff sent you up to him and
23 what they said about you, and why you were getting took
24 up there in the first place.

25 Q. Were you sent up to SNR [REDACTED]?

1 A. Oh, yes, yes.

2 Q. What sort of things might lead, or did lead, to you
3 being sent to SNR -- to SNR
4 SNR ?

5 A. When I started getting unruly in the place -- and
6 obviously there was sexual things that were getting done
7 with you and you started really going mad, and started
8 really losing the plot. And then when you were
9 screaming and shouting and all that, you would be took
10 up in front of him, for him to speak to you and give you
11 all his absolute rubbish to why you were up there, and
12 how much of a liar you were and -- because you would
13 answer him back. I always rebelled against him and
14 I always did tell them, no matter what they said to me.
15 And that's when he would say, 'You're getting the belt',
16 and that's when you got the belt, basically.

17 Q. I'll come on to look at sexual abuse in just a couple of
18 moments. I'm going to look at that with you.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. In terms of when you were taken to SNR
21 to be given the belt; where did that happen?

22 A. In the boardroom.

23 Q. Who was present in the boardroom when the belt was used?

24 A. Just him and another member of staff. Whatever staff
25 member sent you up there, it was just him. They two.

1 Or sometimes they would actually go outside, and I don't
2 think they could handle hearing the boys' screams, to be
3 quite honest.

4 Q. What kind of belt was used?

5 A. Well, one of -- just like the belt you got at school,
6 but only the thicker belts. He used to take pride in
7 his belt; that was his personal toy. He treated it
8 really well.

9 Q. Would he ask you to stand in a particular way or in
10 a particular place in the room?

11 A. You've got a boardroom with a mahogany table with loads
12 of chairs round it. He'd just pick a chair, exactly.
13 It was usually the same kind of chair, within the first
14 three chairs. Then you were told to put your arms on
15 the back of the thingmy, the chair, and then you were
16 told to put your legs back the way, so you were leaning
17 out like that (indicating) and then that's obviously
18 when he would hit you with it.

19 Q. Which part of your body did he hit?

20 A. On your backside.

21 Q. Was that over your clothing or under your clothing?

22 A. Over your clothing.

23 Q. Do you remember the number of strokes that were used?

24 A. It was always about five or six strokes. Depends. It
25 depends because -- most of the boys that got it done,

1 including myself, you'd -- eventually, you try to attack
2 them, because you cannae take that kind of pain. That
3 pain -- I don't know how you explain it in front of all
4 these people, but it's an absolutely horrendous pain.

5 Q. In paragraph 60 of your statement, you say:

6 'I was in severe pain. The pain was astonishing.'

7 A. Mm-hmm. Yeah, definitely.

8 Q. Did you have injuries?

9 A. Yeah. Yeah, you were black and blue and full of welts
10 and red marks and raised skin. Your skin was all bumpy
11 and lumpy. And the black and blue like you've never
12 seen in your life, all round that back area and --
13 obviously bruising travels round, if you know what
14 I mean.

15 Q. Did you get any medical attention?

16 A. No, absolutely not. No, usually when you got that, you
17 got put in that padded cell. You got put in that padded
18 cell. That's so naebody can see and witness how bad you
19 were and hear you scream.

20 Q. In paragraph 59 of your statement, you say that you
21 remember **SNR** really pushing you down:

22 '... by the back of my neck because he thought
23 I wasn't over the chair enough.'

24 A. Aye. If he didnae think you were positioning yourself
25 the right way he wanted you over that chair to hit you

1 with the belt, he would just grab you by the neck and
2 slam you down and tell you exactly what way he wanted
3 you to stand and how to, basically, put your backside
4 out to the way he wanted, so he could hit it right, so
5 he was making sure he got it.

6 Q. Are you able to help me with how many times, roughly,
7 you were sent to SNR to be belted?

8 A. I don't know, about six, seven times or something, that
9 I can recollect, but I would be lying if I actually told
10 you an exact amount. But at least six, seven times
11 I was in that room that happened.

12 Q. What about other boys? Were you aware of it happening
13 to other boys?

14 A. Oh, aye. You'd see the boys getting dragged out and you
15 would hear them screaming and then you wouldnae see them
16 for a day or two. I don't mean in a cheeky way, but it
17 didnae take a genius to work it out, what had happened.
18 You could hear they screams from miles away. That was
19 an old building that echoed, and even though you were up
20 the very top in the boardroom, everybody could hear they
21 screams. Everybody used to talk about it, 'There's
22 somebody up there getting the belt again'.

23 Q. Did you hear the screams from the boys?

24 A. Aye, of course you did.

25 Q. When you say that boys, or some boys, wouldn't be seen

1 for a couple of days; where were they?

2 A. They would be put in that padded cell, out the way. It
3 was so people wouldnae see them. It was hidden. They
4 were trying to hide it all the time, and that would
5 allow the guys to -- give them a few days for the
6 swelling to go down. The bruising wouldnae go away.
7 That never disappeared. That took ages to go. The
8 welting and the raising of the skin -- but then you
9 could come back out and kind of -- you couldnae still
10 sit right, but you could kind of sit to a certain
11 extent, it would depend how you sat.

12 Q. Did you see injuries on other boys?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were you sent to the padded cell after any of the
15 occasions that you were belted by SNR [REDACTED] ?

16 A. Aye, yeah, because I used to try and fight him when I
17 was getting it done to me because, obviously, I didnae
18 want it done to me. So you are lashing out, trying to
19 stop that from happening to you.

20 Q. In paragraph 61, you provide evidence to the effect,
21 'James', there were certain boys who were perhaps more
22 vulnerable to being hit by staff?

23 A. Yes. Yes, it's like everybody in society, some people
24 are reserved, some people are shy, some people are
25 quiet, some people are aggressive. And if you werenae

1 one of the ones that could stand up for yourself or hold
2 yourself in a certain way, you would certainly be picked
3 on, that's for sure.

4 Q. I think you describe that those children you say were
5 more vulnerable, would sit there and accept it, and then
6 start crying?

7 A. Yeah, yeah. They would always break down.

8 Q. At paragraph 64 of your statement, 'James', you say that
9 you remember seeing boys with broken limbs at
10 St Andrew's?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How did they break their limbs?

13 A. Their wrists. Because of the way they restrained you.
14 Because they restrained you. They would twist your --
15 they would twist your arm and then put your arm up the
16 back. They didn't care how forcefully they done it to
17 you or how much they twisted it up your back, they were
18 just -- as far as they were concerned, they were doing
19 their job but their job was obviously a bit
20 over-aggressive and violent, basically, as far as I'm
21 concerned, especially when you're a kid.

22 Q. Who did that?

23 A. Members of staff in there. Always members of staff.

24 Q. Before coming on to look at the evidence you provide
25 about sexual abuse, I just want to ask you briefly about

1 some emotional abuse. You provide evidence about this
2 specifically towards the end of your statement,
3 actually, in paragraph 102.

4 You talk about the kinds of things that staff said
5 to boys --

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. -- in St Andrew's.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And what they told you about how your life might turn
10 out, for example?

11 A. Aye.

12 Q. Can you tell me about that? What sort of things did
13 staff say to you?

14 A. Oh, basically, they just told you you were the dregs,
15 you were the scum of the earth. You wouldnae amount to
16 nothing. Look at the age you are just now, you're in
17 this kind of institution. Just think when you get back
18 out, you're going to go up there with the big men and
19 you'll not be so tough and you'll not be this -- It
20 was -- basically, they battered your confidence
21 something daft because they wanted overall control over
22 you, and if they had control of your mind, they had
23 control of you and that was an easy life for them to do
24 whatever they wanted.

25 And then you start really believing within yourself

1 that that is what you're going to amount to, because you
2 think to yourself right away: well, look at my age and I
3 am in here as a young kid.

4 So you start to believe in that. And then kids do
5 come out and, unfortunately, it's a sad fact of life
6 that that's exactly what they do do.

7 Q. Can you remember any of the staff in particular who
8 spoke to you like that?

9 A. **KEB** used to say it all the time. He was
10 a bully; he was a beast. He just liked to beat and
11 browbeat you and then mollycoddle you -- as you're going
12 to come on to in the rest of it. I'll tell you that
13 part there, when I get to it.

14 He would try to take you down, break you and then
15 build you in his perfect way.

16 Q. Did staff speak to other children in this way you're
17 describing?

18 A. Aye. Lots of staff in there would shout at kids
19 constantly. It wasnae just, obviously, him totally that
20 done all them type of things. All members of staff in
21 there were constantly at it, shouting at people, telling
22 them how bad they were, and what terrible families they
23 came from, and their families didnae love them. And they
24 just battered your confidence to death, basically.

25 Q. 'James', I do now want to move on to that part of your

1 statement, from paragraph 66 onwards, where you provide
2 evidence in relation to sexual abuse.

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. I think you start there by explaining, 'James', that
5 **KEB**, I think you say, was a person who
6 had a wife and a family and that initially that made you
7 believe that he was nice?

8 A. Mm-hmm, because his wife and his daughter were
9 absolutely beautiful people and I could never -- it's
10 not their fault in any way. I want to make that clear,
11 they were really nice people.

12 Q. You then go on to describe things that started to happen
13 surrounding, first of all, table-tennis.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Are you able to tell me, 'James'; what started to
16 happen?

17 A. He had a habit -- because there was only, like,
18 table-tennis -- You could go to the gym. If you went to
19 the gym you were with different members of staff. But
20 when you were with him, there was a table-tennis table,
21 and he was absolutely brilliant at it. There's nae
22 doubting that. He was brilliant at it. So he liked to
23 show you how it was done.

24 So he would come round, obviously behind you. He
25 would take your wrists and he would make the movements

1 to show you the ball, how to hit it and all that. But
2 whilst he was doing that, he was getting sexual
3 gratification. There's just nae doubt about it. And
4 how he pressed against you, all the wee daft whispery
5 words he would say in your ears and ... aye.

6 Q. Was he pressing his own body up against your body?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What sort of things was he whispering?

9 A. 'You're my favourite boy. I can learn you this, and
10 I'll teach you and learn you how to be good, and you'll
11 be the best in here at it. You'll be able to beat
12 everybody. You just do it the way I want you to do it
13 and I'll always show you how good I am. And the only
14 way you can learn that is by learning it off me.'

15 That was his statements all the time. He'd come out
16 with that all the time.

17 Q. You tell us in paragraph 69:

18 'Before too long I started to realise that he was
19 using it all as an opportunity to press up against me.'

20 A. Yes, definitely.

21 Q. You go on to say:

22 'I realised that he was standing behind me, so as he
23 could put his crotch towards my back bits.'

24 A. Yes, yeah, he was pressing into you.

25 Q. Was he pressing his private parts?

1 A. Yes, obviously, yes. He was pressing his penis against
2 your backside, if that's what you're looking for.

3 Q. You tell us that he had an erection when he was doing
4 that?

5 A. Aye, always. From the minute he started talking to you
6 he had one.

7 Q. While he was pressing himself up against you in that
8 way, 'James'; was he moving?

9 A. Aye, aye, he was rubbing against you, either side to
10 side or going up and down. You could always see him --
11 all of a sudden he would seem to get bigger because he
12 was up and down on his tiptoes.

13 Q. Did you say anything to him? Did you ask him what he
14 was doing?

15 A. I used to push him away and tell him to fuck off, to be
16 quite honest with you.

17 Q. How did he respond to that?

18 A. He'd just laugh. He'd just laugh and say, 'You know,
19 thingmy, you're one of my favourites in here and you
20 know I'm going to take care of you, and all that. I was
21 just trying to show you, I wasnae meaning that. It's
22 just because you've got to get in close to get your body
23 movement to do the actual movements of how you use
24 a table-tennis bat, how you stand back, approach it'.
25 So he was always clever. He was psychologically

1 clever because he always had a good -- if he was
2 explaining that to somebody else, he would have the
3 right answer to explain why he was that close and tight
4 against somebody or doing what he was doing.

5 Q. Are you able to help me, 'James', with roughly how long
6 after you'd arrived at the school did this start
7 happening?

8 A. That was within a few weeks. It started -- it wasnae --
9 I can honestly say it wasnae right away. He was
10 imposing himself on you with his mind when you first
11 went in there. He built you up. You thought this was
12 a member of staff that kind of had took a shine to you
13 and this was going to be a good member of staff, even
14 though you were in a place that you had -- you were took
15 away from your family. He kind of built -- you could
16 see it. When I look back now, as an adult looking back,
17 that's exactly what I see that he was actually doing.
18 I did kind of see it to a certain extent as a kid and I
19 rebelled against it as much as I could, but they were
20 the authority and I was just the wee, stupid boy that
21 was put in the place.

22 Q. Once this behaviour started to develop and he started to
23 do this to you, rubbing himself against you, having
24 an erection, that sort of thing; how often did that
25 happen?

1 A. On a daily basis. As many times as he could get away
2 with it, and as many times as the opportunity presented
3 itself for him to be in that position to do it.

4 Q. Did KEB [REDACTED] have a role to play in the shower
5 area of the school?

6 A. Yes. Oh, he was there all the time.

7 Q. First of all, 'James': are you able to describe the
8 shower area to me? Was it open showers or was it
9 cubicles?

10 A. It was kind of a -- cubicles, yeah. It was cubicles,
11 because if you were standing in the shower in a square
12 room going to this angle (indicating) he always stood at
13 the right-hand side. He was always standing there with
14 his famous towel that everybody knew him for.
15 Obviously, boys were -- when you come out the shower
16 units, when you come out there, there were like sinks
17 there in front of you, so the boys had to walk out in
18 front of him.

19 Q. There were a number of cubicles then?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. Outside the cubicles there was an area with sinks?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did the cubicles have curtains on them or doors?

24 A. No, no, they were opened.

25 Q. They were open cubicles?

1 A. Yes, they were opened for -- whoever walked by could see
2 you, no matter if it was the boys, anybody.

3 Q. Would a number of boys be showering at the same time?

4 A. Yes, you would have a few in at the same time, yeah.

5 Q. One in each cubicle?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did different members of staff supervise the showering?

8 A. Yeah, you would see some of them there now and again,
9 aye, sorry.

10 Q. You have already told us that **KEB** was one
11 of the staff who supervised the showers?

12 A. Yes, he was there constantly.

13 Q. What did he do when he was supervising the showers?
14 First of all, where did he stand?

15 A. He had his wee bit up at the -- just as you stepped into
16 where the cubicles would really start, he was just
17 standing slightly outside the first cubicle, to the side
18 of it -- not the open, facing it -- but he would kind of
19 stand there.

20 Q. From where he was standing; could he see the boys
21 showering?

22 A. No, no, only when he moved forward. He would always
23 stand there when we were coming in because then he would
24 see everybody coming in. And obviously you're going
25 through to go into the shower but you're obviously

1 naked, or you had your towel wrapped round you,
2 depending who you were. He would see all that. Then
3 when the boys would all go into the showers, he would
4 move over to the left-hand side, which gave him a view
5 to see everything that was going on in the showers.

6 Q. He could see all the boys naked in the showers?

7 A. Oh, aye, yes. He could see all right.

8 Q. What did he do when he was standing, watching the boys?

9 A. Just make mad comments. Shout and laugh and try and
10 make jokes about all the different boys' sizes, their
11 penises and whatever.

12 Q. What sort of things did he say? Can you remember some
13 of the things he said?

14 A. He used to -- if some of the kids were wee, he used to
15 call them pint size or king size or bouts and then the
16 big boys, the boys that were well endowed, he would call
17 them the black boys' favourites or he would call them
18 black pudding boys. He'd come out with all sorts of
19 fucking stupid comments, sorry.

20 Q. How old were the boys?

21 A. They were all 12, 13, 14. It depends. Some of the guys
22 were maybe slightly older, because they were not that
23 far from getting out from it.

24 Q. In paragraph 71 of the statement, I think you tell us
25 that he would comment to you about the size of your

1 penis?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What sort of things did he say to you?

4 A. He used to slag you because you were wee. He would say

5 all sorts of things about it and all that. He used to

6 tell you how you can get medication and jags and all

7 that, that would do it, could make you larger and all

8 that kind of stuff.

9 Q. Did **KEB** make contact with you in the

10 shower area? Would he touch you?

11 A. Aye. He used to skelp your backside and all that, and

12 flick you and all that thingmy. And then he would use

13 that towel. The thing I said, his famous towel, because

14 he was well known for his towel. He used to roll it up.

15 What you do is, you take the corner of the towel and

16 then you would roll it, and then you just keep rolling

17 it and rolling it and rolling it, until it was so tight,

18 and then the towel would actually -- near enough stand,

19 it would have a slight bend in it, but because it was

20 that tight. And then he would dip it in the water. The

21 other end, where the point would be, he'd dip it in the

22 water and then he would flick you all over the place

23 with it.

24 Q. Which part of your body was he aiming at?

25 A. He usually always aimed for the front part of your penis

1 area and down about that area, or else your backside.
2 He loved thingmy -- doing it and then he would love to
3 come over and say, 'Ohhhh, my poor boy', and try and rub
4 you and touch you and all that. And 'We'll get that
5 eased... I didnae mean to hit you as hard as that.
6 There was a wee stinger that one there wasn't it, awww',
7 and he would fucking rub you constantly.

8 Sorry for swearing.

9 Q. Did he rub your bottom?

10 A. Yeah. Rub your bottom and your penis, because that's
11 where he would get you. Or else he'd get you around
12 about that type of area. Obviously, you know -- the
13 bits that's there.

14 Q. Did you see him do that to other boys?

15 A. Oh, aye. He used to stand there -- that was his
16 revelling time. That was his play yard then, where he
17 had them all in the one place.

18 Q. How often did this happen in a week? How many days did
19 this happen?

20 A. You got showered every day in there, so it was every
21 other day. Well, apart from his days off. When he was
22 working, he was always there. If it was his days off,
23 he obviously wasn't there.

24 Q. When he was there; is that how he always behaved?

25 A. Aye, constantly, mm-hmm.

1 You've got to remember -- you're asking an older
2 gentleman now, a man who has got a completely different
3 point of view now, because you can look back -- as a kid
4 -- But as a kid you're looking at it completely
5 different and now I see it, because you've got to
6 remember -- I don't know if I'm allowed to say this,
7 like --

8 LADY SMITH: Just say it as you feel able.

9 A. What we understand of paedophiles and how they groom
10 people and how they do things, how things actually
11 happen, you now as an adult actually see that in your
12 mind to what happened to you as a kid when you were in
13 these types of places. So you can see his
14 self-gratification, constantly. He wanted to be there.
15 He loved it. He revelled in it. And that was
16 a playground for him. That was his way of getting away
17 with it, in a fun way. If you call that fun.

18 MS MACLEOD: Did **KEB** ask you questions about
19 sex?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What sort of things did he ask you?

22 A. What didn't he ask me? I would ask you that: what
23 didn't he ask me?

24 He asked me if I had any sexual experiences; if
25 I'd been with a woman; if I'd ever touched a lady. He

1 would never -- he never, ever used -- ever said -- he
2 would ask you about when you were outside; family-wise,
3 did any of your family touch you? Did you have
4 girlfriends when you were out there? Did you touch
5 girlfriends' vaginas, chests, back sides? Did you let
6 them touch you? How did you feel when they touched you?
7 Did you have full gone sex with them? Basically, to...
8 obviously whatever. He would ask you all they questions
9 and he'd have big, massive smiles on his face because he
10 loved every minute of asking you that, and then that's
11 when it would start for him.

12 Q. Did KEB ask you to go to places with him?

13 A. Yes, he used to ask you to go up the stair -- he'd --
14 there was other rooms at the back from where -- the main
15 part that we all stayed in, and there were other dorms
16 there. And they were -- as far as I'm led to believe,
17 away back in they days, because boys wet the -- some of
18 the boys wet the bed, they had these specific rooms they
19 kept out the way, where they were put, and he used to
20 take a few boys up there. He asked me many times to go
21 up there and I would not go up there. I would not go.
22 I refused every time. He tried to pull you up or he
23 tried to take you by the arm, and you were kicking him
24 and shouting at him. Once you started doing all that
25 and shouting and really going mad, he would kind of back

1 off because other members of staff would appear. So he
2 couldnae be -- he couldnae be seen to do what he was
3 really trying to do, his mindset at that particular
4 time. All they seen was, whenever staff came in, there
5 was an unruly kid arguing with a member of staff and
6 pulling back.

7 Q. In paragraph 75 of your statement, you tell us that you
8 remember hearing things from some of the other boys who
9 had been taken --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- to those rooms with him?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. What did those boys tell you?

14 A. Am I allowed to name anybody else, no?

15 Q. No.

16 A. That's fine. There was one boy in particular from
17 Ardrossan, a blonde-headed boy. He used to take him away
18 to this room all the time and he used to tell me that:
19 he would get me to touch his penis. He would get me to
20 put my mouth round his penis.

21 He had full blown sex with him. He used to tell us
22 about it all the time. He hated the place. He hated
23 the man. He was always running away constantly. He was
24 getting caught and getting brought back, and then he'd
25 be away that night again. He just -- he wanted out of

1 there. And then he was talking about self-harming
2 himself and all that through the stuff that was going
3 on.

4 That was only one boy.

5 Q. Did other boys --

6 A. Yes, quite a few other boys would say he'd touched them
7 and he was trying to feel them. He would try wee other
8 bits and pieces with other boys. It wasnae always to
9 that extent.

10 Q. Were they telling you there about occasions when they'd
11 gone to the other rooms?

12 A. Yes. Yes.

13 Q. In paragraph 76 onwards, 'James', you talk about
14 a procedure of checks to see if boys were wearing
15 underwear under their pyjamas at bedtime.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Were you allowed to wear underwear under your pyjamas?

18 A. No, absolutely not. Absolutely not.

19 Q. Do you know why?

20 A. No, I was never, ever -- I never, ever knew the reason
21 why you werenae allowed to do that.

22 Q. How -- in general terms, looking at the staff overall;
23 how were the checks carried out? How did they check if
24 you were wearing underwear?

25 A. When you were in your bed, they would come round. You

1 were supposed to actually go on your side, whatever side
2 you wanted to go on, it could be your left side, your
3 right side, and at the side you would just like... you
4 would grab your trousers there, and you would pull your
5 pyjamas down to the side, so they could see that you
6 didnae have any underwear on. Because you were called a
7 "mink" then, because you were wearing underwear under
8 pyjamas, and you werenae allowed to wear them, and
9 that's when things started to occur.

10 Q. The procedure whereby you were asked to pull your pyjama
11 bottoms down to show that you weren't wearing underwear;
12 was that procedure carried out by various different
13 staff?

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 Q. I think you say that **KEB** carried out his
16 inspections differently to other staff?

17 A. Oh, aye.

18 Q. How did he check if you were wearing underwear under
19 your pyjamas?

20 A. You would go in the same position, because obviously
21 you're that used to members of staff asking you, so you
22 would naturally go to do that. But, when you were doing
23 that, he would kid on he's pulling your top up, your
24 pyjama top, then he would just slide his hand right down
25 your side, but then he would make it go round the front

1 or the back side of you. And that's how he done it
2 constantly, and then he would go right underneath.

3 Q. He would put his hand into your pyjama bottoms?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Would he make contact with your penis?

6 A. Yes, and your testicles and your backside.

7 Q. Did you see that happen to other boys?

8 A. Aye. You would hear the boys ... if you didnae
9 really -- if you didnae -- you could see it now and
10 again. But, if you didnae see it, you knew why --
11 through the boys actually shouting and swearing or
12 whatever, 'What the f- are you doing? What the, blah,
13 blah, blah', so you knew right away because you were
14 shouting the exact same, or saying the exact same.

15 Q. Would he say anything to you while he was doing this?

16 A. No, he would just laugh. He'd find it funny. He'd just
17 find it funny and go: 'ha, ha, ha, I didnae mean that
18 there, my hand slipped round because it was on your
19 side, and when I went down to check you, my hand
20 accidentally slipped round... all the way round...'

21 Q. In paragraph 79, you tell us, 'James', that one night he
22 did this to you, that he put his hand down your pyjama
23 bottoms and touched you, and you 'lost the plot'?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. Can you tell me: in what way did you lose the plot?

1 A. I got up and started shouting at him and calling him
2 an animal. I didnae know the word 'paedophile' back
3 then, so we were calling him a fucking rapist and:
4 'you're just a filthy ...'

5 My understanding away back in they days was just
6 basically: you poof, gay...

7 Sorry, my apologies to anyone that is gay.

8 LADY SMITH: Don't feel you have to apologise.

9 A. I know, but... You didnae have that understanding away
10 back then about paedoph -- that word wasnae even
11 invented then. Maybe it was, but it was never, ever
12 said.

13 And I just went absolutely nuts with him and
14 I started kicking him, punching him, fighting with him.
15 And I just went absolutely ballistic that night and
16 I just started screaming and screaming and screaming
17 until more members came.

18 Q. Are we to understand that the procedure he used to check
19 if you were wearing underwear had been happening over
20 quite a long period of time before this incident?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 See, a lot of the times I would make sure he didnae
23 get round there because I would hold myself tight, or
24 else I would do -- at other times you kind of are
25 watching the other boys, people shouting things, and you

1 get a wee lapse, and then he's over there at you.

2 You were also trying to be nice because you wanted
3 to try to get out of that place as quick as you humanly
4 possibly could. So sometimes there was things occurred,
5 unfortunately, that you kind of let go and -- to
6 a certain extent.

7 Q. On the occasion you've just been telling me about, where
8 you shouted out at him and things -- I think you
9 described it as 'losing the plot'; did other staff
10 members become involved?

11 A. That night, yes, yeah.

12 Q. My Lady, it's 1 o'clock --

13 LADY SMITH: I think you probably have a little bit to go.

14 'James', I'm sorry, we had hoped we would be able to
15 finish your evidence by lunchtime, but there are a few
16 things we still want to discuss with you.

17 So --

18 A. Just carry on.

19 LADY SMITH: If it works for you, what I would normally do
20 is rise now and perhaps we could sit again at 1.50 and
21 just finish off your evidence then. Have a break just
22 now.

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: I think we should take a break just now.

25 A. No, a friend who came through to support me obviously

1 had commitments and I don't want to -- it's fine.

2 LADY SMITH: We won't be that much longer after the lunch
3 break, but I think it would be better to let you have
4 a break, and then we'll get going again after you've had
5 a breather. Very well.

6 (1.05 pm)

7 (The luncheon adjournment)

8 (1.50 pm)

9 LADY SMITH: 'James', are you ready for us to carry on? Ms
10 MacLeod.

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 MS MACLEOD: My Lady. 'James', before the lunch break, you
13 had been telling us about an occasion where you reacted
14 in a particular way to what **KEB** was doing,
15 and the way he was checking if you were wearing
16 underwear under your pyjamas, and the way in which he
17 put his hand into your pyjamas. You explained that some
18 other staff, I think, had become involved --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- on that occasion; is that because they'd heard what
21 was going on?

22 A. Yes, they heard the commotion, obviously, the shouting,
23 because there would have been another one or two members
24 of staff somewhere in that block, because obviously
25 there's loads of rooms in it.

1 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that the other
2 boys in the dorm were actually ushered out of the
3 room --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- on that occasion?

6 A. Yes. So they could speak to me alone.

7 Q. Once the boys had been ushered out; who was left in the
8 room?

9 A. KEB [REDACTED], myself, and two other members of
10 staff.

11 Q. And what was said?

12 A. I was shouting exactly what happened to me and I was
13 getting called a lying bastard; I was getting called
14 a wee rogue; I'm just saying things, making things up;
15 I'm anti-authoritative; I'm just a wee scumbag that's
16 coming out with stuff to get somebody else into trouble
17 because I don't like where I am or what particular
18 things are going on in there.

19 They were beating it down on you that you were
20 lying, basically, and you're just striking out because
21 that's the way you are, you're just an unruly kid and
22 that's why you're here in the first place.

23 Q. Do you recall what you said, in front of those other
24 staff, about what KEB [REDACTED] had been doing to
25 you?

1 A. Yeah, yeah. I told them straight that he touched my
2 penis and touched my testicles and my backside, and he
3 was rubbing his hand down on top of me, on they parts.
4 But they were just saying to me: you're lying,
5 absolutely lying. There's no way on God's earth that
6 Mr KEB would do that. He wouldnae do that.

7 They were saying loads of things like that about it.

8 Q. The following day, I think you tell us in your statement
9 that Brian Webb came to speak to you about it?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What did Brian Webb come to say to you?

12 A. Brian Webb came and spoke to me because obviously he
13 wasnae there the actual night it happened. Obviously --
14 I don't know whether you call it the handover reports or
15 whatever. He came in and obviously -- that was
16 obviously flagged up.

17 So he came to speak to me, because Brian Webb was
18 a member of staff that me, personally, got on well with,
19 and was always a nice person, understanding -- he tried
20 to help you all the time if there was anything. And
21 then he came in and asked me about it. And as far as
22 I can remember, Brian Webb then decided that this had to
23 go further.

24 Q. Did you tell Brian Webb what --

25 A. Aye. I told him about it.

1 Q. What did you tell him?

2 A. I told him that KEB had come round and
3 done the nightly check for the underwear under the
4 pyjamas, and he had put his hand round in the front, on
5 my penis and my testicles and my backside, and was
6 laughing and trying to hold onto it. And I'd went off
7 my heid and that was the reason why I exploded that
8 night. But I could see the look and shock on his face,
9 and he was just standing shaking his heid.

10 But he never -- what I remember is he never once
11 said anything in any way that would -- the way the other
12 members of staff would be calling me liars and saying
13 things about me, saying why I said that, he never done
14 anything like that at all.

15 I think he was listening and understanding and
16 shocked that a member of staff had done that, and also
17 I think he was trying to take into his mind: what do
18 I do here about this?

19 Because then it's his working colleagues.

20 Q. In your statement, at paragraph 80, you say that
21 Brian Webb was asking all the right questions?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You think he knew what he was doing?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And do you know what Brian Webb did then, with that

1 information that you told him?

2 A. I think he went to higher up members of staff about it.
3 I think that's exactly what happened. I think he went,
4 because after just -- the days leading after that,
5 everything completely changed. I'd never seen anything
6 like that happening in there to how -- I was took into
7 all different offices, with all different types of
8 people, members of staff, board members, committee
9 members, whatever they're called. I was took in with
10 everybody, police, CID. You name it, I was took in with
11 them all.

12 Q. I'll just ask you a little about that. After you made
13 the report to Brian Webb; what's the next thing that you
14 remember happening? Who spoke to you about it next?

15 A. Who was the next one to speak to me? I think if
16 I remember right, it was like the headmaster and that
17 actually -- come into the unit, my unit. Rather than
18 take me over to the Shandon unit, the main building,
19 he -- they took me into the office that was downstairs,
20 and there was three or four members of staff in it at
21 the time, and they were all talking to me about it,
22 asking me why I was saying this, why I was lying, why I
23 was being so vindictive. Why would I make a terrible
24 allegation against a member of their staff? And it was
25 all about -- everything was based on what they said

1 I was saying it for and I was lying.

2 There was never one of them there that -- what you
3 would call now sympathetic towards what happened to you
4 or trying to listen to you or understand you. Because
5 no matter how you put any answer to any of the parts
6 that they said, it was just beaten down: liar, liar,
7 liar, liar, liar.

8 That was the gist of it.

9 Q. And how did the board of trustees become involved?

10 A. I honestly do not know how they became involved.

11 I don't know.

12 After that happened, police came in and spoke to me.
13 CID spoke to me. And things just escalated from there,
14 and then it was like -- I don't know, from the minute
15 you woke up for each day there was something else
16 happening right away. There was other people wanting to
17 speak to you, other people had you in different rooms.
18 You were took in to the main building at times to speak,
19 sometimes it was in the unit you were in.

20 Q. If I can just focus on the board of trustees for now;
21 what was your interaction with them about this? Was
22 there a meeting that you were to go to or where did you
23 see the board of trustees?

24 A. In that bit where you got the belt, up the stairs. They
25 took you into that boardroom. I wouldn't say they were

1 all there, because as far as I'm led to believe, there
2 were about seven, eight or nine of them. I'm not
3 exactly 100 per cent sure. But there were three or four
4 of them that day. I don't know if they'd been called in
5 for an emergency meeting, or something like that, or how
6 they done it, but they were there.

7 Q. What did they say to you?

8 A. Exact same as the members of staff: liar, liar. You're
9 vindictive. You're just saying that. You are trying to
10 get members of staff into trouble. Are you sure you're
11 not mixed up? Are you sure that it wasnae actually his
12 hand accidentally slid round you? All that kind of
13 stuff, because they were trying to put it in the point
14 of view: if you were really touched in some sort of way,
15 that his hand might have slipped. Could it have been
16 that when he put his hand on your hip -- which he's not
17 supposed to do because what he was supposed to do is put
18 their thumb there and pull it down theirsself to let you
19 see... All you done is hold your top up.

20 So they were trying to say when he done that with
21 his hand, it accidentally slipped inside your pyjamas
22 fully and round to the front and the back of you.

23 Q. Can I just check, 'James': was the focus of all of this,
24 what you had told Brian Webb, was that just about the
25 incident in the bedroom that night, when he put his hand

1 down your pyjamas, or had you provided --

2 A. No, that started -- mostly, yes, it was about that, but
3 then that started me telling them about what he was
4 doing when he was hitting people and how he was using
5 that towel, and all the other things. Started telling
6 them about all sorts of incidents. And that's when they
7 really -- the members of staff took notice and started
8 saying: he's just lying, 'Because you're saying all
9 sorts of things now'. This was all about this thing and
10 now all of a sudden you're saying this, this, this,
11 this, this.

12 Q. Having made the report to Brian Webb, when you were
13 speaking, for example, to the headmaster; did you
14 disclose other things to the headmaster other than
15 putting his hand down your pyjama trousers?

16 A. Oh, aye, because what happened was, obviously as
17 a kid -- and that type of thing happens to you, and you
18 have went crazy, you've went mad -- when they were
19 accusing me and saying I was lying and all that when
20 I was doing that, I started getting really angry again.
21 So I started shouting out everything that was happening:
22 and 'you done this, you done that'.

23 That's where that all came from.

24 Q. Did you tell them about, for example, him pushing
25 himself up against you when you were playing

1 table-tennis?

2 A. Yes, it all came out. Yes, every bit, yeah.

3 Q. You have mentioned you also disclosed the physical
4 abuse, hitting you and punching you?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Did you explain that wasn't the first occasion
7 of this touching taking place when he was doing
8 an underpants check?

9 A. Yes. At that particular time, obviously when I went mad
10 about it, my focus was I was hoping it was going to get
11 me out of there, so I started -- I'm being honest about
12 it, I started to really throw everything into the mix to
13 hope they would -- that I was an unruly child or
14 whatever. I kind of knew a wee bit back then to do
15 that, because I was wanting out of there. I couldnae
16 take that anymore. I wouldnae allow that to happen
17 anymore.

18 MS MACLEOD: When you spoke to the board of trustees then;
19 did you provide all of that information to them?

20 A. Yes, yeah, yes. When I sat down with them, everything
21 came out, absolutely everything. Most of it came out
22 through anger. But when I was speaking to them about
23 it, they were more interested in concentrating on the
24 main allegation that I'd made because they wanted to
25 make that -- that was a lying allegation I'd made, sort

1 of thing.

2 Q. When you say the main allegation; is that the one in the
3 bedroom that night when he had his hand down your
4 trousers?

5 A. Yes, yes. Anything I was shouting about in the sexual
6 sort of things, aye.

7 Q. You mentioned there that the police became involved; did
8 somebody contact the police?

9 A. They must have, yes, because the police all of a sudden
10 just appeared, and I was to kind of -- obviously to
11 speak to the police.

12 Q. Was anybody from the school with you when you were
13 speaking to the police?

14 A. No, I was took in myself.

15 Q. What did you tell the police?

16 A. I told them about the abuse, the hitting, the rubbing up
17 against you, the touching you when they was checking the
18 pyjamas, the patting of the backside every time you
19 walked by, the flicking of the towels. I told them
20 everything, absolutely everything I could tell them.

21 Q. What did they say in response?

22 A. They just -- they never -- they didnae have any argument
23 thingmy side of it. They come in and they did say to me
24 quite a few times: are you really sure this type of
25 thing happened? And can you 100 per cent say it was

1 deliberate, as opposed to accidental?

2 They were putting it in a completely different way.

3 But with no way -- cheek or anger or frustration or

4 whatever.

5 Q. Did you have two separate meetings with the police?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. One thing you say in paragraph 85 of your statement,

8 'James', is that throughout the whole process, there was

9 never anybody supporting you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did the school offer you any kind of support at all?

12 A. No, absolutely not.

13 Q. Did anybody explain the process to you; why all these

14 people were coming to speak to you or anything like

15 that?

16 A. No. Every time my name was called to go into a place to

17 speak to whatever one had appeared, that was it. I only

18 learnt what it was about when I was in. There was no

19 social workers. There was nobody. Absolutely nobody

20 with me at the time.

21 Q. Did you run away again shortly after all this happened?

22 A. Yes, that's when I went on the run the longest I'd ever

23 been in the place.

24 Q. How long after making these reports did you go on the

25 run?

1 A. I would be lying if I gave you an exact date, but it
2 wasnae that long after it. A matter of a couple of
3 weeks or something I was away. I would be lying if I
4 telt you exactly.

5 Q. You tell us you were brought back to St Andrew's and
6 that you were asked some questions again by Brian Webb,
7 and that you 'blew up' and 'went mental', and then ran
8 away again?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And that time, I think you tell us you were in fact
11 six months on the run?

12 A. Aye, yes.

13 Q. And that you eventually decided to hand yourself in --

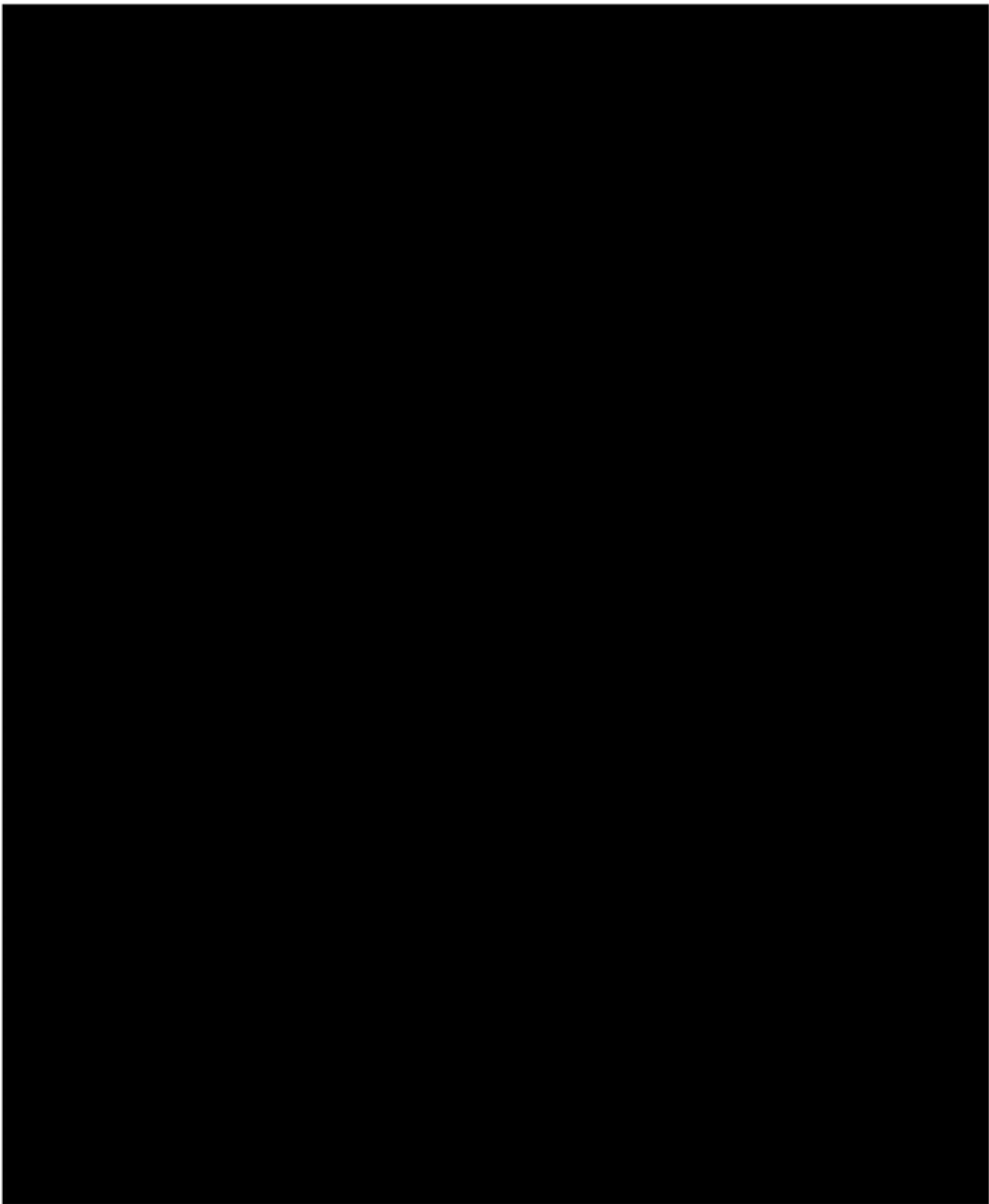
14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- to the police?

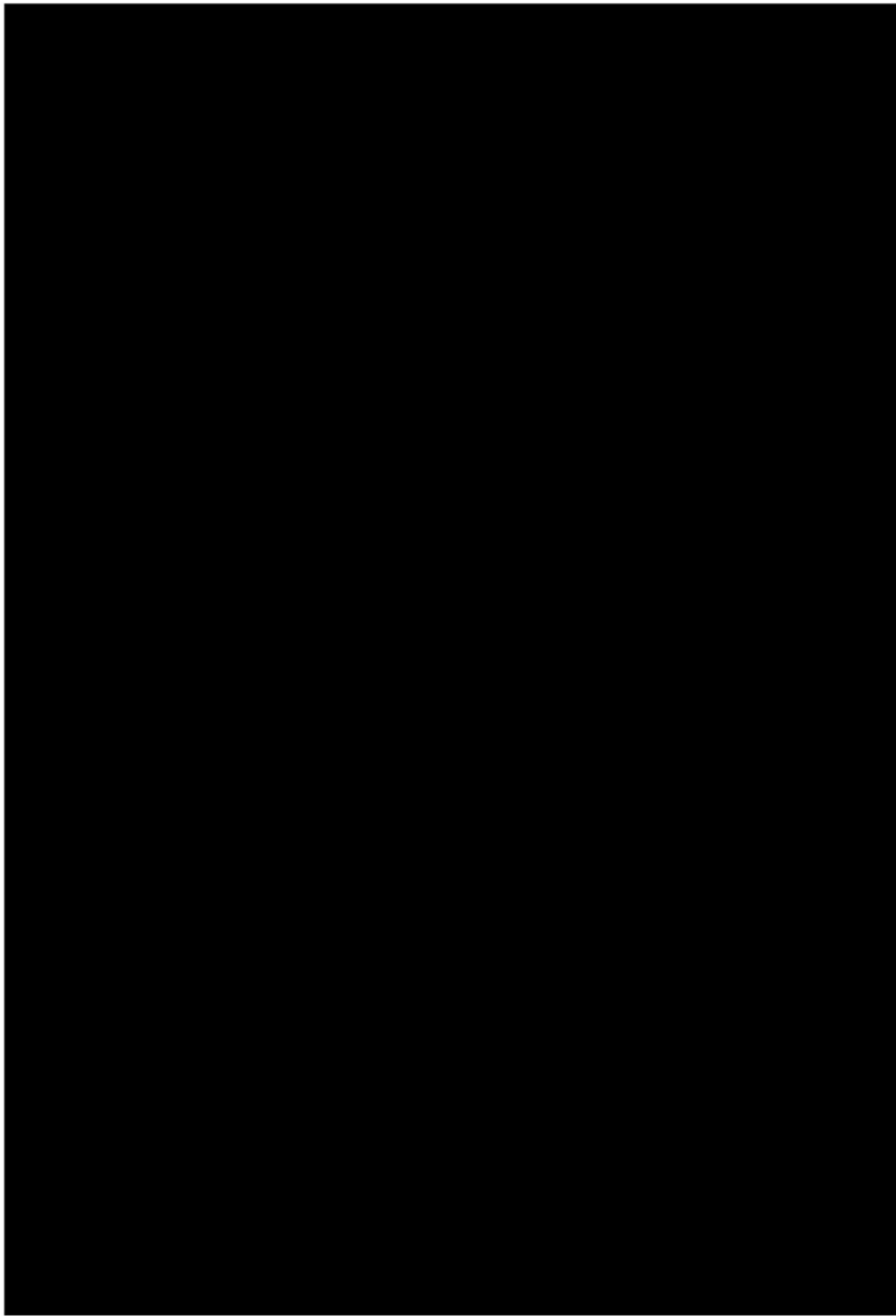
16 A. I -- see, I was -- I had a girlfriend at the time.
17 Obviously, we were young and by this time obviously
18 I was getting older, a bit older, and I stayed in her
19 mum's house and I was out of the way from my normal
20 area, so naebody knew where I was. But then, somehow or
21 another, the police found out I was possibly staying in
22 that house, so they kept coming up to her mum's house.
23 So we could see them from the front street and obviously
24 I jumped out the back window every night. And it was
25 getting to be the case where it was horrible and -- for

1 that woman. I felt terrible. And then one night
2 I decided: this needs to end -- because I'm on the run
3 and I had to -- that's when I handed myself in to the
4 police motor that night.

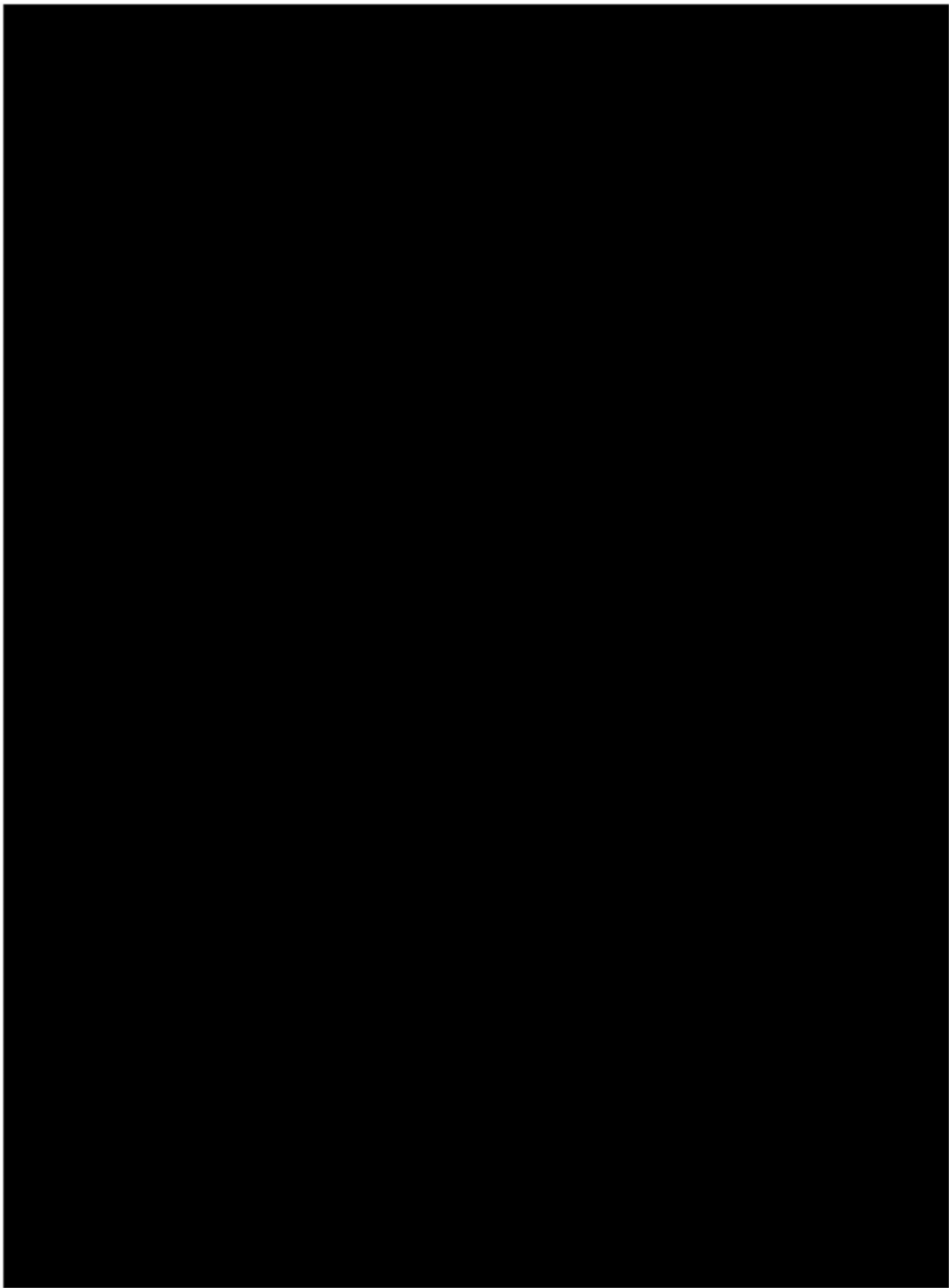
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11 MS MACLEOD: After [REDACTED] 'James'; were you taken back
12 to St Andrew's?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you discover that KEB [REDACTED] had been
15 suspended from the school?

16 A. Yes, I found out -- aye, yes. He wasn't about. It
17 didn't take a genius to work it out because he wasn't
18 there all of a sudden.

19 Q. You tell us in your statement that at that stage there
20 was nothing put in place at the school to support you?

21 A. No, no. There was absolutely no one all the way through
22 all of that, whether it be social workers, family,
23 anybody. It was just me and them.

24 Q. Were you released from St Andrew's? Did you get home
25 shortly after that?

1 A. I felt as if I was thrown out the door as quick as they
2 could get me out the door. Basically, they come up
3 with -- what happened was, when I went on that run, the
4 last time I went on the run, I managed to get myself
5 a YTS job, painting and decorating. And I hadn't been
6 in trouble. I didn't do anything wrong because I was
7 trying to hide and keep away because I no way wanted to
8 go back there. So there was nothing wrong, and they
9 brought all that up: he's done really well. Don't see
10 why he should be kept any longer, get him out.

11 You need to have been there that day to feel how
12 they were explaining it to you, it was: woof, I'm out.

13 Q. You tell us in your statement about that, and you say:

14 'All of a sudden I was an amazing boy who shouldn't
15 be in St Andrew's.'

16 A. Aye. That's exactly ...

17 A model pupil.

18 Q. You tell us that nobody followed up with you from the
19 school after you had left?

20 A. Naebody.

21 Q. Did you have any contact from social workers or anything
22 like that after you left to see if you were okay?

23 A. Aye, Norman Brown. Sorry, well that's my social
24 worker's name. His name was Norman Brown. A kind of
25 a -- I was still under supervision, a supervision order.

1 And I don't know how -- I can't remember how long it
2 lasted before that was lifted. I dealt with him for
3 a wee bit of time, but --

4 Q. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 A. In my memory, I don't remember him ever being there, the
7 same as any of my family, same as no a lawyer or
8 whatever should have been with you, accompanying you at
9 that age, no.

10 Q. Did you tell Norman Brown about what KEB .. sorry....

11 KEB had done to you?

12 A. No. I never really seen him again, because -- I don't
13 know how you explain this to yous. This is a different
14 thing, but it ties up with that.

15 The lady who worked in the Social Work Department,
16 who was on the front desk, was really good to me,
17 really, really good to me. But, unfortunately, my
18 brother was involved in an incident to which it was her
19 son that was murdered, and when I went back that time to
20 see my social worker the woman started screaming,
21 screaming, and just kept staring at me and screaming,
22 and I was ushered away. And I don't think I seen the
23 social workers after that again. I don't think I was
24 allowed near the building again, to be quite honest with
25 you, for some reason.

1 I don't think it's 'for some reason' -- but -- you
2 know, to see the social work side of it, you know, the
3 poor woman that lost her son's life -- who had lost his
4 life, sorry.

5 Q. Before I move on to looking at your life following your
6 time in St Andrew's, you mentioned earlier in your
7 evidence that there was a teacher at the school who
8 I think died while you were there?

9 A. Aye, Jody.

10 Q. What happened to her?

11 A. She committed suicide. I don't know in what form she
12 committed suicide. That's all I know: she committed
13 suicide.

14 I really don't know. I think it was something to do
15 with drowning or something. I don't know. Obviously,
16 there is water down there, loads of it in Faslane base,
17 and something happened there. We don't really know.

18 She was a lovely person. She was one of the best
19 people in there. She really looked out for kids and
20 took you out on excursions and canoeing, and all these
21 type of things. She was a beautiful person, a beautiful
22 soul.

23 Q. In paragraph 99 of your statement, 'James', you tell us
24 that, not long after you left St Andrew's, you ended up
25 in a detention centre at Glenochil.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And your evidence in relation to that part of your life
3 has already been read in --

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. -- to the transcript here at the Inquiry, in the chapter
6 which looked at the Scottish Prison Service.
7 My Lady, that was Day 397, 12 December 2023.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS MACLEOD: You tell us, 'James', that you were in
10 Glenochil when you were nearly 17, and that you ended up
11 in HMP Polmont?

12 A. Aye. That was for my borstal. Aye, Polmont.

13 Q. And, not going to look at the detail of that, but you
14 say the regime and detention in borstal was ten times
15 worse than St Andrew's?

16 A. Mother of mercy, yes.

17 Q. After borstal, you say you went back to your family and
18 that you decided enough was enough, and that you were
19 never in trouble again after that?

20 A. Yeah. I packed three bags and left my family and went
21 my own way, and I never looked back again.

22 Q. From paragraph 102 onwards, you talk about the impact
23 that you consider your time in care has had on your
24 life, and I just want to look at a couple of aspects of
25 that with you.

1 You say that you used to have a lot of nightmares
2 and dreams about KEB coming to get you?

3 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

4 Q. And that it's always at the back of your mind and that
5 it's never left you?

6 A. No, it's never left me.

7 Q. You say:

8 'I've always wanted to know why what happened, how
9 it was allowed to happen and what happened to him
10 afterwards.'

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. 'It's not something I've been able to turn off.'

13 A. No. I did try to research St Andrew's. I did try to
14 find out if I could get information on it. I Googled
15 all sorts of stuff. I have looked at records to see if
16 I could find out stuff, but it just wasn't coming up
17 with the right answers that I wanted.

18 Q. You tell us, in paragraph 108, that it was in quite
19 recent times, when you were watching something on the
20 telly about List D Schools, that you started opening up
21 to your wife about what had happened to you?

22 A. Yeah. Well, it took me a long, long time, obviously
23 years and years, to tell my wife what had really
24 happened, yeah.

25 Q. You say:

1 'Even now no one in my own family knows what
2 happened.'

3 A. No. Unfortunately, my wife and my daughter passed away,
4 so I never, ever told them what had happened. My son,
5 who I've got left, I've never really told him. ██████████
6 ██████████ there is the one that knows everything and who has
7 supported me. Any time I've spoken to her -- I can
8 speak to her about anything and she knows everything
9 about it.

10 Q. In terms of lessons to be learnt, 'James', you make the
11 point that vetting of people who work in schools like
12 this is very, very important?

13 A. Vetting did you say?

14 Q. Vetting people.

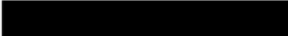
15 A. Aye, vetting people. What I'm sick of in life is -- I
16 says this to ██████████ and it's a thing that really gets
17 on my nerves: 'we'll learn lessons' -- it's one of the
18 most hated statements I've ever heard, because --
19 Lady Smith will probably know a lot better, she's
20 probably dealt with a lot of stuff over the years, this
21 type of stuff, that everybody comes out with this all
22 the time; 'We'll learn lessons, we'll learn lessons'.
23 Lessons never get learnt because it continually happens,
24 and in some form of life and somewhere right now,
25 somewhere in Scotland, somewhere in England, the now,

1 there's abuse going on all over the place and it doesnae
2 matter what walk of life it is. And I'm just sick of
3 people saying that when it comes to the higher
4 authorities -- you need to excuse me, Ms Smith, I don't
5 mean yourself in particular --

6 LADY SMITH: Don't worry.

7 A. -- but they say they're putting these new things in to
8 do it and, for some reason or other, things still go
9 wrong, and that's due to the system and -- that the
10 people are wrapped round. Obviously, it's not due to
11 you. Obviously, you can make recommendations and
12 whatever, but it seems to keep going on and on. So I
13 hate that. I hate that statement.

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20 Q. And the point you make is that the police 
21 need to realise that if they treat young people
22 properly, it will be easier for them to open up?

23 A. Yes. Definitely.

24 Q. And that it might help other children to come forward?

25 A. Yes. This is the reason why I'm here today. I didnae

1 want to do this. I've spoke to [REDACTED]. I didnae want
2 to do the statement with [REDACTED] and them. It was crazy
3 to me at the time. Then I managed to do it. [REDACTED]
4 was very nice and very helpful and kept me down, and
5 what have you. [REDACTED] now said that she'd come here
6 with me and I've decided to come here the day solely for
7 that, if I can help somebody, to help somebody. It's got
8 to help somebody, this has got to make sense. I don't
9 care how many hearings you do, how many people you talk
10 to, there's got to be something that comes out of this
11 that's good and makes sense.

12 Q. In the final part of your statement, 'James', the hopes
13 for this Inquiry, you say:

14 'I was put in a place where I was supposed to be
15 taught a lesson for not going to school and being
16 involved in crime as a child. I ended up going
17 somewhere where I was sexually abused.'

18 And you go on to say:

19 'I hope that the Inquiry does something to try and
20 make sure that children don't go through the things I
21 experienced.'

22 A. Yes, definitely. That's all I wish for. That's all
23 I wish for, because there's too many people in care
24 still to this day, as we all know, whether prisons or
25 care homes, especially care homes when it comes to kids,

1 and I'm not saying there's a difference between adults
2 and kids if you're sexually abused, but kids are so much
3 more vulnerable, so much more... weaker, and something
4 really needs to happen. They can't keep saying lessons
5 will be learnt, because we wouldnae all be here -- this
6 is 2024. This happened in 1979. I'm talking about
7 something that happened away back in they days. This is
8 a disgrace.

9 I don't mean this actual hearing and court, or
10 whatever it is. It's great that yous have managed to
11 get the powers to come and do this now, and bring it out
12 and highlight it and show what it is, but it just goes
13 on and on and on. This is 45 years later, and we're
14 talking about something 45 years later. It's crazy.

15 Q. Thank you so much, 'James', for coming here to answer my
16 questions. I don't have any more questions for you, but
17 is there anything you would like to say before we
18 complete your evidence?

19 A. It was really hard for me to come here the day, but
20 I'm seriously glad that I have done it. I'm glad
21 I've been given the opportunity to come and say it and
22 actually speak about it, because I bottled this up for
23 45 years until I met [REDACTED]. That helped me a hell of
24 a lot. I knew this day was looming. There was
25 a possibility, if [REDACTED] wasnae coming here today,

1 I would have refused to come. I would have not have
2 came here. But because [REDACTED] came with me, and gave
3 me the support to come here the day, I've came here and
4 I just want to be one of these people, through some
5 words or whatever it is that I've said in my statement,
6 from anything I've said to you, that makes a difference
7 going forward for somebody else. There's too many kids
8 out there. It's time to stop it. We need to find a way
9 to stop it.

10 MS MACLEOD: Thank you, 'James'.

11 My Lady, I haven't received any applications for
12 questions.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 'James', can I add my thanks and thanks to you for
15 all you have given us in your evidence. It's extremely
16 valuable, both your written evidence and the way in
17 which you have spoken so openly and clearly about your
18 experiences today. It's not lost on me. Nothing you
19 have been saying is lost on me, I promise you that.

20 My thanks also to [REDACTED], who has obviously done
21 so much to support you, to get you here and stay on to
22 get you home, and my apologies, [REDACTED], if we've kept
23 you later than you expected to be, but I am now able to
24 say to you both that you are free to go.

25 A. I would like to thank [REDACTED] and all, because [REDACTED]

1 has helped me a hell of a lot too, so thank you to you
2 too, [REDACTED].

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 A. Sorry.

5 LADY SMITH: No. Don't apologise. I'm very fortunate in the
6 support I have here from everybody who works in this
7 Inquiry.

8 (The witness withdrew).

9 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, I think we have a slight change of
10 plan, is that right?

11 MS MACLEOD: Yes, we do have a slight change of plan. The
12 witness that was scheduled for this afternoon is unwell,
13 my Lady, and unable to be with us, so the plan is for
14 Mr MacAulay to read in his statement.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 'Harry' (read)

17 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this applicant wants to use the
18 pseudonym 'Harry' in his evidence.

19 His witness statement is at WIT-1-000000569.

20 A substantial part of his statement has already been
21 read in in the Foster Care case study; that is in
22 TRN-10-000000043. That was on 12 July 2022.

23 He tells us he was born in 1965, and he provides
24 information which has already been looked at in the
25 Foster Care case study, about his background with his

1 family.

2 He -- if one turns to paragraph 4 -- was placed in
3 a children's home. He thought initially he was nearly
4 five, but from the records we see that he was first
5 placed in a children's home on [REDACTED] 1968, so he would
6 be aged only two when that happened.

7 It's clear that the experience was not a happy one,
8 and if one turns to paragraph 11, he looks at his time
9 in foster care and can I say, looking to the records, he
10 had been in three children's homes before he went into
11 foster care, and he went into foster care in about [REDACTED]
12 1972, when he was aged seven rather than five, as I
13 think he intends to suggest there.

14 Then if I can go on to paragraph 38, he there looks
15 at the time when he came to leave foster care, and
16 moving over the page to paragraph 40, he's in another
17 children's home and this is in [REDACTED] 1977, when
18 he's aged 12. And moving on from there to paragraph 68,
19 this now takes us to when he goes to St Andrew's.
20 I'll read from there:

21 'I was not going to school so I was sent to
22 St Andrew's.'

23 The records suggest that he began as a day pupil in
24 [REDACTED] 1980, and he became a residential pupil on
25 [REDACTED] 1980.

1 He goes on to say:

2 'It was run by Catholics. It was for people
3 committing crimes and I wasn't one of them. I never had
4 a criminal record. I don't understand what right they
5 had to send me there only because I didn't go to school.
6 I would describe it as a boot camp. It was boys aged 14
7 to 16 who stayed there. It was a place where you got
8 sent to lose your liberty. If you left the grounds
9 without permission, they would phone the police.

10 I was here for one or one-and-a-half years until
11 I was 16.'

12 He left, according to the records, on [REDACTED]
13 1981, when he was aged 16:

14 'At first, it was just during the day, but then
15 I ended up staying there possibly for the last year
16 I was in care. I had no choice. I wouldn't have chosen
17 to go there and would have preferred to stay at the
18 children's home. Some of the boys stayed there during
19 the week and went home for the weekend. I got to go
20 back to the children's home at the weekends, and
21 travelled there on the local bus. Life was just the
22 exact same routine at St Andrew's as it was in the
23 children's home.'

24 At paragraph 70, he describes -- what we have seen
25 in the photographs in fact. The nature of the building.

1 At 72, he says this:

2 'There was a cell block for boys who were runaways
3 or got in trouble with the police. They could be put in
4 there for as long as a weekend. I never got put in
5 there.

6 'I cannot remember any of the staff other than
7 Mr FQH, who was SNR, and a guy called
8 "FQG", which was his nickname. FQG worked in the
9 education department, and was a bit of a bully. He was
10 in his late 40s with a beard, short hair and stout.
11 They were all male except a few females who did all the
12 domestic-type jobs like cooking and cleaning.'

13 At 75, he says:

14 'I had a room with another guy. It was like a dorm
15 with two beds and that was the room I had all the time
16 I was there. I think the other guy had trouble at home
17 and was committing crime.'

18 At 77:

19 'At night, there was an old guy who was working and
20 looking after everyone on the landing. He always worked
21 a nightshift and stayed overnight. I only remember he
22 had grey hair and used to crack tins of beer when he was
23 meant to be working on the landing.'

24 He talks about the food and the communal showers at
25 78 and 79, and at 83 he says:

1 'We went to school after prayer. The teachers all
2 lived nearby and they should have been people who would
3 look after you, but they were just as bad as the staff.
4 We got taught maths and English.'

5 At 85, he says:

6 'We had to go to church every morning.'

7 He describes the pews and how they were
8 uncomfortable and, at 87, he says:

9 'I never spent Christmas there. I always returned
10 to the children's home.

11 'I never got any visits from social work when I was
12 at St Andrew's.'

13 At 89:

14 'I had no family contact. I had nothing of my own
15 at St Andrew's. I never ran away. I have no good
16 memories. I should never have been there.

17 'There was a guy called FQH who was probably
18 SNR or . I think SNR
19 SNR. He was really old and had grey hair. He
20 would bend you over a big table in his office and beat
21 you with a leather belt. It was across my backside,
22 above my clothing. The belt was kept in his office and
23 looked like a school belt with three or four prongs. It
24 was flexible and quite thin. He did explain why he was
25 belting me, but I can't remember what he said. I was

1 belted twice by him.

2 'The staff were verbal and shouting. That was just
3 part of it. I didn't like or trust any of the staff or
4 teachers.

5 'FOG would try and intimidate you. He would put
6 you up against a wall and use threatening language. He
7 would also flick your ear with his finger.

8 'The teachers did things like pick up and throw
9 objects. I have been hit by the things they threw.

10 'Another boy put me in a strangle hold and nearly
11 strangled me. I was unable to breathe and it was
12 frightening. This sort of thing could happen often, not
13 just with me. I saw other boys getting picked on.
14 Sometimes this was done in front of the staff and
15 sometimes they would say something, but not always. If
16 you didn't stick up for yourself, you were in trouble.

17 'Sometimes the old boy who did a nightshift there
18 would wake me up and make me stand in the landing
19 wearing my pyjamas. It would be for any excuse.
20 I would have to stand with my pyjama bottoms down,
21 sometimes as long as an hour. It wasn't just me. It
22 happened to other boys, although I didn't see it. The
23 old boy would let guys into the school overnight to
24 abuse me and other boys. It would be two or three guys
25 he would let in, and they were paedophiles. Some of

1 them would touch you sexually and say all sorts of
2 things. I also heard comments they made to the old boy,
3 calling him "an old paedo" and "a rapist". He was part
4 of it. He was as guilty as them.

5 'When I was 16, I was told I could do what I wanted.
6 I could have got a job or gone to further education.
7 I never got a job and felt in limbo. I had nowhere to
8 live. The social work got me a shared house which
9 I moved in straight from leaving St Andrew's. I signed
10 on to get money. I did get a job as a milkman, and
11 later as a painter and decorator. I would say life was
12 pretty bad. I had nothing. The halfway house was
13 closed down and I stayed there until I was 18 or 19,
14 still managing to work.'

15 He goes on to say he ended up moving to England but
16 coming back to Scotland in his early 30s.

17 At 101, he says:

18 'I became a dad when I was about 27. My son was
19 born in Wales where I stayed when I was in
20 a relationship with his mum. I found fatherhood all
21 right. I was always around up until he was 16. Then he
22 left and went to his granny's house. I still get on
23 fine with his mum. We have a good relationship although
24 we live separately.'

25 After, my Lady, from paragraph 102 through to the

1 end of the statement, page 20, that was taken out during
2 the Foster Care case study, and just to confirm that
3 'Harry' has signed his statement on 7 December 2020.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

5 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, I think that's probably all we need
6 do for today. We're well on track.

7 LADY SMITH: I think that would make sense.

8 So we'll stop at that point, and then return to
9 evidence in person first thing tomorrow.

10 That is the plan, isn't it?

11 MR MACAULAY: Yes, tomorrow morning. It's a videolink.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you very much.

13 A couple of names before I rise. One is FQG and
14 the other is Mr FQH or FQH, and they both have
15 the protection of my General Restriction Order so
16 mustn't be identified as referred to in our evidence
17 outside this room.

18 Thank you very much. Until tomorrow morning at
19 10 o'clock.

20 (2.35 pm)

21 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on Wednesday,

22 14 August 2024)

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8
9
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11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

INDEX

'James' (read)1
'Bruce' (read)22
'Archie' (read)29
'Mel' (read)41
'James' (sworn)62
'Harry' (read).....140

