

Thursday, 15 August 2024

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our evidence  
4 in Chapter 8 of Phase 8 of this case study. As I said  
5 yesterday, we're moving on to evidence about  
6 St Philip's, Plains, today.

7 Mr MacAulay.

8 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, we do have an oral witness to start  
9 with. He is an applicant. He wants to be anonymous and  
10 to use the pseudonym 'David'.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 'David' (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: 'David', thank you for agreeing to engage with  
14 us this morning to provide evidence in person, in  
15 addition to the written evidence that I already have  
16 from you. Your statement is in that red folder that's  
17 on the desk there, and it's been really helpful to be  
18 able to read that in advance, so thank you very much for  
19 that.

20 You'll be able to look at the statement if you need  
21 it as we go through your evidence, and we'll also bring  
22 parts of it up on the screen, if that's okay for you.

23 But, otherwise, 'David', I just want to say I do  
24 know that what you've agreed to do probably feels very  
25 difficult. You're in a position of giving evidence in

1 public and we're going to ask you to talk about things  
2 that happened when you were a child and were quite  
3 distressing.

4 Now, if at any time you need a break or just  
5 a pause, please don't hesitate to speak up. We can  
6 accommodate that. Or if there's anything else I can do  
7 to help you give as good an account of your evidence as  
8 you can, just let me know; all right?

9 Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

10 Questions by Mr MacAulay

11 MR MACAULAY: My Lady.

12 Good morning, 'David'.

13 A. Morning.

14 Q. The first thing I want to do is to provide the  
15 stenographers with a reference to your statement and  
16 that is WIT-1-000000900.

17 The first thing I want you to do, 'David', is to  
18 look at that red folder, where you'll find your  
19 statement. If you could turn to the final page; can you  
20 confirm that you have signed the statement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you tell us in the final paragraph:

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 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you go to the beginning of the statement, where you  
4 provide us with some background information -- I don't  
5 want to know your date of birth. But to get a context  
6 for your evidence; can you confirm that you were born in  
7 1973?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You tell us a little bit about your life before you went  
10 into care and, in particular, your family background;  
11 I think you come from a large family?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What sort of size of family?

14 A. Nine.

15 Q. You go on to tell us that your mother did some part-time  
16 work --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- for a time, but then your father became ill; is that  
19 correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me about that?

22 A. He took a heart attack. I think he was around about 29,  
23 I think, when I was about ten, and he hurt his head when  
24 he took the heart attack, and he ended up being  
25 epileptic from it, with the knock on his head. That's

1 the first time we ever found out he was epileptic, after  
2 the heart attack.

3 Q. Because of that; was that the background to your mother  
4 really becoming his carer?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. How did that impact upon you and the rest of your  
7 family?

8 A. To start with, we didn't know what was going on. My dad  
9 was epileptic all the time, my mum was always up, and he  
10 was taking fits constantly. We missed a lot of school  
11 because of it. That was just the first year, and then  
12 that's the way it was, and my mum just had to stay in  
13 the house all the time, most of the time, with my dad.  
14 He couldn't be on his own.

15 Q. You mentioned there missing school; did that result in  
16 the social work becoming involved?

17 A. Yes, that's why the social workers did get involved.

18 Q. Was there a particular social worker allocated to you?

19 A. Mr Patrick McCluskey.

20 Q. Was that the background to you appearing before the  
21 Children's Panel?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And can you tell me a little bit about that? Did  
24 Mr McCluskey go with you to the Panel?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. What about your mother?

2 A. Yes, she was there as well.

3 Q. One thing you tell us about the Panel is that you

4 recognised somebody who was on the Panel?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell me about that?

7 A. Yes. I was [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]. And he lived

9 [REDACTED] my granny, [REDACTED].

10 And he was on the other side of the Panel. Him and my

11 dad never really got on at all. Through the years, they

12 never spoke, but I was [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED], and he was on

14 the other side of the Children's Panel.

15 Q. When you were at the Children's Panel, did they speak to

16 you and ask you anything?

17 A. I just ... I can hardly remember that. They were just

18 asking me about how I wasn't going to school, and they

19 were talking to my mum and that about it, and that was

20 how -- I don't know -- that's the way it went on then

21 after that.

22 LADY SMITH: You'd have been quite young at that time?

23 A. Yes. I was about 10/11, I think.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MACAULAY: Was the upshot then that, at that time, that

1           you were sent to a place called Calder House Children's  
2           Unit?

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   I think if you were about ten, that would have been  
5           maybe 1982/1983?

6   A.   Yes, round about they times.

7   Q.   Did Mr McCluskey go with you to Calder House?

8   A.   No, he basically just dropped me off.

9   Q.   When you got there, then, and you came across the other  
10          children who were there; can you tell me about that?  
11          First of all, was it boys and girls?

12   A.   Yeah, it was a mix.  Boys -- girls were downstairs and  
13          boys were upstairs, the two units.

14   Q.   And the age range; can you help me with that?

15   A.   I think I was the youngest person ever to be in it, to  
16          tell you the truth.  They were all 14, 15 when I was  
17          there.  They called me Action Man, Eagle Eyes, like the  
18          Action Man, because I was so wee.  Wee Rambo, things  
19          like that, that's what they were calling me, so ...

20   Q.   Do you know why these other children were there?

21   A.   Not really.  Mostly -- a lot of them were violent.  
22          A lot of them were violent.

23   Q.   Did you understand that perhaps they had been involved  
24          in some criminal activities?

25   A.   I don't know.  I can't remember that much -- far.

1 Q. You mentioned the building and you say the building was  
2 on two levels?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Boys on one level, girls on the other; is that the way  
5 it was set up?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And the number of children at that time --

8 A. I haven't a clue. It was two units at the top. There  
9 was three of us in one dorm, so there was -- I don't  
10 know how many rooms there were.

11 Q. Do I take, from what you've said, the other two in your  
12 dorm would be older boys?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. How did you feel when you got there initially? What was  
15 your --

16 A. Very emotional. I was crying, sort of -- constantly,  
17 basically, for my mother and father, because I was quite  
18 young.

19 Q. You tell us a little bit about the routine, and  
20 I'll touch upon one or two points with you there; for  
21 example, schooling.

22 A. There was no schooling. I was kept in the unit when  
23 everybody else was at school. There was no school for  
24 me. The only class they had for me was a pottery class.

25 Q. When you talk about leisure time, you tell us about

1 an incident -- this is at paragraph 17 -- when you were  
2 sitting around not doing very much, and one boy snapped  
3 a cue and you thought he was going to use it to hit  
4 somebody?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I think the staff wanted to know who had broken the cue;  
7 can you tell me about that? What happened?

8 A. Well, I was going to say to them and that, about the cue  
9 and that, and then I got told not to, or the boys would  
10 have done me in. So, I was only young at the time, and  
11 got threatened.

12 Q. Threatened by another boy, was it?

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: This was to keep you quiet, was it?

15 A. Yes.

16 MR MACAULAY: You also tell us about an incident when you,  
17 as a very young boy, were playing football -- with older  
18 boys, I take it?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. What happened?

21 A. Got knocked unconscious.

22 Q. How did that happen?

23 A. With the ball and -- the boy hitting me with the ball in  
24 the face, so -- knocked me unconscious. They just  
25 picked me back up, put me back on my feet.

1 Q. Did you require any medical treatment?

2 A. They didn't have any medical treatment there.

3 Q. Was there a matron or something like that?

4 A. No, not that I know of.

5 Q. One thing you do tell us, 'David', when you were there,

6 is that you were homesick; is that correct?

7 A. Yeah, all the time.

8 Q. Were you crying?

9 A. Constantly, basically, at the end of every day, for my

10 mum and that.

11 The staff didnae really help either because they

12 used to -- 'Stop your crying or we're going to make you

13 clean the hall with a toothbrush, get the bucket out'.

14 They basically made me cry. I think they liked to have

15 a bet about it, you know, see who could make me cry

16 first, sort of thing. The staff -- that was the staff,

17 that's not the people -- or the boys. That was the

18 staff.

19 Q. This incident about making you clean the hall; was that

20 in fact just a try-on, if you like, they didn't mean it?

21 Or did they --

22 A. They were just sort of like -- they thought they were

23 funny, sort of thing.

24 Q. Did you get any comfort at all from the staff?

25 A. Not really.

1 Q. Do you know how long you spent at Calder House?

2 A. Three weeks.

3 Q. You would still be roughly the same age when you -- as

4 -- about ten when you went in?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. One thing you do tell us, 'David', in your statement, is

7 that you always felt it was unfair that you were sent

8 there?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you explain that for me?

11 A. I don't think I'd really done anything wrong to be sent

12 to a List D School like that, with boys like that.

13 I'd never done any criminal things ever. I was quite

14 young. It was just my family and what happened, and

15 they just took me -- put me into Calder House. Then,

16 when I went back, everybody in the school wouldn't come

17 near me after that: 'Oh, you can't run about with him'.

18 So I was -- nobody wanted to run about with me because

19 I was took into a children's home and things like that.

20 They thought I was a bad wee person, basically.

21 Q. Had your brother been missing school?

22 A. My brother wasn't alive then. He wasn't born yet. My

23 sisters and that were missing school.

24 Q. Were they? And what about them? Did they --

25 A. Nothing.

1 Q. Nothing happened to them?

2 A. No. My sister, she got took to a Panel, but then she  
3 started going back to school. She was fine.

4 Q. When, then, you were back with your mother; were you  
5 going to school?

6 A. Yeah, I went for a couple of weeks and that. But I lost  
7 that much school, it was hard. I had to go into classes  
8 like to learn to read and -- trying to learn to read  
9 again, and things like that, and trying to catch up. So  
10 it wasn't very good for me, so I lost a lot of school  
11 and then high school was just so hard for me.

12 Q. In due course, you went to the high school, so you would  
13 be 14 -- over 14?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. You were missing school again?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And did that mean you were called again to the  
18 Children's Panel?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was it still Mr McCluskey who was involved?

21 A. Yes, Mr McCluskey.

22 Q. On this occasion, when you went to the Children's Panel;  
23 was Mr McCluskey with you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What about your mother; was she with you?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And what happened on this occasion?

3 A. That occasion, I think I went to Bonnyhill for a couple  
4 of weeks. It's a place after school you go, and you  
5 stay there, and then they take you back to school the  
6 next day. They do it Monday to Friday, and they done it  
7 for a wee while.

8 Q. You also tell us that the Panel sent you to another  
9 children's home in Airdrie -- this is at paragraph 28 --

10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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17 Q. I think there came a time when you were back before the  
18 Panel -- and you talk about this at paragraph 43 --  
19 after you had been to Bonnyhill, and the Panel decided  
20 to send you to St Philip's; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And on this occasion; did the members of the Panel speak  
23 to you at all, directly?

24 A. Not really. Just -- I was just sitting across and they  
25 were speaking to my mum and Mr McCluskey.



1 Q. Now, according to the admission records, you were  
2 admitted to St Philip's on [REDACTED] 1987, so you  
3 would have turned 14?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. And, again according to the records, you left in  
6 [REDACTED] 1990, so you'd be 16 by then?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Does that accord with your own recollection?  
9 A. I think so, yes.  
10 Q. Can you describe the building for me?  
11 A. Well, when you went in there was a big main building,  
12 that was like the headmaster's building, where everybody  
13 went in. And then there was three units after that.  
14 You walked along and then there was one, two, three --  
15 aye, three units.  
16 Q. Were the units outside the main building?  
17 A. No, they were in -- aye, yeah, the units were outside  
18 the main building; they were sitting on their own. And  
19 then there was -- the school and the park was right next  
20 to the main building and then it was the three units.  
21 Q. Were you allocated to one of the units?  
22 A. Yes, Lochailort. Lochailort.  
23 Q. Loch Islay? Do you remember the names of the others?  
24 A. Mallaig and Morar. Named after lochs, I think.  
25 Q. Can I put this photograph to you, just to perhaps

1 indicate that it doesn't -- it wasn't the way it was  
2 when you were there. This is at INQ-0000000874.

3 This is a place that we understand to be St Philip's  
4 as it is now; that's not the way it was when you were  
5 there?

6 A. No, definitely not.

7 Q. So far as the routine at St Philip's was concerned, you  
8 tell us a little about how many boys there were; how  
9 many boys do you think were there during your time?

10 A. I think there was 25 to 30 in my unit, and that was  
11 Lochangeort. So talking about maybe 90 boys -- maybe 60,  
12 70 boys. Maybe 90.

13 Q. Can you remember the names of some of the staff?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Who do you remember?

16 A. Mr HWI .

17 Q. Mr HWI . We'll talk about him later. The headmaster;  
18 do you remember who the headmaster was?

19 A. I think his name was Mr Kane.

20 Q. Can you remember any other names -- I think you mention,  
21 for example, a Mr Hefferman?

22 A. Mr Hefferman was my worker.

23 Q. As far as the units were concerned; was there  
24 a particular member of staff in charge of each unit?

25 A. They swapped. Mr KQP used to be on one during the

1 day sometimes, and then in the night time they'd swap,  
2 and then Mr HWI would do it during the day.

3 Q. One thing you say, at 48 in your statement, is that  
4 Mr HWI was one of the staff, and he was 'extremely  
5 brutal'?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I'm going to ask you about that in a moment. But is  
8 that how you described his behaviour towards you?

9 A. Mm-hmm. He was just like a big wain, sort of a -- aye,  
10 he was just terrible.

11 Q. What you say at paragraph 49 is that apart from Mr HWI,  
12 you didn't have any issues with any other staff?

13 A. I think one, Mr HWJ, I had a run in with. That was  
14 it.

15 Q. See when you first arrived there; how did you feel?

16 A. It was not too bad when I first went in, because  
17 Mr KQP was there, and he was my key staff at the  
18 start. The first night I went in, I went in on  
19 a Thursday night and they let me back out on the Friday  
20 to the Sunday, and then I went back in on the Sunday and  
21 they let me back out on the Friday again.

22 So the first night was all right. But then the  
23 following week, that's when it -- it just started.

24 Q. One thing you tell us is that -- there was a reference  
25 to the person who was the top boy?

1 A. Oh, yeah, that was the first night.

2 Q. Can you tell me about that?

3 A. As soon as I walked in, Mr [HWI] and that just pointed at  
4 him and says: 'That's the top man there. His name is  
5 [REDACTED].' [REDACTED] I think, or something. I can't  
6 remember. I just looked at him and says, 'What are you  
7 telling me that for?', you know.

8 Q. Why was he telling you that? Do you know?

9 A. Yeah, I figured that out. He liked to put all the  
10 boys -- and get them up in the room and fight to make  
11 sure who's the top man, who's the daddy. That's the  
12 kind of person he was, Mr [HWI]. He'd start fights with  
13 the other boys, and the boys that he looked after, he'd  
14 let them, turn a blind eye, and he'd let them go and  
15 assault the other boys and things like that, himself.

16 Q. This top boy that you've been telling us about; was that  
17 an older boy?

18 A. Yeah. I think he was -- we think he left about three  
19 month after I went in.

20 Q. You also say in your statement, at paragraph 52, that at  
21 a point in time, a member of staff shouted over to you  
22 and said, 'I can smell your ma'.

23 A. Aye, 'Smell your maw', you know he was putting his  
24 finger and that, and doing that, 'Here smell your maw,  
25 [inaudible] man...' That was one of the staff.

1 Q. Who was that?

2 A. That was basically Mr HWI .

3 Q. Can I understand what was the purpose of that?

4 A. I don't know. That's the way they all just spoke in  
5 there: your ma's this, your ma's that.  
6 Things like that. They'd slag your mother and  
7 things like that. And it was Mr HWI who was doing it,  
8 you know what I mean.

9 Q. Did you say he would mention -- what did you say ...

10 A. 'Smell your ma', and things like that.

11 LADY SMITH: He was slagging off your mother?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR MACAULAY: What sort of things would he say?

14 A. 'Smell your maw', do that with his finger. 'Here wee  
15 man, smell your maw', and things like that.

16 Q. When you are saying 'do that with his finger', you are  
17 holding your own finger up to your nose and rubbing it  
18 against your nose.

19 A. Aye, he was just a -- you know what I mean, that's the  
20 kind of person he was.

21 Q. Can I then look at what happened at meal times, when  
22 you're having your food?  
23 Would there be different members of staff on duty  
24 when you were having your meals?

25 A. They were all -- if it was Mr HWI -- it depends, if

1 Mr HWI -- we would be in the unit and if it was for  
2 dinner late at night, after school, we'd all go back to  
3 the unit before we went back to the canteen, and we'd  
4 all have to take our shoes off before we walked into the  
5 unit. There was wee racks where you put your shoes.

6 Q. I'll come to that part of it in a moment, because  
7 I think there you tell me something about 'running the  
8 gauntlet', but I'll come to that.

9 But during the meals themselves; did Mr HWI require  
10 you to do something?

11 A. Oh, sometimes he used to get us to sing, mm-hmm. Sing  
12 like: they say in the (indistinguishable) Philip's, the  
13 chips will make you fine, a chip fell aff the table and  
14 killed a pal of mine -- sing for your dinner and all  
15 that.

16 Q. Would you sing?

17 A. Not really.

18 Q. Do you know why he was taking this approach? One thing  
19 you mention in your statement, 'David', is the film  
20 called 'Scum'?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What is the relevance of that?

23 A. That's the things that Mr HWI used to watch, and that's  
24 the things he'd bring in and say that's where he got it  
25 off of: 'who's the daddy?' This and that. That was the

1 film. And that's what thought: this is the way we  
2 should be running things. That's the way I think he  
3 must have thought -- I don't know.

4 LADY SMITH: I think that film was based on life in  
5 a borstal institution?

6 A. Yes, that's correct.

7 LADY SMITH: And it didn't exactly depict life in a borstal  
8 institution in a very good light?

9 A. Not at all.

10 LADY SMITH: And had a pretty tragic ending to it?

11 A. Mm-hmm, the boy killed himself.

12 MR MACAULAY: Were you shown the film when you were at  
13 St Philip's?

14 A. No. We knew about it. He used to make us sing and  
15 things when we were out on the bus, the minibus and  
16 that, going places. He used to get them to sing songs  
17 and everybody's to join in and sing and all that. He  
18 thought it would be funny. It was never funny.

19 Q. But the songs you were being asked to sing; where had  
20 they been taken from?

21 A. I think they were from something like Scum or something  
22 that -- from one of the movies anyway. I'm sure there  
23 was another one. I can't remember the film, but it was  
24 an all-girls' school. There were films after that as  
25 well, but -- I can't mind the name of it.

1 Q. So far as the shower arrangements were concerned; can  
2 you just describe the shower set-up for me?

3 A. Ah, yeah, there would all be showers -- we'd all shower  
4 together, and then Mr HWI and that would just stand  
5 just outside the showers.

6 Q. Before you tell me about that; did you have cubicles --

7 A. No, no cubicles.

8 Q. It was an open space?

9 A. Open space with showers on it.

10 Q. How many boys could be --

11 A. Four at a time.

12 Q. And would Mr HWI be present then?

13 A. Yes. He would stand at the main door, between the  
14 showers and the toilets, and where the sinks and that  
15 are. He'd be by the shower block, just in case anybody  
16 starts fighting or anything.

17 Q. So he'd have a view of the boys?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did he say anything at that time?

20 A. Yes, he would -- 'Look at the size of him', size of your  
21 penis and things, and that, to the other boys, and  
22 degrade you sort of a thing. You know, 'What you going  
23 to do with that wee man?', all that carry on, you know.  
24 Things like that.

25 Q. Did you find that upsetting?



1 A. Very, well, aye. He used to put people down with this.

2 Q. And generally, if Mr HWI wasn't supervising the boys;

3 would things be by and large okay?

4 A. Aye, fine.

5 Q. Just looking at schooling; can you help me here, what

6 was the schooling like at St Philip's?

7 A. It was okay. It wasn't too good, but I ended up doing

8 painting and decorating. I was just going into

9 Mr KMT's and woodwork. Schooling was not bad. It

10 was all right.

11 Q. Were you taught to -- taught things like maths and

12 English?

13 A. Yes, maths, English. Well, tried.

14 The teacher was fine. I can mind the teacher's

15 name. The teacher was Mrs McFadden, if I'm -- sure.

16 Q. Now, I'll come to look at what 'running the gauntlet'

17 meant in a moment. But after having run the gauntlet;

18 would some children require medical treatment?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did that happen to you? Did you have to go to the

21 matron?

22 A. I think I was there once. I think that was because of

23 my nose.

24 Q. That was because of?

25 A. My nose.

1 Q. Your nose.

2 Did you have visits from your social worker when you  
3 were at St Philip's?

4 A. Not at all. Not really. The only time my social worker  
5 come up was when we have our six-month review and that's  
6 how good I was, and to see if I could get an extra day  
7 out, or to become a day boy and just go there regularly,  
8 instead of staying in it. So that's the only time --  
9 you only seen him every six-month.

10 Q. You tell us, at paragraph 70, that there was a weekend  
11 when you were at home on leave, and you got weekend  
12 leave, as you mentioned earlier, and what you say is:

13 'Things got so bad in the home ...'

14 Is that St Philip's you're talking about --

15 '... that after about a year in there ...'

16 That you wanted to commit suicide?

17 A. Yes, I tried to take my own life.

18 Q. Can you just tell me about that?

19 A. I was just getting bullied constantly by Mr [HWI] and  
20 I just couldn't take it anymore. And then getting up  
21 every morning and going downstairs. Every time he was  
22 near me, I was a bag of nerves. Every time he was round  
23 I had to keep watching out for him or watch his wee boys  
24 he was key worker of. He used to get them things to do,  
25 hit people and all that, you know. He would turn

1 a blind eye. I was just a bag of nerves. I just didn't  
2 really like him and he just didn't like a lot of people.

3 Q. So far as -- you say he's picking on you; what about  
4 other boys?

5 A. No, he was doing it with a lot of boys. It wasn't just  
6 me.

7 Q. Did he have favourites?

8 A. Yes, that was his wee key workers, the ones he  
9 represented.

10 Q. What would they do to you?

11 A. They would just -- punch you in the back of the head or  
12 try to take your fags off you, things like that. And  
13 you would go and say to Mr **HWI** and he would just say,  
14 'Shut it', you know what I mean, let them away with it  
15 and do what they wanted. That's what they'd do.

16 Q. You also tell us about discipline. What you say is that  
17 if you did something wrong -- and we're now into the  
18 late 1980s and beyond -- there would be a deduction in  
19 your pocket money and, if it was really serious, then  
20 you would lose weekend privileges?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So was there any corporal punishment, in the sense of  
23 the belt?

24 A. We got threatened with it once.

25 Q. Who threatened you?

1 A. Mr Kane.

2 Q. The headmaster?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were you ever belted?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Were you aware of any of the boys being belted?

7 A. Apparently, somebody said they got belted, but I don't

8 know if that was true, because it was down the stairs

9 and we were all up in the dorm. And it was because they

10 were carrying on and rioting, and the staff and Mr Kane

11 came out, because the night before everybody started

12 shouting, and then Mr Kane came in the next night when

13 it was going to happen again, when everybody was going

14 to bed, and then he just come down and a couple of boys

15 got took downstairs and apparently they said they got

16 the belt, but I don't know if that was true.

17 Q. You didn't witness that?

18 A. I didn't witness it. I just know what they said he did,

19 but I don't know.

20 Q. Did you have much to do with Mr Kane?

21 A. No, not really. Never seen Mr Kane. It's more his son.

22 I think I was in Mr Kane's house, up in the rooms. He

23 made us do painting and decorating for him. I think

24 that was the only time I ever seen him.

25 Q. I think his son worked there?

1 A. Yes, his son was one of the staff.

2 Q. You mention bed wetting and there were some children who  
3 had problems with bed wetting?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You did not?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And what happened if a child wet the bed?

8 A. They'd wake them up at 4 o'clock in the morning and make  
9 them go to the toilet, and then walk away and leave them  
10 in the room. And then when they were wakened, they're  
11 up, so they're waking everybody else up. You're getting  
12 hit on the head by a slipper or a shoe or whatever just  
13 to wake you up, and you'd run away and (inaudible) your  
14 own room. And that was just the way it was.

15 Q. If a child who wet the bed was being woken up, other  
16 children would wake up at the same time?

17 A. Yes, once the staff left them. They'd put them back  
18 into bed, like, go and do the toilet, and then they'd  
19 put them back into bed, so they wouldn't wet the bed.  
20 Then he would probably just stay wakened and then  
21 just -- all the rest of us are up, hit us, you know what  
22 I mean.

23 Q. And they'd be tired during the day, then, if they'd been  
24 up during the night?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Let's then look at Mr HWI 's behaviour towards you,  
2 apart from what you've told us.

3 You mention again, at paragraph 75, this notion of  
4 approaching people and asking who the top boy was; did  
5 the 'top boy' change over your time?

6 A. Yes, a couple of times. Well, it depended who Mr HWI  
7 wanted to go up -- and take up the stair -- and who  
8 would fight against ... he used to cause the fights.

9 Q. At this point in your statement, you tell us about what  
10 you refer to as 'the gauntlet'; can you just describe  
11 that for me as best you can?

12 A. Well, the gauntlet was like -- every time you went into  
13 the unit you were -- had to take your shoes off, as I  
14 says, and put them on the rack, so nobody would abscond.  
15 Then everybody would go and put their shoes on before we  
16 went to go and get lunch or whatever, going back to the  
17 canteen. So the last person who didn't get their shoes  
18 on had to make -- running the gauntlet between 15 and 30  
19 boys. That was when Mr HWI was on, so ...

20 Q. What did that involve? What happened?

21 A. There were two lines of boys, and you have got to run  
22 between the boys and get to the doors with all of them  
23 punching you and kicking you.

24 Q. What about Mr HWI ; would he be involved in that?

25 A. Aye, he was there. Yes, he would do it.

1 Q. Would he take part?

2 A. Aye, sometimes.

3 Q. How many boys would be lined up?

4 A. Basically, maybe ten or that, or 12 or whatever, and

5 you'd just run the gauntlet and you'd get punched and

6 kicked before you get to the door, if you were the last

7 one to put your shoes on, the last one to (inaudible) up

8 out of bed.

9 Q. Did you have to run the gauntlet?

10 A. Twice or three times, yes.

11 Q. And other boys?

12 A. Mm-hm, but then it was just stopped and we just said no.

13 That's when Mr [HWI] started to do other things, like

14 threaten us with (inaudible) and all that. One boy

15 tried [REDACTED] because of it,

16 [REDACTED].

17 Q. What caused him to do that?

18 A. Because he was running the gauntlet and he didn't want

19 to do it. They pulled him into the office and then he

20 ran away [REDACTED] because

21 he got upset. And his name was [REDACTED].

22 Q. So far as running the gauntlet was concerned, if Mr [HWI]

23 was on duty; did that happen on a daily basis?

24 A. Yes. It was only when he was on.

25 Q. So, if it was another member of staff, there was no

1 gauntlet?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Would other members of staff be aware of this practice?

4 A. Yeah. His wife worked there, Mrs [REDACTED] worked there as  
5 well and -- some of the weekends we were in -- I'm sure  
6 she knew, because they said, 'Right, we're going to go  
7 up and do some cleaning', but that was up the stair.  
8 Anyway -- they just moved the furniture about and made  
9 a -- like a ring -- for all the boys to have to go in  
10 and fight. That's what he took boys up the stairs -- to  
11 see the fighting, and all the boys that were downstairs  
12 stayed downstairs with his wife.

13 Q. What about the other members of staff?

14 A. I think -- I don't know. Some of them might have. I  
15 think Mr Sweeney knew. Or Mr (inaudible), I'm sure he  
16 knew as well.

17 Q. You have mentioned that Mr HWI [REDACTED] had favourites; would  
18 Mr HWI [REDACTED] encourage the favourites to do anything with  
19 you, for example?

20 A. They did, yeah. That was the reason I tried to take my  
21 own life. They were bullying me because of him.  
22 I tried to take my own life because of him.

23 Q. What were they doing to you?

24 A. Just keeping hitting me and punching me and that. Going  
25 about threatening me, saying: you're going to get



1           battered and that the night, wee man, when we go up the  
2           stair. And all that carry on. It was basically my  
3           life, you know what I mean.

4    Q. You tell us about an incident where one boy was almost  
5           blinded by what another boy had done to him?

6    A. Yes.

7    Q. Can you just help me over that? What happened?

8    A. ██████ was sitting on one of the chairs and they were out,  
9           the smokers. I was sitting in the other chair and  
10          Mr <sup>HVI</sup>█████ was at the exit, where everybody smoked, at the  
11          stairs. And he said -- he turned round and he watched  
12          █████ do that -- the boy's name was ██████ that done it.  
13          He done that with the boy's eyes, ██████'s, like that, on  
14          the chair behind him and pulled him and nearly blinded  
15          him. And Mr <sup>HVI</sup>█████ was there and watched it. He turned a  
16          blind eye. He just done that, and, 'Go ahead and do  
17          it'. He basically told him to do it, and then he was  
18          like that, 'Well done', when the boy had to go to matron  
19          and all that. I think he maybe went to hospital as  
20          well. I can't remember that far back.

21   Q. You witnessed this?

22   A. I witnessed it, yeah.

23   Q. What about the boy that was the victim?

24   A. That's what I'm saying, I think he went to matron and I  
25          think he went to hospital.

1 Q. Was he crying? Was he screaming?

2 A. Oh aye, yes, he was screaming, yeah, definitely. He  
3 was in a lot of pain because he hurt his eyes, he was  
4 trying to rub his eyes out with his fingers.

5 Q. The way you have described it, you've held up two  
6 fingers of each hand?

7 A. Yes, that's what it was like. He was just doing that.  
8 He was on the back of the plastic chair doing that and  
9 pulling his head back, like that with him.

10 Q. The boy that was doing this was behind the other boy?

11 A. Yeah. Mr [HWI] sat there and watched it because he was  
12 basically telling him to do it. He gave his wee head  
13 a nod: there you go, go get him now.

14 That was because of [redacted], who has had a difference  
15 between -- Mr [HWI] and started arguing.

16 Q. Why was this particular boy being treated in this way?  
17 Do you know?

18 A. Yeah, it was because he had an argument with Mr [HWI], or  
19 Mr [HWI] told him to do something and he didn't do it or  
20 whatever, and that's why.

21 Q. Were you ever hit when instigated by Mr [HWI] ?

22 A. Probably, yeah.

23 Q. Did you ever try to report any of this?

24 A. No. After I took my overdose, I told my social worker.  
25 My social worker took me right back up to -- once --

1           when I was in hospital and I came through -- because  
2           ██████████. I tried to kill myself. ██████████  
3           ██████████. And I went back -- I went up  
4           the hospital, and then they took me out the hospital.  
5           They took me up to -- back to St Philip's with Mr Kane  
6           -- was in there. He was asking me about it all, but  
7           then Mr HWI ██████████ and all that were in the office at the same  
8           time, so I couldn't really open my mouth. If I opened  
9           my mouth, it would have been worse for me.

10          Q. I think what you're telling us -- and you do talk about  
11           this in your statement -- that you did disclose to  
12           Mr McCluskey how you were being treated --

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. -- by Mr HWI ██████████ ?

15          A. Mm-hmm, because he asked me why I tried to take my own  
16           life. And I told him I was getting bullied -- and  
17           Mr HWI ██████████ and that. Then when we went back up and Mr HWI ██████████  
18           was in the office, he didnae bring Mr HWI ██████████ up. He just  
19           says, 'You okay?' and all that. Then I got kept in at  
20           the weekend for trying to commit suicide.

21          Q. So when you spoke to the headmaster, Mr Kane, as you've  
22           been telling us; did you say anything to him about your  
23           treatment?

24          A. Not really. I tried to run away, because as soon as  
25           I walked in there, Mr HWI ██████████ was in the office, and

1 I tried to just run out the house, run away, because  
2 I was getting kept in at the weekend. I didn't want to  
3 be there. I couldn't say nothing. I was too scared.  
4 I tried, but I don't think anybody listened.

5 Q. Were you told to fight?

6 A. Yeah, once or twice, and I telt him no.

7 Q. Can you tell me what happened on these occasions?

8 A. It was just like, he would get another boy, like say,  
9 [REDACTED], something like that, [REDACTED] or something  
10 his name is. I don't know. So he'd go, 'Right, you and  
11 him fight now', and all that, 'Who's the top man of you?  
12 Who can beat that? Who would be the winner out of you  
13 two?' Then he would start up and then get you arguing  
14 and then get you to fight for his entertainment.

15 Q. I think you do tell us about one incident when you were  
16 to fight another boy, and he just gave you a punch on  
17 the nose, and that was that?

18 A. Aye, that was that. I didn't fight back. I was --  
19 I'm not that much of a fighter or anything like that.

20 Q. You were small and -- was this a bigger boy, was it?

21 A. Basically same size, but bigger. Doesn't matter, I just  
22 didn't really fight back.

23 Q. Did you tell Mr [REDACTED] HWI that you didn't want to fight?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did he -- and do you say he just ignored that?

1 A. Aye, just ignored it. He says, 'Right, fight', and then  
2 the boy punched me and then that was that. Just says,  
3 'No, I don't think so', and that was it, over.

4 Q. You told us earlier about having to see the matron about  
5 your nose; is this the occasion you went to see the  
6 matron?

7 A. That might have been what it was, yes, aye. Might be.

8 Q. Did other members of staff witness boys fighting at the  
9 instigation of Mr HWI ?

10 A. Yes, I think so. I think Mr HWJ . I don't know.  
11 I'm sure he was -- he knew about it. Mr Hefferman, that  
12 was Mr HWI 's co-worker, he was on at the same time. So  
13 he definitely did know, Hefferman. I'm sure that was  
14 his name.

15 Q. You also tell us about a boy, we needn't get the name,  
16 but you said he had red hair and that he tried to report  
17 something that was happening to him?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Can you tell me about that?

20 A. He went into the office and tried to talk to them about  
21 it or -- whatever he said, he said something and they  
22 caught him and they started banging him against the  
23 metal locker in the office.

24 Q. Who was doing that?

25 A. I think that was Mr HWI or Mr -- one of them. Mr HWI ,

1 I'm sure it was. Or Mr **KQP**, one of them.

2 Q. And was this boy trying to tell other members of staff  
3 that he was being badly treated.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did they believe him?

6 A. No. If they did, they just washed it under the table if  
7 they did. I think they knew what was going on, but they  
8 just ...

9 Q. You do talk about Mr **HWJ** at paragraph 87, and what  
10 you say is:

11 'I can remember Mr **HWJ** was quite handy at  
12 kicking the boys.'

13 A. Oh, aye.

14 Q. Can you describe that for me?

15 A. He used to boot them about in the back or wherever. If  
16 they werenae behaving themselves, he just got up, pair  
17 of pointy shoes and give them a good boot, things like  
18 that.

19 Q. Did that happen to you?

20 A. No, he didnae hit me but I seen him doing that to other  
21 people.

22 Q. Was there a particular boy that -- we don't need to know  
23 the name, but was there a particular boy that bore the  
24 brunt of some of this?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you know what happened to that boy?

2 A. Committed suicide.

3 Q. Do you know when?

4 A. Don't know when. I was still in St Philip's when he

5 done it. So it must have been about then, just before I

6 was 16.

7 LADY SMITH: Was that after he'd left St Philip's?

8 A. Yes, I think he was just turning 16 himself.

9 MR MACAULAY: You also mention another boy -- we needn't

10 look at the name -- but he was -- what you say is: 'he

11 only lasted about six months after leaving St Philip's'.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. What happened to him?

14 A. Killed himself [REDACTED]. Hung himself [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]. Hung himself.

16 Q. Was this boy somebody you knew?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Did you see how he was being treated at St Philip's?

19 A. Yeah, same as me.

20 Q. And the other boy you mentioned, who also committed

21 suicide after he left; was that a boy you knew?

22 A. Yeah, he was in a different unit though.

23 Q. But was the other boy in your unit?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. When you told your social worker, after your suicide

1 attempt, as to how you were being treated at  
2 St Philip's; did he believe you, as far as you could  
3 see?

4 A. No. He says I was just -- he never believed anything,  
5 basically, you know what I mean.

6 Q. Can we then move on, 'David', to when you left  
7 St Philip's? And as I put to you earlier, that was in  
8 [REDACTED] 1990, when you were 16. By then, you had become  
9 a day boy; is that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you were going to school on a regular basis?

12 A. Every day.

13 Q. When you came to leave St Philip's; how would you look  
14 upon your education level?

15 A. Well, I'm still not great. I can hardly read the now.

16 Q. Sorry?

17 A. I can hardly read the now. Still can't really read.  
18 My children are better readers than me, put it that  
19 way.

20 Q. And life after care; you tell us about that at 93. When  
21 you went back home, you never felt you were part of the  
22 family anymore?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Why was that?

25 A. It was just the way it was. I was never there,



1            basically. Just because I wasn't there all the time.  
2            I was always at St Philip's. The family treated me  
3            different, my sisters and all that.

4    LADY SMITH: You'd been in St Philip's for the best part of  
5            three years, and a couple of other places before that?

6    A. Yeah.

7    LADY SMITH: A good bit of your growing up had been done  
8            away from home, when you weren't seeing your family?

9    A. I wasn't.

10   MR MACAULAY: Another thing you say is as soon as you are  
11            sent to places like St Philip's, 'you are branded by  
12            people on the outside'?

13   A. Yeah, even your own family. Your aunties, uncles,  
14            everything. Just, that's you, you're basically a bad  
15            wee rat.

16   Q. Although, as you've told us, you went there because you  
17            weren't going to school?

18   A. Yeah. They knew that. But everybody else wasn't  
19            allowed because -- Back then it's ... I don't know how,  
20            the families just: 'If he's in a children's home, stay  
21            away from him'. It was just the way it was.

22   Q. I think you tell us that you did end up on remand  
23            again --

24   A. Yeah.

25   Q. -- on another occasion, and I think you spent some

1 months in Longriggend?

2 A. Longriggend. 310 days.

3 Q. When you were sentenced, you got probation?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You also tell us that you have some children, and you  
6 now have a partner, who you have been with for a while;  
7 is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Work-wise you have done labouring jobs through your  
10 life?

11 A. I was a forklift driver as well, machinist, yeah.

12 Q. Looking to the impact your time in care has had on you,  
13 the first thing you say is that it really has hurt your  
14 education, and your ability to read properly?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And has that, as it were, held you back in life do you  
17 think?

18 A. Yeah, yes, a lot. A lot of things I don't really  
19 understand, and being able to read and things like that,  
20 so it is holding me back.

21 Q. You say you have flashbacks?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. What flashbacks do you have?

24 A. Just things like when you watch something on telly.  
25 Even in the news, you hear about it and you've got

1 a flashback if you just hear something about a  
2 children's home, and that makes you think and then  
3 you're thinking back over everything like that. Even  
4 sometimes waking up, like the now, because this was all  
5 coming up, I'd basically woke up in the morning, didn't  
6 even know where I was for a wee while because it's been  
7 playing in my head. Trying to run down the stair, and  
8 there's no stairs in my house or anything like that.

9 Q. You have great difficulty in trusting anybody?

10 A. No, I don't trust no one.

11 Q. Why is that?

12 A. Because everybody in my life has let me down, you know  
13 what I mean. The only person I ever trusted was my  
14 mother, but she passed away.

15 Q. You're reluctant to go into the city centre in case you  
16 might meet someone from St Philip's?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Why?

19 A. I don't want to meet anybody from my background or  
20 anything like that, anymore, you know what I mean.  
21 I don't want -- I don't tell people I was in  
22 St Philip's, you know. I don't want to meet anybody  
23 from St Philip's. It was just a bad time in my life.

24 Q. You do tell us, 'David', that you have suffered from  
25 mental health problems, and indeed you have attempted to

1           commit suicide again?

2   A.   Yeah.

3   Q.   Have you had some psychological assistance?

4   A.   Well, I was seeing someone, Lorraine, but she sent me to  
5       a psychologist there -- a psychiatrist, I think, because  
6       I was getting upset and she says I was being psychotic,  
7       and that's the last I've heard.

8   Q.   What you do say is that the psychologist that you saw,  
9       when you told her about your life in care at Calder  
10      House and St Philip's, she said to you 'that was abuse'?

11  A.   Yes.

12  Q.   At the time, I think you thought that -- you just  
13      thought sex abuse was abuse?

14  A.   Aye.

15  Q.   You didn't think you were being abused?

16  A.   I didn't think -- I thought that's the way they were.  
17      That's the way the homes were. That's -- no, I didn't  
18      think -- then I was talking to the psychologist and she  
19      said, 'I need to phone the police about this'. It was  
20      her that phoned the police and they came to my house and  
21      took a statement.

22           So I didn't think it was abuse when I was telling  
23      her, and she says, 'No, that is abuse'.

24  LADY SMITH: Is that because you thought that abuse was only  
25      sexual abuse?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: That's not right, 'David'; do you understand  
3 that now?

4 A. I do now.

5 LADY SMITH: I've heard from people, sitting where you are,  
6 who may have been sexually abused, but abused in other  
7 ways, denigrated, emotionally abused, physically abused,  
8 who've said, in some cases, actually, what was worse was  
9 the name-calling, emotional impact, 'Always being made  
10 to feel I was worthless', that kind of thing.

11 A. Yeah.

12 MR MACAULAY: I think you have been in contact with the  
13 police?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And I think what you say is that you did that again, for  
16 example in 2021; and you're not aware of the current  
17 status of that investigation?

18 A. Well, when I asked them about it again, they said they  
19 sent it to the PF and I said: 'You're not even going to  
20 talk to Mr HWI or anything about it?'

21 And they've said: 'No, there's no point, because it  
22 needs to go to the PF, and the PF says there's no  
23 evidence and no grounds for it.'

24 Or something. That's what he said. The police  
25 never got back to me. I had to go and contact them

1           again. It took me months to get them to get back to me,  
2           and they kept saying -- every time I phoned them up,  
3           they says they weren't in: 'We'll need to wait until  
4           these two officers are back in, who took the statement.'  
5           We eventually tracked them down, and they said PF  
6           doesn't want anything to do with it, basically.

7   Q. I think what you tell us in your statement, that you  
8       spoke to the police in 2018 and then you went back again  
9       in 2021 --

10  A. Mm-hmm.

11  Q. -- about three years later, and you spoke to police, and  
12       I think you said the matter was being -- they told you  
13       the matter was being passed to the CID?

14  A. They said the CID were handling it and then they said, I  
15       think, the Procurator Fiscal. And then they took it  
16       back and said, 'No, nothing is going to happen to it'.  
17       That's all I've heard.

18           They didn't even bother phoning or asking, or even  
19       contacting Mr **HWI** or any of them that are still alive  
20       for their side of the story or anything. Nothing, you  
21       know what I mean.

22  Q. You've also made some attempts to get your records?

23  A. Yeah.

24  Q. How has that worked out?

25  A. Phoned Social Work Department up, and they said to me to

1 write a letter of consent that I want to see my records.  
2 And then they said to me, 'That's good, Mr HUI'. I  
3 handed the letter in and she says, 'Right you can come  
4 up and see them. I'll look them out for you, and you can  
5 come up and see them', when I handed the letter in.  
6 Then all of a sudden, when I went up to see my records,  
7 they says, 'No, they're not here'. I says, 'How are  
8 they not there?' They says, 'They were burnt in  
9 a fire.' And then my girlfriend, [REDACTED], she phoned the  
10 fire department up and spoke to the guy from the fire  
11 department, and he guaranteed us: there was never, ever  
12 a fire in the place that they said there was a fire.  
13 Q. Where was the fire supposed to have happened?  
14 A. It was meant to have happened years ago.  
15 Q. Where?  
16 A. At the Social Work Department. I don't know the street.  
17 LADY SMITH: In the Social Work Department?  
18 A. Yes, the Department ... Bank Street. But my brother's  
19 is there and my sister's is there. So if mine's burnt  
20 in the fire, obviously theirs would have been in the  
21 fire too, they're under the same address. And then they  
22 says, when I pulled them up about that, they says, 'No,  
23 they didn't burn in the fire, we've moved them  
24 somewhere', and then they asked me to go for Panel  
25 reports. And I've asked for them, but I can't find them

1           either. All my reports have gone. I'm meant to be --  
2           I was in social work care. Obviously, the Social Work  
3           Department's went: 'no, you weren't'.

4           So, basically, I wasn't in St Philip's, I wasn't  
5           there. I wasn't -- there's no reports on me at all.  
6           They've all been destroyed, but they've got my sister's,  
7           my brother's, but not mine.

8   Q. Am I right in thinking that your sisters and brother did  
9           not go into care?

10 A. No. My brother had a different social worker. There  
11           was only me and my bigger sister who had Patrick  
12           McCluskey, the rest of them had a different social  
13           worker, but all their cases and all their files should  
14           be in one place in that house, and mine's has  
15           disappeared.

16 Q. But you are anxious to see your records?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you explain why it's important to you?

19 A. Because I want to know why they put me in Calder House.  
20           I wasn't even off school that much, and the things in  
21           the family... but then it was just tough and hard, you  
22           know what I mean.

23           I just want to know a reason why. Why did you just  
24           stick me into a List D School? Could you not have put  
25           me in somewhere else, instead of putting me in St



1 Philip's, or a List D School, something like that?

2 I didn't do anything wrong. I was only a kid, you know  
3 what I mean. I just want to ask the question: why?

4 Q. I may have asked you this before, but in relation to  
5 Calder House. In relation to St Philip's, the other  
6 children that were there when you were there; had some  
7 of them, at least, committed criminal offences?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Were there other children there who were there, as far  
10 as you're aware, because they'd been missing school?

11 A. In Calder House or St Philip's?

12 Q. In St Philip's.

13 A. I think so.

14 Q. Then there is a section in your statement, 'David',  
15 where you talk about lessons to be learned, and  
16 I'll just read that:

17 'There should have been more checks made on the  
18 staff looking after the children. There should have  
19 been better education provided by those looking after  
20 us.'

21 So you talk about checks on staff, and education?

22 A. Yeah, because when I was in Calder House, they didn't  
23 have a school for me. When I was in Mitchell Street,  
24 they didn't have a school for me. They didn't take me  
25 to a school. So any times I was off or in there, we

1 didn't -- I didn't have any education. They just put me  
2 behind more when I went back to school.

3 Q. You go on to say, at paragraph 112:

4 'I know that if I had not been sent to Calder House,  
5 I would have had a much better life and I would not have  
6 been in trouble with the courts.'

7 A. Definitely. I still say that.

8 LADY SMITH: Are you saying that because that was the  
9 beginning of everything that followed?

10 A. That's why I want to know why they put me in there.

11 MR MACAULAY: Because you say that you never caused any  
12 trouble before you were in care?

13 A. Never. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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19 And then, when I went into St Philip's, they were  
20 showing me how to do things, how to do that, and that --  
21 that's just the way it was.

22 Q. You do get a sort of education in St Philip's?

23 A. Aye. A criminal one.

24 Q. A criminal one. You say:

25 'The only reason I was sent into care was because

1 I was missing school as my father was ill. I hope the  
2 Inquiry stops other kids being put in the same  
3 position.'

4 A. Definitely.

5 Q. That is your hope for the Inquiry?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Those are all the questions I want to ask you, 'David'.  
8 Is there anything else you would like to say at this  
9 moment?

10 A. No, I'm fine. Okay.

11 MR MACAULAY: Very well.

12 Can I just thank you then for coming and answering  
13 all my questions.

14 My Lady, I can confirm that no questions have been  
15 submitted to me to put to 'David'.

16 LADY SMITH: 'David', let me add my thanks. It's been  
17 really helpful to hear from you yourself about your time  
18 at St Philip's, and before that. It's brought it to  
19 life, perhaps not in a good way in many respects, but  
20 it's of real value to the work we're doing here and  
21 I'm grateful to you for that.

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go.

24 A. Okay. Thank you.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, perhaps we could have a short break,  
2 and we're moving on to read-ins now.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes. Let's do that.

4 (10.56 am)

5 (A short break)

6 (11.03 am)

7 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

8 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'll read in the statement of  
9 an applicant who wishes to use the pseudonym 'Terry'.  
10 The statement can be found at WIT.001.001.6293:  
11 'Terry' (read)

12 MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Terry'. I was born in 1964. I  
13 have eight siblings. I am the youngest. None of my  
14 brothers and sisters were ever in care.

15 'I grew up in Clydebank with my parents and  
16 siblings. I was one of those kids who thought I knew  
17 best. I missed school constantly. My parents tried  
18 their best, but I was a thief and I didn't go to school.

19 'I went to the Children's Panel a couple of times  
20 and I remember the Children's Reporter, a Mr Knox,  
21 saying it would be good for me to go into care. It was  
22 1972 and I was eight years old.'

23 My Lady, the witness was sent to St Ninian's,  
24 Gartmore, which was run by the De La Salle Brothers and  
25 that evidence from paragraph 5 to 42 of the statement

1 has already been read in to the transcript during  
2 Chapter 2 of this Phase of the Inquiry. That was  
3 Day 411, 23 January 2024. I'll move to paragraph 43,  
4 where the witness starts providing evidence in relation  
5 to St Philip's:

6 'I left St Ninian's in 1976, roughly. I was 11 or  
7 12 years old by this time. I was released home and  
8 I went to secondary school for a couple of weeks.  
9 I don't know why I was released from St Ninian's.

10 'Things just carried on as before. I wasn't going  
11 to school and I was thieving, going into shops and  
12 stealing, breaking into shops, breaking into people's  
13 houses. As I said, I didn't have any friends my age, so  
14 I mucked about with older kids and I was very easily  
15 manipulated. Due to this, I went to another couple of  
16 Children's Panels, and through another Children's Panel,  
17 I was put to St Philip's in Airdrie.

18 'St Philip's was another all boys' home. All the  
19 places I was in were all boys. It was a Catholic  
20 institution, but not too religious. It wasn't an order  
21 that ran it, more social work type people, local  
22 authority. The school was within the grounds of the  
23 home, like St Ninian's. I didn't like St Philip's.  
24 I just didn't want to be there. It was intimidating.  
25 I don't know how long I was there, but I wasn't bad

1 because if you were well behaved you were given little  
2 chores to do, depending on how trustworthy you were.  
3 I got to look after the dog.

4 'I ran away a few times with other boys. I stayed  
5 in Hamilton a couple of times and Possil a couple of  
6 times. I stayed at the houses of the boys I ran away  
7 with. I didn't like the regime at St Philip's. It was  
8 more like the police and I'd had bad experiences with  
9 police.

10 'A couple of times when I ran away, I went back  
11 home, and my parents thought they were doing the right  
12 thing and would take me back to St Philip's. The  
13 punishment was getting the belt over the backside while  
14 you were bent over a chair. You kept your trousers up.  
15 This was done by the headmaster. I think his name was  
16 Mr Kane.

17 'But the punishment wasn't fair sometimes. For  
18 instance, when I went to hospital to get my appendix  
19 out, I was at home for a week after the operation. When  
20 I returned, I got the belt for absconding. I'd been in  
21 hospital.

22 'The only notable thing that happened at St Philip's  
23 was that I got my appendix out when I didn't need to.  
24 I was constipated but was just too embarrassed to say,  
25 and as time went on I got too scared to say anything, so

1 I was getting stomach pains and I got my appendix out.

2 'It got to the stage that St Philip's didn't want me  
3 there anymore as I kept running away. So on one  
4 occasion when I absconded, they didn't want me back.  
5 St Philip's were sick of me so I was sent to Bellfield  
6 Detention Centre.'

7 The witness provides evidence in relation to  
8 Bellfield between paragraphs 52 and 54. That evidence  
9 has also been read in to the Inquiry, my Lady, on  
10 Day 458, on 4 July 2024.

11 Between paragraphs 55 and 74, the witness speaks  
12 about his time at St Mary's in Bishopbriggs. I'll move  
13 on to paragraph 75:

14 'When I reached 16, it was time to go. I left  
15 St Mary's and I went back home to live with my parents,  
16 but it didn't last long, maybe about six months, maybe  
17 less. I tried to join the army, but I was told that my  
18 test results were the worst that the recruitment office  
19 had ever seen. I then tried to get a job and went on  
20 a couple of government placements.

21 'I left my parents and stayed with one of my older  
22 sisters for a while, but I was getting drunk, taking  
23 drugs and had the police coming to her house. I had to  
24 leave due to my lifestyle.

25 'Alcohol helped. It helped with my anger. At 16 or

1 17, I'd get a wee carry out, go down to the local  
2 school, get drunk, break a few windows, kick in a few  
3 doors. When I was 18 and went to pubs, I'd get drunk and  
4 get into fights. It was hard for my family, coming home  
5 drunk or the police coming to the door at 5.00 or 6.00  
6 in the morning as I was in a cell for fighting or  
7 stealing.

8 'I stayed with another sister for a while and then  
9 got my own council flat, but I wrecked it. I left and  
10 went down south, where I lived rough for a while. When  
11 I came back up the road, I got into a bit of trouble  
12 fighting with football supporters.

13 'The turning point in my life was the birth of my  
14 boy. I didn't want kids, but it happened. It was  
15 a relationship of convenience. I was running out of  
16 places to go.

17 'My alcohol days are gone. I still take cannabis.  
18 It keeps me calm.'

19 In relation to impact, the witness provides evidence  
20 in relation to that, and I'm just going to read out  
21 a couple of those paragraphs, from paragraph 83:

22 'I felt as though I didn't deserve to be put into  
23 care, and there are things that happen to you as a kid  
24 that you don't think you'd take with you, but you do.  
25 My mum was dying, breaking her heart, and I couldn't



1           cuddle her. It's very hard. I can't cuddle my sisters.  
2           I hate being cuddled. I hate shaking hands. That's  
3           what it does to you.

4           'Every now and again, you think about the time in  
5           care, it rears its head. When I see media campaigns, it  
6           pops up. When I saw a programme on TV about a boy who  
7           had been abused, I was sitting with my sister and  
8           I said, "That was me, that was me".'

9           Moving to paragraph 94, the witness says:

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

14          'Terry' signed the statement on 25 May 2017.

15   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16   MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is another applicant. He is  
17          Francis McCourt and his statement is at WIT-1-000001251.

18                               Francis McCourt (read)

19   MR MACAULAY: He was born on [REDACTED] 1975. It is the  
20          case that a significant part of his statement has  
21          already been read in, in Chapter 4. That was on  
22          Day 429. The transcript reference is TRN-12-000000061,  
23          and that was on 26 March 2024.

24          So he starts looking at his life before going into  
25          care. As I say, that has been already considered.

1           Because his mother had gone to Germany to work, his  
2           grandparents bore the brunt of looking after him, and he  
3           remembers his childhood, early childhood, as being  
4           happy, but his grandmother died when she was 45, in  
5           1986, which meant that the grandfather was left with  
6           a number of children to care for.

7           The police became involved because he wasn't  
8           attending school, and that's what got him into the  
9           Children's Hearing System.

10          At paragraph 9, he tells us about going to  
11          Larchgrove when he was about 11 years of age. That's  
12          been already read in.

13          Then, moving on to paragraph 15, he talks about his  
14          time at St Philip's. The records tell us that he went  
15          there on 16 December 1986, when he would still be  
16          11 years of age.

17          Indeed, he begins by telling us:

18                 'I went there when I was 11 years old, in 1986.  
19                 I was there for three years, so I would have left in  
20                 approximately 1989.'

21          He goes on to tell us:

22                 'I think St Philip's was run by the Catholic Church  
23                 for the Council. It was an open school and you could  
24                 walk in and out.'

25          At 16:

1           'The dorms, kitchen and dining hall were all in the  
2           main building. The classrooms were mostly in separate  
3           portacabin-type buildings, with a little bit of the  
4           school in the main building. Separately, there was  
5           a yard. There was a big mansion within the grounds,  
6           where the headmaster would stay. St Philip's is all  
7           totally different now.'

8           I think we know that from the previous evidence:

9           'I am aware that the main building at St Philip's  
10          has been flattened and they have rebuilt a secure unit  
11          in its place. I believe the house where the headmaster  
12          lived is still within the grounds.'

13          He goes on to say:

14          'I have fond memories of the staff at St Philip's.  
15          There were two residential staff members on shift per  
16          each unit at any one time. These two staff members  
17          would oversee up to 30 boys. At night there was a  
18          nightwatchman who would work on his own. He would sit  
19          on his chair in the hall, with a coffee and his fags,  
20          and watch who was going to the toilet and so on.

21          'Mr Kane was the headmaster. He stayed in a big  
22          mansion house within St Philip's grounds. He either  
23          owned a lot of the surrounding land or the land and  
24          house came with the job. He lived in his house with his  
25          daughters and his dogs.'

1           He mentions his key worker throughout my time there:

2           'He is still a friend to this day. He was a good  
3           guy. All my family have met him.'

4           At 24, he talks about the children at St Philip's,  
5           and he says:

6           'Children were split into three units called  
7           Mallaig, Morar and a unit that sounds like Loch  
8           Islach -- [I think that's Loch Islay.] I was in Loch  
9           Islach throughout my time in St Philip's. There were  
10          between 20 and 30 boys in each unit, so there could have  
11          been as many as 90 boys in total at St Philip's.

12          'The age range was between eight or nine and sixteen  
13          years old. It was pretty much all boys from Glasgow.  
14          I wasn't the only boy in St Philip's who had been placed  
15          there purely because they had been dogging school.'

16          He goes on to provide some information about the  
17          routine.

18          At paragraph 30, he says:

19          'The food was brilliant and freshly cooked every  
20          day.'

21          At 31:

22          'I remember, if you wanted extra pocket money, you  
23          could help the women out in the kitchen by doing things  
24          like peeling potatoes.'

25          Schooling, he talks about at paragraph 34:

1           'The school was Catholic and it was on site. It was  
2           a normal school and structured like what I had  
3           experienced before. There was science, English, maths,  
4           sport, art, and all that kind of stuff. I learnt more  
5           at the school in St Philip's than I did at Kerelaw.  
6           They tried in St Philip's to educate you.

7           'They did everything with you. They bred chickens,  
8           ducks and rabbits there, and you could help with that.  
9           There were horses kept in the grounds which the boys  
10          used to help to feed. Every unit had use of the minibus  
11          on rotation each evening. If it was your unit's evening  
12          with the minibus, the staff might take you to  
13          Strathclyde Park, hillwalking or swimming. They did all  
14          sorts of different things like that with you.

15          'You were allowed to smoke in St Philip's if your  
16          parents provided you with permission to smoke.'

17          He goes on to talk about home leave, birthdays and  
18          Christmas:

19          'If you were in the home for your birthday, it was  
20          just a normal day. You might have a phone call from  
21          your family or get sent a card with money. I was lucky  
22          and got home for Christmas and New Year every year I was  
23          there.'

24          There is a section then, on the next page, headed:

25          'Visits, Inspections and Review.'

1           At 40, he says:

2           'I had three social workers during my time in care.  
3           They tended to work with me for a couple of years before  
4           moving on and being replaced by someone else. My first  
5           social worker [and he names his social workers] ... they  
6           all worked out of the social work office in Barlanark on  
7           Bressay Road before it got shut down. They would come  
8           to visit, but I also saw them after times I ran away.  
9           Sometimes I would get fed up whilst on the run and just  
10          walk into their social work office in Barlanark.

11          'There were loads of Children's Hearings held either  
12          at Mackenzie House or on Albion Street in Glasgow.  
13          I used to get taken back and forth to those hearings by  
14          staff and social workers. During those hearings, the  
15          Panel would just continue the section 41(b) order, or  
16          whatever it was called.

17          'I never saw anyone coming in from the outside to  
18          inspect St Philip's. There was nothing like that during  
19          my time there. That was the same for all the homes that  
20          I was in.'

21          He goes on to say that he didn't realise that he was  
22          going to be in St Philip's for three years when he first  
23          went there. He talks about there being a matron who  
24          would deal with you if you were ill or injured.

25          Then, running away:

1           'For the first wee while it all worked out fine.  
2           I needed to find my bearings. However, I was sussing  
3           out how to get back to Barlanark at the same time.  
4           I spoke to the other boys and discovered that there were  
5           ways to get out, which the boys called "the five paths".  
6           Those escape routes had been passed down from one boy to  
7           the next for generations. Following any of those five  
8           paths got you to Airdrie train station. Airdrie station  
9           was probably roughly about two-and-a-half hours' walk  
10          from Barlanark. You could be back in Glasgow in  
11          30 minutes if you took the train. The staff all knew  
12          about the five paths, so as soon as you ran away, they  
13          would position themselves ready to jump out and try and  
14          catch you. It was all a game of cat and mouse.

15          'I started running away again after a short time at  
16          St Philip's. At the start it was all about running away  
17          to get to my grandfather's house. I was running away  
18          with other guys to other communities as things  
19          progressed. I started to change as a person as  
20          I learned more from the other boys about crime and glue  
21          sniffing. I remember meeting a couple of boys from the  
22          Blackhill area, and hanging about in the east end of  
23          Glasgow with them. I would disappear for two or three  
24          weeks at a time. Sometimes I might be away for as long  
25          as a couple of months at a time.'

1           At paragraph 49, he says:

2           'My exposure to crime whilst I was running away  
3 ended up with me getting more seriously involved with  
4 the police. I was being charged with lots of things,  
5 but I didn't really care. I knew I wasn't going to end  
6 up in jail. The worst they could do was send me back to  
7 the home for the level of criminality I was doing.  
8 Nothing really happened with the charges because of  
9 that.'

10          Then, at paragraph 52, under the heading:

11          'Discipline and abuse.'

12          He says:

13          'I had a brilliant time at St Philip's. I have fond  
14 memories of my time and the people there. I never saw  
15 any children being restrained. There was nothing like  
16 that during my time there. I think we all kind of knew  
17 not to take things too far because the staff were so  
18 good. The staff would intervene if they saw fights  
19 breaking out because the boys -- didn't do anything  
20 beyond that.

21          The only form of discipline the staff used was  
22 keeping in boys over the weekends or delaying weekend  
23 leave if they misbehaved. Any messing about would end  
24 up with them taking away your weekend leave or saying  
25 that you weren't getting home until the Saturday. That



1 worked for a lot of the boys. I remember being kept in  
2 over the weekend on a couple of occasions for reasons  
3 other than running away. On one occasion, I'd got into  
4 a fight with a boy and that was my punishment.

5 'It was the running away that led me being moved to  
6 another institution. That was the only reason I was  
7 taken out of St Philip's. The number of times I ran  
8 away increased over time. There were times when I would  
9 behave and not run away. I would build up all that for  
10 a couple of months, then just do something stupid.  
11 I'd go glue sniffing, get hold of alcohol or go out with  
12 someone who was up to no good. One of the last times  
13 I ran away from St Philip's, I ran away with a couple of  
14 boys and ended up down in Blackpool. I was away for two  
15 weeks and my family was worried sick about me.'

16 Against that background, the Panel decide:

17 'St Philip's wasn't cutting it for me anymore and  
18 I would be transferred to Kerelaw.'

19 At 56, he says:

20 'Nobody was expecting that decision to be made. I  
21 was in a daze and didn't know what was going on. My  
22 aunties were the same way. I know that the social  
23 worker had no idea that I was going to be sent somewhere  
24 else when that decision was made. He would have told me  
25 if he knew that I was going to be taken away.'

1 He was crying:

2 'The two of us were distraught because we couldn't  
3 believe what was happening. I remember the social  
4 worker saying to me that he'd tried to warn me that  
5 I would be taken away if I didn't behave.'

6 And that, my Lady, if one goes on to paragraph 59,  
7 is the background to him being sent to Kerelaw. He  
8 would have been aged 13 at the time, and that's all been  
9 looked at in Chapter 4.

10 That would then take me to paragraph 162, when he  
11 tells us about when he leaves Kerelaw, in about 1991,  
12 and he goes to Geilsland Residential School. Although  
13 Geilsland has been considered, these particular  
14 paragraphs have not been looked at in the past. But, in  
15 short, nothing bad happened when he was at Geilsland.

16 Then, going to paragraph 170, he -- there is quite  
17 a lengthy section from there to the end about leaving  
18 care, and that's all been looked at in Chapter 4.

19 Going to paragraph 57, Francis signed his statement  
20 on 16 May 2023.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

22 I'll stop there for the morning break and then we'll  
23 return to evidence after that, and we'll have a witness  
24 ready to give evidence at that stage, will we?

25 MR MACAULAY: The next witness is due at 2 o'clock. There

1 will be more read-ins.

2 LADY SMITH: Of course. There are more read-ins. We'll

3 just catch up on names before I rise for the break.

4 There were a couple of names earlier this morning.

5 A Mr HWJ, a Mr HWI, and also the name of a man who

6 was a child in care, . Their identities

7 are all protected by my General Restriction Order and

8 they mustn't be identified as mentioned in our evidence

9 outside this room. Thank you.

10 (11.27 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.44 am)

13 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

14 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, before I start the next read-in,

15 I have a correction to make. The last read-in that

16 I did this morning was the statement of 'Terry', which

17 is WIT.001.001.6293. I gave the wrong date of signing.

18 The actual date that 'Terry' signed was 29 May 2017.

19 I think I said 25 May. But, just to correct it for the

20 transcript, it was 29 May.

21 LADY SMITH: Well spotted. Thank you very much.

22 MS MACLEOD: I'll now move on to the read-in of an applicant

23 who wishes to use the pseudonym 'Henry'. His statement

24 is at WIT-1-000001186.

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'Henry' (read)

MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Henry'. I was born in 1975.

I was born and brought up in Glasgow. I had four sisters and a brother. I would describe both my parents as alcoholics. I thought life was easy and good as a child and I never went without food.

'However, I refused to go to the local school. I know I was in some children's homes and I was in Park Lodge. I don't know how old I was at this point.

'I might be getting Park Lodge mixed up with a place I was in in Glenrothes. I was also in Newfield near Johnstonebridge, but wasn't there very long. There were probably other places I was in when I was younger, but they've slipped my mind and I have no real recollection of these places.

'I do recall one social worker arriving in a taxi to take me away, but I refused to go with him until my mum got back from the shops and he was pushing and pulling me to try to get me into the taxi. I think his name was Joe Pontero. I think he took me to Larchgrove, where I was for a short time, then to Cardross for a few weeks.

'Because of the number of places I was in, I get a bit confused about where I was and when.

'When I was about nine-years old, I went to Larchgrove with my brother. I was there for two or

1 three weeks for assessment, then home for two weeks, and  
2 then I went to Cardross Assessment Centre. I was in  
3 Cardross a few times for assessment before being moved  
4 to other places.

5 'I think the first place I remember is St Philip's  
6 in Airdrie. That may have been the place I went in  
7 a taxi to with Joe Pontero. Joe Henderson was my social  
8 worker after that.'

9 Records retrieved by the Inquiry suggest that this  
10 witness, my Lady, was admitted to St Philip's on  
11 [REDACTED] 1986 and that he was discharged or released  
12 from St Philip's on [REDACTED] 1988.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS MACLEOD: He begins by saying:

15 'I think I was around ten years old --

16 LADY SMITH: He would actually have been 11.

17 MS MACLEOD: Yes:

18 '... when I went here. St Philip's was made up of  
19 four units. There was Morag, one that became a staff  
20 unit, Arisaig and McKyloch. There was also staff  
21 quarters where the headmaster and the staff stayed. On  
22 the first day, there was an argument about a teapot and  
23 I refused to do what I was told. I hit somebody with  
24 the teapot and four members of staff grabbed me.

25 'If you got into trouble, you didn't get home at the

1 weekend. Even if I was doing brilliantly in school,  
2 I still wouldn't get home, which was wrong. My brother  
3 was in St Philip's at the same time as me. He was in  
4 a different unit, but there were no restrictions about  
5 us seeing each other.

6 'One of the staff was Mr Clark and another one was  
7 big John Hewitt. My only complaint about him was the  
8 way he would elbow you in the face when playing  
9 football, which I eventually gave up. I don't remember  
10 the names of any of the other boys, but lots of them  
11 were in a lot of the same places as me.

12 'We would get up, get washed and dressed, then go  
13 for breakfast before going to school, though most days  
14 I wouldn't go to school and would just run away.  
15 Sometimes the staff chased me, but other times they just  
16 let me go, as they knew I'd be back. In the evening, we  
17 had some sort of activity and would sometimes be taken  
18 out in the minibus. We were allowed four fags a day,  
19 but it was usually easy enough to get more. It didn't  
20 matter how old you were, you were allowed to smoke.

21 'Sometimes in the summer weeks, most of the boys  
22 would go home, and I think the staff must have rented  
23 the place out because lots of handicapped people of all  
24 ages would stay there during those weeks.

25 'We would all eat in the dinner hall for all our

1 meals, but the only meal I was usually there for was  
2 breakfast before running away. I don't remember what  
3 the quality of the food was like.

4 'I don't remember anything about the washing  
5 facilities because I was rarely there, and spent most of  
6 my time running away.

7 'We would also be taken to the pictures, but I would  
8 jump out to the toilet, then just run away from the  
9 cinema. Sometimes when we were taken out in the minivan  
10 by Mr [REDACTED], he would get us to steal wheel trims from  
11 cars. I don't know what he did with the trims we gave  
12 him.

13 'I can remember where the classes were in  
14 St Philip's, but the only thing I recall of the  
15 education we got was the teacher reading "The Lion, The  
16 Witch and The Wardrobe".

17 'While I was in St Philip's, they made me get  
18 confirmed and I had to take [a particular middle name],  
19 which was my brother's middle name. I wasn't given a  
20 choice in this matter and had to go along with it. I  
21 was never in St Philip's that often because I ran away  
22 almost every day. Every time I ran away and then got  
23 taken back, I would just be told I wasn't getting home  
24 that weekend. When you didn't get home, you would just  
25 sit and watch a video or go out in the minibus.

1           'While in St Philip's, I never had any visitors  
2 either, from the family or from social workers. If any  
3 officials came to inspect the place, then I wasn't aware  
4 of it.

5           'The only thing I recall about abuse in St Philip's  
6 was the needle. I went to see the matron, a wee old  
7 woman with grey hair, when I was grabbed and injected in  
8 the shoulder with a needle. Apparently, it was a BCG  
9 jag, but nobody warned me about it.

10          'There was a punishment they used to do, which was  
11 when you misbehaved, they would take you out of the dorm  
12 in the middle of the night and make you stand in the  
13 corridor for hours and hours. That's all I recall,  
14 other than the way big John Hewitt played football. He  
15 was a big guy with black hair. I'm not making  
16 a complaint about him. It's just the way he played  
17 football.

18          'Staff allowed and encouraged older boys to bully  
19 the younger ones to try and stop them running away.  
20 This did stop some running away, but it never stopped  
21 me. One of them threatened me by saying, if I ran away,  
22 he would kick my head in, but when I got back I just  
23 stuck the head on him and ran away the next morning.  
24 I never got any hassle after that.

25          'I was in St Philip's for about three years, but



1 I would say that I was on the streets for about three  
2 quarters of my time there. Sometimes I would stay for  
3 a week, and I think there was an occasion I stayed for  
4 about three weeks. I don't know why or how I came to  
5 leave, but I think I went straight to Kerelaw. I was  
6 about 13 years old, because I was at Kerelaw for three  
7 years and they kicked me out when I was 16.

8 'I know that, at some point around this time, I was  
9 also in Longriggend for about three weeks, but I don't  
10 really have much recollection of my time there.'

11 Between paragraphs 31 and 46, the witness provides  
12 evidence about Kerelaw, and that was read in, my Lady,  
13 to the transcript on Day 429, on 26 March 2024.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MACLEOD: Between paragraphs 47 and 48, the witness  
16 provides evidence in relation to his time in Kibble in  
17 Paisley.

18 I'll move to paragraph 49:

19 'After I left Kibble, I went home with my mum and  
20 dad for about three months before being arrested again.  
21 I was fully committed to Longriggend, then had  
22 a seven-year sentence followed by a six-year sentence,  
23 which were served consecutively. Most of my adult life  
24 was spent in and out of prison until I was 37. That was  
25 about ten years ago, when I stopped getting into

1 trouble, basically because I began smoking weed which  
2 helped to calm me down. I also smoked heroin for years,  
3 which started when I was in prison, but I'm now off  
4 that. Instead I take tablets every day, which if I take  
5 opiates of any kind make me very sick.

6 'I have never been employed for any length of time.  
7 I find it difficult to explain the impact that my time  
8 in care has had on me. It made me what I am, a violent  
9 psychopath. I've been diagnosed with PTSD. It's the  
10 same with so many people of my age that I know. We all  
11 just moved from one institution to another, and it  
12 continued into adulthood. It's as if we were all on  
13 a conveyor belt.

14 'I would like to think that a lot of things have  
15 changed, and that more things will be disclosed these  
16 days. People working in such places should know how to  
17 deal with children who are smart arses, and not just be  
18 kicking the shit out of them.

19 'I have no objection to my witness statement being  
20 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
21 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
22 true.'

23 'Henry' signed the statement on 30 January 2023.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR MACAULAY: Now, my Lady, this next statement is by

1 'Torrance', and that is the pseudonym he wants to use  
2 for this purpose. The reference is WIT-1-000000828.

3 'Torrance' (read)

4 MR MACAULAY: 'Torrance' was born in 1979. He begins by  
5 providing some information about his family background  
6 and his life before going into care. He says, at the  
7 end of paragraph 2:

8 'I don't have any unhappy memories from my early  
9 childhood.

10 'My mum got a brand new washing machine. It came in  
11 a big cardboard box, so my mum let me and my brother  
12 play in the cardboard box. I have no idea how old  
13 I was, but I must have been not much more than  
14 a toddler. There wasn't polystyrene packing at that  
15 time, so we scrunpled up a whole lot of newspapers to  
16 pretend we were in a boat and the paper was the sea.  
17 After an hour or so, someone came to the door. It was  
18 a woman I now know to be Margaret Gray, a social worker.  
19 She said she couldn't believe the mess in the house  
20 because of all the scrunpled up newspaper. She said it  
21 wasn't acceptable. My mum told her that we were just  
22 playing. This woman was furious. I don't know why she  
23 was there or what her involvement was with the family.'

24 He then goes on to talk about his schooling, and he  
25 says at paragraph 5:

1           'At some point, and I cannot be sure if it was when  
2           I was still at home or when I was in care, but I once  
3           jagged myself with a hypodermic needle which I found  
4           outside. It was in the national newspaper at the time.  
5           I also remember that I was circumcised as a child and,  
6           to this day, I still don't know why this procedure was  
7           carried out. I find it quite traumatic not knowing why.

8           'I am not sure of the exact order of my first couple  
9           of placements. I may have been in Park Lodge first,  
10          then went to another place and then back to Park Lodge,  
11          or I may just have gone to this place and then to Park  
12          Lodge.'

13          He talks about a children's home, and I think the  
14          records show that he went there on [REDACTED] 1989, when  
15          he would be aged nine.

16          He then moves on to a discussion on Park Lodge, and  
17          it may be the case, my Lady, as that is a Local  
18          Authority home, that it may be looked at later on.

19   LADY SMITH: Yes.

20   MR MACAULAY: If I could then move on to --

21   LADY SMITH: You say he went to a children's home in [REDACTED]  
22          1989?

23   MR MACAULAY: Aged nine, I think.

24   LADY SMITH: He would be ten.

25   MR MACAULAY: Would he be ten? He would be ten.

1 LADY SMITH: I think he would be ten. That was the  
2 beginning of his time going into care.

3 MR MACAULAY: The records seem to suggest that's the  
4 beginning of his time in the care system.

5 So then, moving on to paragraph 44, he talks about  
6 leaving Park Lodge, [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

7 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

8 [Secondary Institutions - to] his brother went in a different  
9 direction because they were there together and he went  
10 to another home:

11 'I'm not sure why we were separated and no one ever  
12 told me.'

13 Then he's at a resource centre, and that was on  
14 [redacted] 1992. It was really, from the records, for  
15 non-attendance at school, so he would be 13, I think,  
16 by now.

17 If I go on to paragraph 52, this is when he ends up  
18 at St Philip's. And, according to the records, this was  
19 on [redacted] 1992, so again he would be 13.

20 LADY SMITH: Coming up for 14.

21 MR MACAULAY: He himself thought he was about 14 when he  
22 went to St Philip's. He describes the main house and he  
23 moves on to describe some of the members of staff, and  
24 he says, four or five lines down, paragraph 53:

25 'The headteacher, but not from the start, was

1 a Paddy Hanrahan. He came towards the end of my time.  
2 He was a big African guy. There was a manager of each  
3 of the three units. HWJ [REDACTED] was one of the unit  
4 managers. Pat McMillan was the manager of the education  
5 building.'

6 Other members of staff he can remember, and he names  
7 them.

8 At 54, he says:

9 'It was all boys at St Philip's. The age range was  
10 from 10 right up to 18.'

11 He goes on to describe the number of boys and the  
12 units, and we have heard about the units before.

13 At 57, he says:

14 'After being there for a while, maybe around a year,  
15 I was given lots of different responsibilities. I had  
16 helped the gardener a lot, and they must have seen how  
17 well I was looking after the plants and the equipment.  
18 Then I was given the job of sweeping up all the wood  
19 shavings and sawdust after I had finished churning out  
20 baseball bats in the wood shop. The staff often gave me  
21 keys to lock up some of the rooms at the end of the day.  
22 I was the first person to start up the tuck shop. The  
23 tuck shop lasted a while, but people started to break  
24 into it and stole lots of stuff. Every day I would go  
25 over to the kitchens and bring the trolley back with the

1 food for the unit.

2 'I did lots of hillwalking, abseiling and skiing.  
3 I loved all the outdoor pursuits. There was a smoking  
4 room next to the television room, which, looking back,  
5 I think was so wrong.'

6 At paragraph 62, in reference to schooling in  
7 particular:

8 'I don't remember ever being in normal classes,  
9 getting taught maths, English or history. There might  
10 have been cookery and computing. I didn't get any  
11 certificates when I left, but I got lots of experience  
12 in different activities, which I wouldn't have got in  
13 mainstream school. I learned to take people skiing,  
14 along with other members of staff. I took people  
15 hillwalking every week, sometimes several times a week.  
16 I also did cycling, abseiling, canoeing and other things  
17 like ice skating. We spent a lot of time in the Time  
18 Capsule Aquatics Centre in Motherwell. There were lots  
19 of extracurricular activities.

20 'As my time went on at St Philip's, I was given more  
21 and more responsibility. As a result of setting up the  
22 tuck shop and things like that, it was recognised and  
23 this was my reward. Another way of looking at it was  
24 they may have done this to try to keep me out of  
25 trouble. For me, St Philip's was an excellent

1 educational establishment because of all the activities  
2 and this suited me.'

3 Then at 65:

4 'I started to get weekend leave when I was at  
5 St Philip's, so my mum never visited me. I left on the  
6 Thursday night and got the train home. Because I was  
7 regularly doing this and returning when I was supposed  
8 to, I was allowed out earlier as time went by. By the  
9 end, I was going home on the Tuesday for the rest of the  
10 week. My mum was very ill by this stage, through her  
11 alcohol abuse, and she died on my 17th birthday.  
12 I don't recall any visits at St Philip's from any social  
13 workers.'

14 At 67:

15 'I don't recall any external inspectors coming to  
16 check on St Philip's. In fact, I don't remember seeing  
17 anyone at any of the places I have been.'

18 He goes on to say, at 68:

19 'I didn't have any contact with my sisters when  
20 I was at St Philip's. They were all much older and had  
21 their own children by that time. Because my brother was  
22 in a different establishment, I never had any contact  
23 with him. I was never given the opportunity to phone  
24 him.

25 'Some of the staff at St Philip's were good and some



1           were nasty. In my time at St Philip's, I just felt  
2           there was no support. GLM was nightshift and he  
3           used to shout and swear at us to get to our beds. He  
4           would also hit us.

5           'There was a lot of fighting in St Philip's.  
6           Sometimes it would start off being playful, but often it  
7           turned violent. When it turned really violent, windows  
8           were getting smashed and people were getting hurt by the  
9           furniture getting thrown about. This happened quite  
10          a lot. This wasn't just the children; the staff did  
11          this too.

12          'Some of the staff were real bullies. I was heavily  
13          restrained by staff, and they just did it to break my  
14          temper. They did it to others too. If they were  
15          restraining me by bending my fingers, or pushing my arm  
16          up my back, they didn't hold back and you knew you were  
17          being restrained. It was a karate move that they used  
18          to get you down to the ground. If you did something  
19          they didn't like, or if you didn't do what you were  
20          told, they would restrain you. There was usually  
21          a reason they would do it and, if it was for something  
22          more serious, they would react more seriously. Being  
23          restrained happened quite regularly to me and I saw it  
24          happening all the time to other children. There was  
25          rarely a day went by without someone getting restrained,

1           whether it was in my unit or one of the other units.

2           'There were regular, what could be called "riots",  
3           in St Philip's. I remember sitting outside the unit one  
4           day when the base of a bed came flying through a window.  
5           Sometimes it was a chair that was thrown through the  
6           windows. This seemed to happen quite a lot.

7           'There was a boy who died at St Philip's after  
8           buzzing a fire extinguisher through the sleeve of his  
9           jacket. I vaguely remember this happened when I was  
10          there, but I don't remember much else about it. There  
11          was another boy who regularly buzzed the petrol from the  
12          grass strimmer.'

13          I never told anyone about St Philip's. I got into  
14          bother when I was at St Philip's and there was a court  
15          order granted which put me on a bail order, which said  
16          I had to stay there for an extra year. This meant  
17          I couldn't leave in 1995, when I was 16.

18          'Towards the end of my time at St Philip's, I became  
19          involved with an aftercare group. This was in 1996,  
20          when I was 17. This group subsequently moved premises.

21          'Nobody at St Philip's tried to teach me how to  
22          cook, budget with money or in any way look after myself.

23          'When I left care, I felt that I wasn't prepared for  
24          life. As a result, I became involved in a number of  
25          support groups for children leaving care.'

1           He lists these groups and discusses groups in  
2           subsequent paragraphs.

3           At paragraph 81:

4           'I would still have been 17 when I left care and  
5           I went to live with my mum. She died very soon after  
6           I got home. I went to stay with my older brother for  
7           a while, but I didn't really get on with him. After  
8           that, I lived in various homeless accommodations around  
9           Glasgow until I found my feet living in the James  
10          Shields Project, where there were 30 rooms of drug  
11          addicts. I was around 24 or 25 by this time. After  
12          there, I'm not actually sure where I went.

13          'I worked in a few clothes shops for a short while,  
14          then I started my own business as a removal firm.  
15          Because I was caught drunk driving, the police took my  
16          van off me and that was the end of my business.'

17          He has been in his current house since 1999.

18          He then goes on to talk about the impact. At 83, he  
19          tells us that:

20          'I suffer from anxiety and depression. I couldn't  
21          write down a list of everything I was going to tell the  
22          Inquiry in this statement, as it was becoming too much  
23          for me. Glasgow City Chambers has a massive  
24          stained-glass window, and I have always wanted to fire  
25          marbles through it because of all the pain and suffering

1           that they put me through by putting me in care and the  
2           way that I was treated. In time, they can sell that  
3           building, but they can't change what they did to me in  
4           care.

5           'My memories from growing up are sometimes quite  
6           vague. I'm not sure if this is because of my addiction  
7           over the years to alcohol, or if it is my own brain  
8           protecting me and blanking things out. I have never  
9           been that close to my sisters or my older brother. They  
10          are all older than me and, because I didn't grow up with  
11          them, they now have their own lives. It has only been  
12          recently, in the last weeks, that I have been talking to  
13          them, but I was drunk and basically I fell out with them  
14          in a big way. I am not close to any of my siblings.  
15          They weren't there for me when I was in care and now  
16          they treat me like I am a silly young boy.

17          'I don't have any friends. I had some friends, but  
18          they owe me money and are into drugs. I don't want  
19          friends like that. I have no doubt that my inability to  
20          make friends stems from my time in care. I haven't had  
21          anyone in my house in the last ten years. The last time  
22          I had two people in my house, ten pounds went missing.  
23          I don't trust people and I don't know who I can and  
24          can't trust.

25          'I have virtually no educational qualifications

1 because of my time in care. The education provided was  
2 poor. At St Philip's, I spent a lot of my time in the  
3 woodwork department just churning out baseball bats. It  
4 was only when I got involved with [REDACTED] that I got  
5 a SCOTVEC qualification.'

6 At 87, at the end, he says:

7 'I relive moments of my time in care every day.  
8 I thought about it yesterday and it will be there again  
9 tomorrow and the day after.'

10 He then goes on to talk about his drinking, how he  
11 found it difficult to keep a job and, at 90, to say:

12 'I have been in Barlinnie Prison three times. Each  
13 time it was because of alcohol, and the three sentences  
14 were for two months and were for assault or a police  
15 assault. I have also been banned three times for drink  
16 driving.'

17 In the next section, he makes some comments about  
18 treatment and support.

19 At 91, he says:

20 'I have tried to stop drinking alcohol.'

21 And he goes on to tell us about a group that he  
22 joined for that purpose.

23 He goes on to say, at 92:

24 'I have been to six or seven Alcoholics Anonymous  
25 meetings, but I just feel that I get humiliated at these

1 meetings. They asked for donations afterwards, and  
2 I was told to just put a pound in. I did, then someone  
3 asked me in front of everyone else if I was skint. This  
4 made me not want to go anymore and I haven't been back.

5 'About five years ago, I managed to stop drinking  
6 for around a year and a half, which was just before the  
7 COVID lockdown. This didn't happen at a good time for  
8 me and made it really difficult because I was in the  
9 house all the time.'

10 Then he talks about a group that he has been  
11 involved in because he'd had bad relationships,  
12 especially with authority. He thinks that he was  
13 referred to them by the court:

14 'The whole point was to recognise that the person  
15 wearing the black police uniform was not the same person  
16 that arrested me years ago, and that things had moved  
17 on. I had to learn that they were only doing their job.  
18 This was good for me because I had a very negative  
19 attitude about the police.

20 'I have never reported anything that happened to me  
21 in care to anyone in authority. I didn't feel I could  
22 talk about my abuse and tell my life story to anyone.'

23 Then lessons to be learned, at paragraph 97:

24 'There is no support network in place for children  
25 in care. I think there should be someone like

1 a life-long coach, who could keep children updated with  
2 their progress and what was happening in the future.'

3 At 98:

4 'The staff shouldn't have a good cop, bad cop  
5 attitude. All this does is it turns children against  
6 them. The attitude of a lot of the staff was poor, and  
7 they obviously weren't doing it because they loved what  
8 they did.'

9 Then, under reference to 'Hopes for the Inquiry', at  
10 99:

11 'In this modern 21st century society, where  
12 technology has become so advanced, and if there was  
13 an unlimited budget, a brand new system could be built  
14 where you could monitor people at every step of their  
15 childhood whilst in care. This would mean a centralised  
16 computer system with a database which could be accessed  
17 by authorised individuals. This means children can be  
18 followed at every step, and the staff could read the  
19 up-to-date notes on that child. This could include the  
20 number of times they have absconded. This would mean  
21 staff could communicate information quickly between each  
22 other, and also a method that all the regulatory bodies  
23 can use to talk to each other.

24 'Children in care should be given limited access to  
25 this database and could voice concerns or anything that

1           they didn't feel was right. This could hopefully be  
2           done anonymously if the child did not want to be named.  
3           That way the issue would be recorded and actioned  
4           accordingly, openly and not swept under the carpet.'

5           He ends at paragraph 104 by saying:

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

10           'Torrance' has signed this statement on  
11           15 October 2021.

12   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13   MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next read-in is that of  
14           an applicant who wishes to use the pseudonym 'Nick'.  
15           His statement can be found at WIT-1-000000822.

16                           'Nick' (read)

17   MS MACLEOD: 'My name is 'Nick'. I was born in 1984. I  
18           lived with my parents and my brother who is 14 months  
19           older than me. My dad was a self-employed handyman. He  
20           could fix anything. In 1990, a family member was  
21           babysitting my brother and I. My parents were out  
22           playing darts. We were in the house. He woke me up and  
23           left my brother sleeping. He took me to another room  
24           and sexually abused me.

25           'I told my parents straight away when they came



1 home. The family member ran straight out of the house.  
2 Mum and dad didn't want to believe it. They didn't want  
3 to discuss it. They just swept it under the carpet.  
4 The matter was not reported to the police.

5 'My mum didn't accept the situation and the family  
6 started to break down. My mum wasn't happy that my  
7 dad's side of the family wanted it brushed under the  
8 carpet. She took me and left my dad. We went to  
9 a homeless shelter for women, then we bounced around  
10 those sorts of places for the next couple of years until  
11 we got a house when I was five years old.

12 'It was really hard for me, especially when my dad  
13 started to treat me like an outcast. I've got memories  
14 of my dad carrying on with my brother, and my mum saying  
15 to my dad, 'Remember you've got two sons'. I didn't  
16 have much contact with my dad after my mum left him.

17 'When it was just me living with my mum, things were  
18 hectic and school was a bit intermittent. I contracted  
19 a virus and I was in hospital for about six weeks. When  
20 my mum and I moved into our new house, we had no  
21 furniture. I slept on the floor with a duvet and  
22 a pillow case filled with my school clothes.

23 'A social worker asked me if I wanted to go on  
24 holiday for a couple of weeks. My mum had a bit of  
25 a breakdown. She had been abused herself as a child.

1 This was respite care and that was the first time I met  
2 a social worker. That was when I went to Clark House,  
3 in Largs.'

4 Between paragraphs 10 and 33, the witness describes  
5 his time at Clark House in Largs, from around 1992.

6 I'll move to paragraph 34. Between paragraphs 34  
7 and 46, the witness describes his time at Newfield  
8 Assessment Centre, in Johnstone, from around 1993.

9 From paragraph 47 to 87, the witness speaks about  
10 his time at Balrossie School in Kilmacolm between around  
11 1993 to 1995.

12 From around -- paragraphs 88 to 113, the witness  
13 describes his experiences at South Annan, Fairley and  
14 Seafield, in Ardrossan, from 1995 to around 1997.

15 From paragraph 117 onwards, the witness speaks about  
16 his time at St Philip's School. Records recovered by  
17 the Inquiry indicate that the witness was admitted on  
18 [REDACTED] 1997, when the witness would have been about  
19 12/ 12-and-a-half.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS MACLEOD: 'I went to St Philip's ...'

22 I should say, my Lady, we don't have an exact date  
23 for when he was released from St Philip's:

24 'I then went to St Philip's when I was about  
25 12 years old. They had taken me for a visit to

1 St Philip's and it looked like a good school. They  
2 showed me round and then a placement came up within  
3 a couple of weeks, and my social worker took me to  
4 St Philip's. I just had a bag of clothes with me.

5 'We first went to the main building. It was one of  
6 the unit managers who met me and we drove up to the  
7 unit. There were three different units: Bute, Arran and  
8 Loch Islay. Arran and Loch Islay were for older boys,  
9 Bute was for younger boys. The three units were all in  
10 the main grounds, but they were quite far apart. We  
11 drove to my unit from the main building.

12 'Going into the unit, all the other boys were  
13 sniffing about, asking who I was. It was like a dog  
14 going into a new enclosure. People asking me where  
15 I came from, things like that. There were about 10 or  
16 15 boys in Bute Unit, from age 10 to about 14. There  
17 were about 40 to 50 boys at St Philip's.

18 'Downstairs was the living room, dining room and  
19 toilets. Upstairs, it was just corridors and that's  
20 where all the bedrooms were.

21 'Because of bullying, a member of staff would have  
22 to take me from class to class. It was the only way  
23 they could stop me from getting battered. The first  
24 chance I would get, I would run away. School was all  
25 right when I was there. If you did misbehave, there was

1 a Time Out building next to the education block. It  
2 would mean five or six men restraining you. You would  
3 end up with carpet burns from resisting them restraining  
4 you. I taught myself how to read and write when I was  
5 on the run, by reading road signs and things.

6 'At the start, they used to take us camping for two  
7 weeks at a time to Loch Morar. Most of those trips were  
8 dreadful as well, because the staff would be drinking  
9 when we were in bed. The staff who did that were HKF  
10 HKF, HKG, HKE and HKH.  
11 HKF would terrorise us and throw us off the  
12 pier and Loch Morar was supposed to be the coldest loch  
13 in Europe.

14 'I didn't have a support worker at St Philip's. My  
15 social worker did visit me at St Philip's. I remember  
16 going to meetings about my behaviour. Sometimes my  
17 family would come for these meetings. They asked why  
18 I was absconding, but I didn't tell them. By that time,  
19 I was emotionally drained.

20 'I can remember going to Children's Panels too.  
21 Every time I got charged with a new offence, they had  
22 another Panel. It was just a slap on the wrist from the  
23 Panel. I never really understood what they were having  
24 Panels for. I never felt like my voice was heard at the  
25 Panels. I didn't have a lawyer representing me at

1 Children's Panels, just the social worker.

2 'Because my mum and dad weren't taking me home,  
3 I started getting weekends to foster parents. I was on  
4 and off to different foster parents. There was one in  
5 Alloa, one in Cumbernauld and one in Bo'ness. I loved  
6 it in my foster placements. I was in a normal family  
7 where I could be a normal kid. I went to foster parents  
8 in Alloa called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They  
9 wanted to adopt me, but my mum and dad put the blockers  
10 on it.

11 'The one in Cumbernauld was an older man and wife  
12 and they were brilliant. One of the boys I grew up with  
13 at school was there as well, but because my mum and dad  
14 put the blockers on them adopting me, it fucked my life  
15 even more.

16 'I had a befriender from when I was in South Annan  
17 as well, all the way up to St Philip's, and he wanted to  
18 adopt me, but my mum and dad put the blockers on that  
19 too.

20 'When I started running away, however long we were  
21 away, that's how long I got to sit on the "Time Out  
22 Chair". It could be five, six or ten hours. We would  
23 be allowed off the chair for lunch and things, then back  
24 on the chair.

25 'Then in 1997, I was 13 years old and I had run away

1 from St Philip's. I was in Glasgow city centre, on the  
2 way to my auntie's house. I was making my own way there  
3 from Airdrie to Springburn. I had met two guys and  
4 a lassie I had seen before. They were in their 30s.  
5 I can't remember their names. I had been in their  
6 company before in the town and, because the woman was  
7 there, I thought I could trust them. They offered to  
8 give me a lift and they gave me a drink of Buckfast in  
9 the back of a motor. That's all I can remember. They  
10 kidnapped me for a week and abused me. Now the two men  
11 are in prison for murdering that woman a few years ago.  
12 When I woke up, the woman was trying to give me water  
13 and I could feel blood between my bum cheeks. I could  
14 see blood on the bed. I don't know where it was that  
15 they took me. The only thing I could remember on the  
16 way there was the smell of sea air. Thankfully, after  
17 a week, they dropped me off in Glasgow city centre.  
18 I didn't make any formal report about it. I did try to  
19 talk to the staff, but they were suggesting I was a rent  
20 boy because I came back wearing new clothes.

21 'I used to get terrorised constantly in St Philip's.  
22 I used to run away to get away from it. After the  
23 abduction, I just wanted to get back. I made my own way  
24 back and a member of staff, HKE [REDACTED], got a phone  
25 call from another member of staff, HKF [REDACTED]. They

1 asked who had been on the run and HKE said that I had  
2 been. HKF [REDACTED] blamed me for breaking into his  
3 house. When the other boys got to hear about it,  
4 I couldn't get any peace. All I wanted to do was have  
5 a bath, but they were all around me and I still had to  
6 do my time on the Time Out Chair. Because I had come  
7 back in new clothes, boys were asking me if I was a rent  
8 boy. You just couldn't talk to these people. No one  
9 asked me where I had been or what happened. I was just  
10 treated as a bad boy. Other times I had absconded,  
11 I got caught shoplifting, so they just assumed that's  
12 what I was doing. Any time I went to my parents' house  
13 and tried to tell them, my dad just handed me in to the  
14 police station, so there was no point going there.

15 'I had a nervous breakdown when I was about 13 years  
16 old and I tried to kill myself. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]  
18 I never suffocated. I woke up in the morning  
19 thankfully. No one knew what had happened.

20 'I didn't want to stay there after what happened  
21 when I ran away, but I didn't want to stay and get  
22 beaten up all the time either. They ended up taking my  
23 clothes and trainers off me to try and stop me from  
24 running away, so I would stash trainers, clothes and  
25 money outside in the grounds. It meant when I came back

1 from running away, I only had to stay there that night  
2 and I would be able to run away again in the morning.

3 'When I was running away, I was committing crime  
4 through the people I was meeting. I was getting  
5 involved in the underworld when I was stealing perfume  
6 and aftershave. I never had a childhood. I started  
7 stealing cars when I was 13 years old.

8 'Another time when I was 13, I was at my cousin's  
9 house in Glasgow. He was smoking heroin. I was in his  
10 bedroom and he was lying sleeping. His girlfriend said:  
11 "Try this". She would have been in her mid-20s. She  
12 gave me a metal pipe and she blew into my mouth. It was  
13 as if all my problems had disappeared. That's what  
14 introduced me to drugs.

15 'When I went back to St Philip's, I was smoking  
16 cannabis. Everybody in the school was smoking it. When  
17 I started taking bits of cannabis back from my cousin's  
18 house, I was making pals. I started fitting in and got  
19 respect. The more I took back, the less I got bullied.  
20 The staff at St Philip's were aware of our drug use, but  
21 it was just swept under the carpet. If they found it,  
22 they would put it in the bin and people would get Time  
23 Out. Some of the older boys had dads who were  
24 gangsters, so I learned about drugs from them. Some of  
25 their parents were drug addicts on speed and Valium.



1 That's where I learned how to commit crime and how to  
2 steal cars.

3 'One thing that stood out at St Philip's was 'Time  
4 Out'. It was a chair behind a pillar against a wall in  
5 the main living room. If you swore you got 30 seconds  
6 Time Out. If you kept going, you would get more time  
7 added on. You had to sit there and not talk. If you  
8 did talk, you had to start the Time Out again. I ended  
9 up sitting in that chair every day. That became a big  
10 part of my life. It wasn't a big part of my life to  
11 begin with, but it did become a large part.

12 'When I first went to St Philip's School, everything  
13 was fine. I went to school. I had a great life. I was  
14 just coming into my teenage years. I joined the army  
15 cadets in Airdrie. I loved it. I was training to be  
16 a sniper in the army. I was in the cadets for two years.  
17 That came to an end because I was absconding so much.

18 'If I was getting bullied at St Philip's, staff like  
19 HKE and HKF would tell me to stick  
20 up for myself. They made out it was my fault.

21 'Certain members of staff used to organise 30-second  
22 square goes between us. One member of staff did that  
23 and he was called HKL. He was on the nightshift and he  
24 used to be allowed to smoke. He would just organise  
25 square goes between boys when he was on nightshift on

1 his own.

2 'Years after I was in St Philip's, I would have been  
3 about 14 or 15, I was out with my parents.

4 HKF [REDACTED], a member of staff from St Philip's, saw  
5 me and he thought I had absconded from somewhere. He  
6 had it in for me because he believed I had broken into  
7 his house. He told me that the police told him that  
8 they found my fingerprint on a concrete slab at his  
9 house. He abducted me and said he was going to do all  
10 sorts to me, but then he thought better of it and I got  
11 back to my mum and dad. My parents contacted the police  
12 but no action was taken against HKF [REDACTED].

13 'I've never made any report of abuse while I was at  
14 St Philip's. They decided that because of my absconding  
15 they were going to put me in a secure unit. When I left  
16 St Philip's School, I went to Rossie Farm School.'

17 Between paragraphs 143 and 154, the witness provides  
18 evidence about his time at Rossie Farm School from, he  
19 says, around 1999.

20 From paragraphs 155 to 163, the witness provides  
21 evidence about his time he spent at Cardross  
22 Assessment Centre in around 2000. That evidence,  
23 my Lady, I understand has already, in part, been read in  
24 during Chapter 7 of this Phase of the Inquiry, on Day  
25 462, 12 July 2024.

1           Between paragraphs 164 and 169, the witness provides  
2 evidence about his time in Kerelaw, also around 2000.

3           Between paragraphs 170 and 177, he provides some  
4 information about his life having been in Kerelaw, and  
5 before going to Polmont Young Offenders Institution.

6           In paragraphs 178 to 189, he speaks about his time  
7 at Polmont Young Offenders Institution from around 2001,  
8 and that has also been read in to the transcript,  
9 my Lady, during the SPS Chapter of this case study on  
10 Day 394, 6 December 2023.

11           Between paragraphs 190 and 191, the witness speaks  
12 about his time at Barlinnie, HMP Barlinnie, in around  
13 2007.

14           I'll move on to paragraph 192, where he provides  
15 some evidence about his life after care:

16           'I always wanted to be a soldier, but I got my first  
17 conviction in 1997 and I got a dishonourable discharge  
18 from the army cadets. That ruined my chosen career.

19           'I have a partner now and she has been great.  
20 I have a house and a dog at home waiting for me when  
21 I get out of prison.

22           'The biggest impact my time in care has had on me is  
23 the mental trauma. It has affected things like  
24 relationships and trust. I don't know how to trust  
25 people. I have tried to get help for my mental health

1 problems, but the mental health services in prison don't  
2 want to label you in case they get it wrong. They don't  
3 want to be responsible for labelling you. They don't  
4 want to take responsibility, so I have had no medication  
5 or anything.

6 'I want to sue the people who were responsible for  
7 my care, because they ruined my life. If they've done  
8 it to me, then they've done it to others. I will have  
9 to see a civil lawyer about that.

10 'I became a stranger to my brothers and the rest of  
11 my family. I'm still a stranger from my family.  
12 I haven't stayed with my mum and dad for more than seven  
13 months since I was seven years old. I blame them for  
14 putting me in care, for what happened to me.

15 'I'm now in the process of setting up my own  
16 security company and want to run that when I get out of  
17 prison. I used to steal high end cars from gyms.  
18 I wrote to Virgin Gyms three years ago with my idea for  
19 secure biometric lockers and they wrote back to me. Now  
20 I have a company designing the lockers. I've got  
21 someone who helps me who has a Masters in Business  
22 Accounts. She has helped me set up an Instagram page  
23 for my security company. I want to set up a charity for  
24 boys like me. I have started writing a book. I will be  
25 the first person to write a book about male abuse in

1 care in Scotland.

2 'My time in care definitely had an impact on my  
3 education. I never really went to school because of the  
4 bullying. I am self-taught. When I did go to school,  
5 I enjoyed it and learned the basics.

6 'I never made any report about the abuse I suffered  
7 in care. Speaking to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry  
8 is the first time I have discussed these things in any  
9 official capacity.

10 'People in charge of children in care need to be  
11 more hands on. They need to be more family orientated.  
12 What would have helped me was having staff members to  
13 talk to, for them not to be the enemy.

14 'I hope that abuse in care won't happen again,  
15 because it ruins children's lives. It is devastating.  
16 I see the perpetrators of abuse in prison. They are old  
17 men now. Eighty-five per cent of people brought up in  
18 care are in prison. I think I heard that statistic on  
19 a course I was on.

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

24 'Nick' signed the statement on 28 September 2021.

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

1 'Patrick' (read)

2 MR MACAULAY: My Lady, this is another applicant, who wants  
3 to use the pseudonym 'Patrick' in his evidence.

4 His witness statement can be found at  
5 WIT-1-000001212. He begins by telling us that he was  
6 born in 1985, and he provides some information about his  
7 family background; a large family, with about seven  
8 siblings. At 4, he says:

9 'Initially life was all right. My mum and dad both  
10 worked. My dad was a bus driver and my mum worked in  
11 one of the sewing factories. I went to nursery, then  
12 a primary school. I was expelled in primary 6 and went  
13 to another primary school for a while, which was on the  
14 other side of New Stevenston in Holytown. It was caused  
15 by a build-up of things and my mum and dad were going  
16 through a divorce at the time. I was about 11 years  
17 old. I thereafter went to high school, and that's when  
18 things really started going downhill.'

19 What he tells us, moving on to paragraph 6, is that  
20 he was truanting and he wouldn't go to school for a few  
21 days:

22 'Or I would sign in then walk out the door again.'

23 At paragraph 7:

24 'I started getting into trouble with the police.  
25 I ended up setting fire to one of the blocks of flats

1 just over from the school and got charged with arson.

2 'I went to a Children's Panel as a result. We had  
3 a family social worker. She was okay, although she  
4 didn't do a lot for me at the time. I didn't think  
5 I really needed much help at that time. The social work  
6 would try to keep me occupied at weekends, referring me  
7 to group things to try and keep me out of trouble.

8 'I kind of lost the plot a bit and was out of  
9 control. My mum couldn't handle me. I went to a few  
10 Children's Panels for getting into trouble and for not  
11 attending school. I was placed on a supervision order  
12 and got my own social worker. She was very good.  
13 I ended up with a drug worker because I started smoking  
14 cannabis.'

15 At paragraph 10:

16 'I attended another Panel, and at the time I was  
17 anti-authority. I roughly knew what was happening  
18 because I had seen my sister go through it. I thought  
19 she was doing better where she was than I was doing at  
20 home, so I wanted to go with her. We have always been  
21 close. My mum and my social worker were both at the  
22 Panel, and it resulted in me being placed in a foster  
23 home for respite care.'

24 He then talks about a short period that he spent in  
25 respite foster care.

1           If one goes to paragraph 13, he tells us about his  
2           time in a children's home. If one goes to paragraph 20,  
3           he tells us when he came to leave the children's home,  
4           and at 21:

5           'They were waiting on a place opening, so after the  
6           planned meeting I didn't move for about four or five  
7           weeks.'

8           He was taken from the children's home to  
9           an Assessment Centre.

10          If one goes on to paragraph 39, he's talking about  
11          his time in the Assessment Centre. He says:

12          'There was nothing that happened there that I would  
13          say was abusive.'

14          If one moves on to paragraph 41, this takes us to  
15          the time that he went to St Philip's. According to the  
16          records, he was admitted to St Philip's on  
17          ██████████ 1998 and that, I think, would mean he had  
18          turned 13 by that time.

19          He says, at 41:

20          'I went straight from the Assessment Centre to  
21          St Philip's Residential School. By this time, I had  
22          a drug worker because I smoked cannabis, and he took me  
23          to St Philip's. He had been at my planned meeting.  
24          I had a good relationship with him and I trusted him.  
25          I was about almost 14 years by this time. I stayed at



1 St Philip's for about 18 months.'

2 He talks about the layout in paragraph 42, and  
3 provides some information about his first day at  
4 paragraph 43, and also into paragraph 44.

5 Then, at paragraph 45, when he's talking about the  
6 routine:

7 'You would get up in the morning about 7.30, have  
8 a wash and dress and go down to the dining room, and  
9 they would give you breakfast. Then you would go to  
10 school. We did art, social subjects, science, maths,  
11 English and computing over the course of the school  
12 week. The school was mixed with some day boys, so at  
13 the end of the school day, they would get taxis home.  
14 The residents would go back to our units and get our  
15 travel warrants and money for travelling, then you were  
16 free to go out for the day. I would go to my sister's.  
17 It took a bit of time to build this trust up so I was  
18 allowed to go and see her during the week. I would  
19 leave after school and had to be back for about 10  
20 o'clock at night. There was a bit of freedom, which  
21 I was a bit surprised at when I got there. Bedtime was  
22 about 10.30.

23 'Schooling at St Philip's was like being in  
24 mainstream school. You would get a full period of  
25 subjects like English. If somebody kicked off, you

1 would only get half that time. That is where I started  
2 to knuckle down and study for exams. The teachers were  
3 brilliant. I got six Standard Grades; maths, English,  
4 social subjects, science, computing and art. I got all  
5 Bs and Cs.'

6 At 48, he says:

7 'We didn't do any chores at St Philip's. You maybe  
8 collected the dishes for the kitchen staff or things  
9 like that, but nothing else. You could make your own  
10 supper in the evening, and you had to clean up after  
11 yourself. That was it really.

12 'I went on holiday when I was at St Philip's. We  
13 went up near Fort William. We were camping for about  
14 five days and went hiking and things. It was a good  
15 experience.

16 'Apart from seeing my sister, I had no contact with  
17 my family while I was at St Philip's. I had visits from  
18 my social worker and my drug worker. The social worker  
19 would come up at weekends and take me out, then drop me  
20 off at my sister's. For all that I got on with him, he  
21 was a positive influence, I continued to smoke  
22 cannabis.

23 'I got on well with the staff at St Philip's and  
24 could trust them to a certain extent. There was  
25 a member of staff called **HKF**. He was

1 ex-army. He was a bit more intrusive. When you came  
2 back in the evening, he would get you to empty your  
3 pockets. Sometimes he would take it too far and strip  
4 search you. He was horrible. He would make you take  
5 your clothes off and tell you to pull your boxers down.  
6 It was like a police strip search. I don't know why he  
7 did this. I think it was just because he could.  
8 I don't know if he recorded this, but I never saw it in  
9 any of my daily logs.

10 'There was a member of staff called HYS [REDACTED] who  
11 always smelled of alcohol. He was constant nightshift  
12 and you could smell it as soon as he came through the  
13 door. All the other members of staff were okay, but  
14 I was known as the "druggie". They accused me of taking  
15 all sorts of drugs and I wasn't. My worst memories of  
16 St Philip's were being given heroin by HYS [REDACTED].  
17 I went back to the unit one night and he was on duty.  
18 I went into the office and he was holding a piece of tin  
19 foil. He said, "Oh, here's the wee druggie". He told me  
20 he only had a little bit left, but the next night he  
21 would give me a good smoke. I didn't know what he was  
22 talking about.

23 'The next night, he gave me the key to the kitchen  
24 and told me to get a piece of tin foil. I thought it  
25 was for a bucket lid for smoking weed. He put a bit of

1 powder on the tin foil and started burning it. I had  
2 just been to the dentist and had a plate put in my mouth  
3 with four false teeth. I had two lines of this stuff on  
4 the tin foil and I was in the toilet being sick and  
5 I lost my plate. I went straight to my bed after that.  
6 This became a regular event. He used to stay just  
7 across from the unit, so I would go to his place before  
8 getting back at night. I was doing this right up until  
9 I left St Philip's, six months before my 16th birthday.  
10 I asked HYS what it was and he said it was cannabis oil.

11 'I don't think other staff members were aware. He  
12 was upstairs in the office on his own during the  
13 nightshift, and because I was going back later at night,  
14 everyone else was in bed. I was 15 years old. I told  
15 my sister and her friend and, unbeknown to me, her pal  
16 told the police in Wishaw. I didn't realise what it was  
17 he was giving me until I went to the doctors. I took  
18 some Valium, and I woke up the next morning and I was  
19 ill, being really sick. I hadn't seen HYS for a day or  
20 two. My sister had told mum and she came to the unit  
21 and took me to the doctor. The doctor told me and my  
22 mum that I was withdrawing. I asked what he was talking  
23 about and he said I had clearly been taking heroin and  
24 was withdrawing from it. He thought I had been  
25 injecting it, but I told him I wasn't. He gave me some

1 dihydrocodeine and diazepam. I don't know if he  
2 reported it to the police, but that's when I found out  
3 that my sister's pal had. My sister had got in touch  
4 with my mum as she was concerned about me. That's why  
5 she came to the unit.

6 'My behaviour had changed when I was smoking heroin.  
7 I wasn't going to see my sister. I was going to see  
8 **HYS**. He would tell the staff at St Philip's that I was  
9 helping him decorate during the day.

10 'When we left the doctors, my mum and I went back to  
11 the unit to pick up some clothes because she said that  
12 was it; I was going home. I took the drugs the doctor  
13 gave me, so I wasn't fit to go anywhere. I spoke with  
14 my social worker. She was aware that my mum had taken  
15 me out of St Philip's. My drug worker had left by that  
16 time.

17 'My mum couldn't handle me. I was withdrawing from  
18 the drugs and stealing. I only stayed with her for  
19 a few days then I was put into a children's home in  
20 Coatbridge. I was on full prescription from the doctor:  
21 dihydrocodeine to help with the withdrawals and diazepam  
22 to help me relax.'

23 I should perhaps say that the records suggest that  
24 he left St Philip's in **██████████** 2000, when he would be  
25 about 15.

1           Then, in the next few paragraphs, he talks about his  
2           time at that particular children's home, and that takes  
3           us up to paragraph 65, when he tells us that a decision  
4           was made for him to move from that children's home to  
5           another children's home. He talks about that in the  
6           following couple of paragraphs.

7           At 69, he mentions being in another, different  
8           children's home, and then, at 72, going back to one of  
9           the previous children's homes that he had been in.

10          If I can then move on to paragraph 74, where he's  
11          addressing his leaving the care system and life after  
12          care, in 76:

13                 'When I left the care system, I was homeless for  
14                 years. Then I went to Throughcare, which used to be  
15                 Connect Care. They were quite good with me because they  
16                 knew me through my sister. I knew a lot of the staff  
17                 and got on well with them. They got me a small flat,  
18                 but again, I didn't know how to look after a flat or  
19                 myself. Throughcare had helped me with my benefits and  
20                 taking me shopping and things like that, so I had their  
21                 support there too. But at the time the first thought in  
22                 my head was going to score heroin, not to go shopping.

23                 'I haven't had a childhood. I have not had  
24                 a teenage life. It has just been a struggle day after  
25                 day, constantly trying to get a fix. You can't do

1 anything if you are constantly sick and have diarrhoea  
2 until you get heroin and feel normal. That has been my  
3 life since being given heroin by HYS . I am still  
4 addicted and still looking for that fix.'

5 At 78:

6 'I stayed with my sister off and on, then people  
7 came through the door trying to rob me and they almost  
8 killed the both of us. They were wanting to steal the  
9 money and drugs I had on me. It was horrific. I got  
10 stabbed ten times, a shattered elbow, my ear was cut,  
11 I got 124 staples in my head and 140 stitches in my  
12 face. This happened when I was about 21 years old.  
13 I have actually had three attempts made on my life, all  
14 to do with drugs. The last one was a couple of years  
15 ago, and the other was a few years before that.

16 'During the last attack, I was stabbed six times in  
17 the chest, one of which was two centimetres from my  
18 heart. I was in hospital on each occasion for  
19 a considerable length of time. After I got the staples  
20 in my head, I had to learn to walk and talk again. I  
21 began forgetting a lot. I wasn't as sharp as I used to  
22 be.'

23 He talks about his relationships in the next  
24 paragraph. And at 82, he says:

25 'I am still in touch with my sister, but I have no

1 contact with the rest of my siblings. It's through  
2 drugs and everything else. My mum is in Ireland now, so  
3 I don't really see much of her. I speak to her on the  
4 phone, but that's about it. I have had no contact with  
5 my dad for a long time.'

6 At 'Impact':

7 'I don't think I would ever have tried heroin if it  
8 hadn't been given to me by HYS . It wasn't  
9 something I thought about while I was growing up. When  
10 I was young, I thought heroin was only injected and  
11 I'm scared of needles. I have never injected in my  
12 life. But it has controlled my life since he gave me it  
13 until now.

14 'It has impacted relationships and having friends.  
15 All my friends are drug addicts. They aren't really  
16 pals; they are just trying to get themselves together.  
17 I couldn't trust any of them. All this has come from me  
18 being given what I initially thought was cannabis oil.'

19 He goes on to talk about his medical situation. And  
20 then, at 86:

21 'I have attempted to take my own life a couple of  
22 times, but it's not the way to go. You've just got to  
23 try to deal with things. I have only had one or two  
24 jobs in my life, but I've never been able to keep hold  
25 of them. It's just down to the drugs again.'



1 He talks about having received counselling.

2 Then 'Reporting of abuse', at 89:

3 'I reported HYS [REDACTED] to the police while I was in  
4 care, but the police never got back to me. I have not  
5 spoken to them about the matter again.'

6 Then, at paragraph 92, 'Lessons to be learned', he  
7 says:

8 'HYS [REDACTED] was a member of staff at St Philip's,  
9 but he started off as an electrician in the grounds and  
10 he became a member of staff. He didn't go through  
11 disclosures and things like that, but now all that is in  
12 place, whereas he got in through the back door. I don't  
13 know if he did any training to become a member of staff.  
14 From what I know, with the staff knowing that he was  
15 coming into St Philip's stinking of booze, he should  
16 never have been there and he should never have been  
17 allowed to take us up to his house to help paint.

18 'I had a lot of hopes and dreams, but they were all  
19 dashed a long time ago. I just hope they can do things  
20 right and look after children properly, the way they are  
21 meant to be. As I was getting older, the restraints  
22 that were used got better and better, so hopefully  
23 things like that will help. There is still a lot of  
24 heroin out there and some kids will get addicted to it,  
25 so I do hope the staff are equipped to deal with them.

1            'If I had been at my mum's and never went into care,  
2            I would never have been allowed to go into Glasgow at  
3            such an early age, never in a million years. I was on  
4            a supervision order and they were meant to look after  
5            me, but I think it was easier for them to let me go,  
6            rather than fighting with me to stay.'

7            At the end, 'Patrick' says:

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

12           'Patrick' has signed the statement on 2 March 2023.

13           LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr MacAulay.

14           MR MACAULAY: That's a bit earlier than usual, but it might  
15           be an appropriate time to adjourn for lunch.

16           LADY SMITH: I think we have made good progress this  
17           morning.

18           Just before I rise for the lunch break, another few  
19           names of people whose identities are protected by my  
20           General Restriction Order: somebody referred to as  
21           GLM , HKF , HKE and HYS .  
22           They're not to be identified as referred to in our  
23           evidence outside this room. Thank you.

24           (12.53 pm)

25           (The luncheon adjournment)

1 (2.00 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod.

3 MS MACLEOD: Good afternoon, my Lady.

4 The witness this afternoon will use the pseudonym  
5 'Frank', and he's a witness who requires to be warned.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

7 'Frank' (sworn)

8 LADY SMITH: 'Frank', thank you for coming along this  
9 afternoon to enable us to take oral evidence from you.  
10 I do of course already have a written statement from  
11 you, which is also evidence before me, and it's helpful  
12 to have been able to read that in advance, so thank you  
13 for it. It's there in the red folder and it will be  
14 available if you want to look at any part of it. We'll  
15 also bring it up on screen at the places we're  
16 particularly looking at this afternoon with you.

17 'Frank', if you've any questions at any time, or  
18 concerns, please don't hesitate to speak up. If you  
19 want a break at any time, that's absolutely fine, but I  
20 won't know unless you tell me that you would like it, so  
21 do say. Or if you just want to pause, that's okay.

22 One thing I do want to make sure that you  
23 understand, 'Frank', is that this is a public inquiry.  
24 It's not a court; it's not a civil court, it's not  
25 a criminal court. But you do have exactly the same

1 rights and protections as you would have in a court  
2 setting, and that means you are entitled to decline to  
3 answer any questions the answers to which might  
4 incriminate you. It's your choice, but if you do choose  
5 to answer them, of course you have to answer them fully.

6 Sometimes people aren't sure whether they're being  
7 asked that sort of question. If that happens, just  
8 check. I'd rather you check than guess wrongly and then  
9 say something that you wish you hadn't said.

10 Does that make sense to you?

11 A. Yes, it does.

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

14 Ms MacLeod.

15 Questions by Ms MacLeod

16 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

17 Good afternoon, 'Frank'.

18 A. Afternoon.

19 Q. I don't need your date of birth, but to give  
20 a timeframe; were you born in 1957?

21 A. Yes.

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

25 WIT-1-000001470.

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

4   A.   Yes.

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

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

10  A.   Yes, correct.

11  Q.   If I can then go back and ask you just a little bit  
12       about what you tell us at the beginning of your  
13       statement. That's just really about how you came to  
14       work at St Philip's School. You'll know that the focus  
15       of your evidence today is going to be about your time at  
16       the school.

17           I think you tell us you yourself left school and  
18       worked in Lanarkshire Steel Works for a period?

19  A.   Yes, I did, yeah.

20  Q.   You also tell us that you drove a forklift lorry for  
21       a company?

22  A.   Yes.

23  Q.   Then was it around 1977 or so that you took up a role at  
24       St Philip's School, in Plains?

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. Were you around 19 at that time?

2 A. I was, yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me, 'Frank': how did it come about that you  
4 got that role at St Philip's?

5 A. Certainly. I got that role through a friend. My father  
6 was a headmaster and in his job he met other  
7 headmasters, obviously, and one was a Mr Kane who worked  
8 in St Philip's and, at that time, my father proposed  
9 that I could look him up and ask him if I could have  
10 a job. I did phone him and then was invited over to the  
11 school one day for interview by Mr Kane himself.

12 Q. And did you have an interview with Mr Kane?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What was your understanding at that time of the role you  
15 were being interviewed for?

16 A. The role was called a 'housefather'. You looked after  
17 young boys' education and their well-being, et cetera.  
18 A lot of emphasis was put on activities and basically  
19 general health, you know.

20 Q. At that time, being 19 yourself; did you have any  
21 experience at that time of looking after younger boys?

22 A. No. No experience.

23 Q. Were you provided with any training before or just when  
24 you started at St Philip's?

25 A. No. No training.

1 Q. In relation to what your job was initially; was that  
2 really looking after the boys on a day-to-day basis?  
3 A. Yes, very much so.  
4 Q. Getting them up in the mornings?  
5 A. Getting them up in the morning, getting them fed, to  
6 school, back for breaks, lunchtime, and then  
7 after-school activities, until bedtime.  
8 Q. In terms of the period of time you spent working at  
9 St Philip's; how long did you work at the school?  
10 A. Can you repeat that, please?  
11 Q. How many years did you spend working at St Philip's?  
12 A. 39.  
13 Q. You started in around 1977, and I think you tell us you  
14 were promoted in the early 1990s?  
15 A. Yes, after I'd been qualified. That's right, yeah.  
16 Q. Did you leave the school in around 2015?  
17 A. Yes, August of that year.  
18 Q. Is that when you retired?  
19 A. It was, uh-huh.  
20 Q. When you started at the school, then, you have explained  
21 that you didn't have the experience of that sort of work  
22 and that you weren't provided with training; were you  
23 given any induction or information to help you with your  
24 role?  
25 A. I was. It was done by the members of staff who were

1           already there. It was a large, new school with four  
2           units, or five units, and only one of the units was  
3           being operated at that time. So there was  
4           a Mr McGeechan, who was a senior member of staff. Most  
5           of the staff came from St Mary's Secure Unit -- or,  
6           I can't remember if it was secure at the time --  
7           St Mary's School. And they came into St Philip's and  
8           operated St Philip's. So, yes, I learned initially  
9           through looking and watching other members of staff.

10        Q. And during your time at St Philip's, I think you tell us  
11        that you were sent on some training courses?

12        A. Oh, very much so, yeah. Not initially, but certainly,  
13        aye, as time went on.

14        Q. You say the first training -- this is in paragraph 4 of  
15        your statement -- course you went on was 'Caring for  
16        Children and Young People', and that was with the  
17        Salvation Army, in Glasgow?

18        A. Yes, uh-huh.

19        Q. So how far into your time at St Philip's was that first  
20        training course?

21        A. That would be about 1988, maybe.

22        LADY SMITH: 1988?

23        A. Yes, I think, if memory serves me right.

24        LADY SMITH: You had started at St Philip's --

25        A. In 1977.



1 LADY SMITH: In 1977.

2 MS MACLEOD: I think you tell us you moved on to do an HNC  
3 at a local college.

4 A. That's right, Motherwell College.

5 Q. Was that in childcare?

6 A. It was, uh-huh.

7 Q. And you then explain that you applied through the  
8 Catholic Consortium to do a Certificate in Social  
9 Services?

10 A. That's right, yes.

11 Q. You qualified in the early 1990s, 1991 or 1992?

12 A. Correct, uh-huh.

13 Q. Was it when you had that qualification that you were  
14 offered a promotion, as it were?

15 A. Yes, it was, uh-huh.

16 Q. Was that to team leader?

17 A. It was to care manager. I think they changed the name  
18 of it. It was team leader and then care manager.

19 Q. So was team leader and care manager -- was that the same  
20 job, or was that --

21 A. It was basically the same job, but the titles changed.  
22 Aye, that's right.

23 Q. Once you had that job, I think you tell us that  
24 regulations came in which meant that, to have that job,  
25 certain qualifications were required. So you then did

1 a further course, I think you tell us, for two years,  
2 a management qualification?

3 A. That's right. In order to be registered -- registration  
4 came in then. If you were a manager, then you had to go  
5 and get a management degree done, you know.

6 Q. So, looking to the set-up of the school itself, first of  
7 all, you give us a description of the physical school.  
8 You describe it as 'a large school set in its own  
9 grounds'.

10 What was the purpose of the school when you arrived,  
11 as far as you were aware?

12 A. To provide care and education for young boys.

13 Q. And was there a particular category of boys, or  
14 different categories of boys, who tended to be --

15 A. All the children who came were sent by the  
16 Children's Panel, and they were assessed at various  
17 Assessment Centres and then progressed to St Philip's.  
18 And they had all sorts of problems, you know, from  
19 truanting to criminal activities, et cetera. A whole  
20 host.

21 Q. So the boys came from a range of different  
22 circumstances?

23 A. Very much so, yeah.

24 Q. And to what extent were you provided with information  
25 about particular boys' backgrounds when you first

1 started?

2 A. They'd come with the social work and their files, and  
3 they'd be assessed by the senior staff, and if they  
4 thought we could do -- you know, work with them, they  
5 were then introduced to St Philip's, you know.

6 Q. When you started in the late 1970s, when you were  
7 working doing the day-to-day management of some of the  
8 boys; did you know what their backgrounds were at that  
9 time?

10 A. Yes, very much so. Yes, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: How did you know that?

12 A. Their files. We had access to files on their  
13 background, history, et cetera.

14 LADY SMITH: Even at the start, when you were just 19 years  
15 old, you were able to get access to their files, were  
16 you?

17 A. The files were there, yeah. It came with them on  
18 admission.

19 MS MACLEOD: You have already told us, 'Frank', that there  
20 were four new buildings or units at that time?

21 A. Four, yes there was, aye.

22 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement that, at  
23 first, there was one particular unit that was full?

24 A. There was a large unit and it became Morar Unit. They  
25 were all named after places up in the Highlands. Morar

1 had a capacity of 20, five dorms of four, and that is  
2 when the first unit started to fill up. Once it filled  
3 up, they started moving to the other units and so on.

4 Q. I think you tell us that it was ultimately full to  
5 capacity after about a year, and that was about 60 boys  
6 in total?

7 A. It was probably longer than that. But yeah, it  
8 gradually filled up.

9 Q. And you have mentioned Morar there; in your statement  
10 you tell us about the other names of the units. Are you  
11 able to recall these?

12 A. Yes, aye, very much so: Lochailort, Arisaig and Mallaig.  
13 All lovely places up the west of Scotland.

14 Q. Would you be all right if I put a photograph of the  
15 building on the screen?

16 A. Sure.

17 Q. That's INQ-0000000874. 'Frank', we're not quite sure of  
18 the date of this photograph; maybe, first of all, you  
19 would be able to assist me with that?

20 A. That is a picture of the secure unit, St Philip's Secure  
21 Unit, not the open unit. The open unit lay to the left  
22 of that.

23 Q. So that's not the St Philip's building that you worked  
24 in at all?

25 A. No, no, it's the one we eventually moved into. I think

1 I explained that, yes.

2 Q. Okay. Thank you.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What was the age range of the boys who were in the  
5 school?

6 A. Primarily, I think between 11 and 16, when I first  
7 entered.

8 Q. How long would they tend to stay at the school, or did  
9 that differ depending --

10 A. It varied as to the progress and their home  
11 circumstances, you know. But I would say mainly a year  
12 to maybe two and a half.

13 Q. You tell us that the school was residential only when  
14 you started but that, over time, day boys started to  
15 come in; can you tell me about that?

16 A. Yes, that's right. Certain day boys were allocated to  
17 each of the units. I, in particular, had three day boys  
18 at one stage, and I think most of the units had three  
19 who came from the community.

20 Q. Did you remain in the Morar Unit, 'Frank'?

21 A. I spent time in all the units. But the majority of the  
22 time, until I was qualified, I was mostly in Morar,  
23 yeah.

24 Q. When did day boys start coming to St Philip's?

25 A. I couldn't be accurate with that, I'm sorry.

1           Probably -- maybe about six or seven years into my work.

2   Q.   We'll look in a moment to the staff who were there, the  
3       headmaster and suchlike; you give us information about  
4       that.  But was there an overall organisation in charge  
5       of the school, as far as you were aware?

6   A.   Eventually, yes.  Eventually the school -- I think there  
7       was five schools amalgamated and called themselves the  
8       Cora Foundation.  And they were all independent, but  
9       there was a Cora body who advised and -- you know,  
10      things must go through them kind of thing.

11  Q.   When did that happen?

12  A.   That would be in the early 1990s, I would imagine.

13  Q.   When you started in 1977, as far as you were aware; was  
14      there any overarching sort of body or organisation?

15  A.   Not to my knowledge, no.  We were in the Strathclyde  
16      Region at the time, rather than all the individual  
17      authorities.  I don't know what that's got to do with  
18      it, but that's --

19  Q.   And I think you tell us, in paragraph 10 of your  
20      statement, that your understanding was that the school  
21      was run and financed by Local Authorities?

22  A.   Yes, aye, they bought into our service.

23  Q.   And were there boys from different parts of Scotland?

24  A.   Yes, all over.  Yeah.

25  Q.   In that paragraph, you also mention 'care plans' for

1 boys, and that that was something that came in towards  
2 the latter part of your time there?

3 A. Yes. Very much so, yes. The individual care plans that  
4 the children have.

5 Before -- I'm trying to think. There obviously was  
6 targets to meet, you know, regarding behaviour,  
7 education, but not as formalised as what they eventually  
8 turned out to be, you know, where every child had his  
9 own care plan, regular meetings -- the Curriculum for  
10 Excellence came in, and Getting It Right for Every  
11 Child, and all that kind of stuff. It was all  
12 formulated, and we very much looked forward to it.

13 Q. So who was the headmaster at the school, 'Frank', when  
14 you arrived?

15 A. Mr Kane.

16 Q. Did he remain as the headmaster for the majority of your  
17 time?

18 A. No, he retired himself about 1999 maybe. 1998/1999.

19 Q. Is that when Mr Hanrahan came in?

20 A. Mr Hanrahan came in, yeah.

21 Q. So if we look to Mr Kane, first of all; could you tell  
22 me a little bit about Mr Kane? What was he like as  
23 a headmaster?

24 A. He was a fierce, fair, firm, strict headmaster, with  
25 mostly the staff. And I think he was ex-military. He

1 had a teaching profession -- degree, sorry -- which was  
2 the difference between him and Paddy Hanrahan, who came  
3 in as a social worker. So things really changed from  
4 that side -- the caring side of things. But, aye, he  
5 was a fair man.

6 Q. In paragraph 18, you mention that he could be quite  
7 'forceful' with staff; I just wondered what you meant by  
8 that?

9 A. Mm-hmm. An example -- a funny example of this would be  
10 where you go down and hear, 'Mr Kane would like to speak  
11 to you'. And you go down and he would say, 'Don't  
12 bother sitting', you know, that kind of thing. You knew  
13 you were in for a bit of a: 'Why did this happen? Why  
14 did that happen?'

15 That was basically it, you know. You feared him  
16 a little.

17 Q. How was Mr Kane in terms of his interactions with the  
18 boys?

19 A. He was well respected, aye, yes.

20 Q. How did he treat the boys?

21 A. Fairly, that's what I'd say. Very good.

22 Q. Was there a deputy headmaster?

23 A. There was, yes, uh-huh.

24 Q. Who was that?

25 A. His name would be Mr O'Dowd.



1 Q. And did that -- did the person in that post, did that  
2 change over time, the time you were there?

3 A. He retired as well, yeah. Most of the staff retired  
4 round about the late 1990s, you know.

5 Q. Did somebody else then take over as the deputy --

6 A. Yes, Mr Harold, Mr Brian Harold.

7 Q. In paragraph 19, you give the names of people you call  
8 'senior staff'. I think you say, Richard O'Dowd, who  
9 you have just mentioned there, Bill McGeechan,  
10 Jim Hughes, George McLaughlan?

11 A. George McLaughlan, yeah.

12 Q. Then you say that there was also -- in each unit, there  
13 was somebody in charge of each unit?

14 A. Well, initially -- I'm trying to remember. When I say  
15 Morar Unit opened up, Bill McGeechan was in charge of  
16 that. He's the one that, if you like, gave me the  
17 induction, you know. And then as the school progressed,  
18 more people came in, and if there were other senior  
19 staff above me, who were maybe qualified at the time,  
20 a degree in social work or what have you --

21 Q. The senior staff -- I suppose I'm just trying -- the  
22 senior staff; did that include people who were in charge  
23 of the units? Would that be the senior staff?

24 A. It's hard to say. Nowadays -- when I left, every unit  
25 had a care manager in it. Whereas, in the early days,

1 every unit didn't have a care manager, but they might  
2 have had somebody who was looked on as an experienced  
3 member of staff, who took that sort of responsibility.  
4 And eventually, before I went to college, you know,  
5 I was that guy. I was the team leader, if you want to  
6 call it that way, and I was getting no extra money for  
7 it, but I was getting all the responsibility for it, if  
8 you want to say that.

9 Q. In paragraph 20, you tell us about Bill McGeechan, and  
10 that he was the person who taught you what to do.

11 You then go on, in the next paragraph, to talk about  
12 the hours that you were expected to do, and you tell us  
13 that you had your normal hours and then you were  
14 expected to do 27 hours of overtime a month?

15 A. Per month, aye. One weekend a month. It was called  
16 'extraneous duties'.

17 Q. At the end of that paragraph, you say 'it was a hard  
18 enough job and there was a lot of stress in it'?

19 A. Very much so, yeah.

20 Q. What were the things that caused you stress in the job?

21 A. 20 boys in the unit and maybe two staff at some times,  
22 and maybe three. And just the run of the mill, the  
23 things to do, the jobs to do and that. Sometimes you  
24 felt you were on your own, you know, but that was the  
25 nature of the job then.

1 Q. When you arrived, 'Frank', being 19 yourself, you maybe  
2 were only a few years older than some of the boys in the  
3 unit?

4 A. Correct. That was to my advantage I think, you know,  
5 because the staff that were there were middle aged, if  
6 you want, and because I was so young, I could converse  
7 with the kids, and they would tell me things, and I'd  
8 get on really well with them, you know. So my  
9 relationship was quite good with them, you know.

10 Q. In relation to recruitment processes, you tell us that  
11 initially you weren't involved in that at all, in your  
12 early days in the school?

13 A. No.

14 Q. But that eventually, following your promotions, that you  
15 did --

16 A. Policies changed --

17 Q. -- partake in recruitment procedures?

18 A. Very much so.

19 Q. And you tell us, in paragraph 26, you say that you  
20 checked references provided, did police checks, all that  
21 kind of thing?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Then you say:

24 'I didn't personally contact the referees, but  
25 I assume that happened.'

1 A. It would be -- happened by the senior staff. I didn't  
2 actually particularly do that. The references would  
3 come in and be checked out by the senior staff at the  
4 time.

5 Q. How do you know they were checked out?

6 A. They would be passed for interview. I mean,  
7 I'm assuming that. I wasn't partaking of it. We just  
8 followed what they called the 'safe recruitment  
9 procedures', which were introduced, you know.

10 Q. Were there by that time procedures about recruitment?

11 A. Yes, aye.

12 Q. Were there documents?

13 A. Yes, uh-huh.

14 Q. Did you see those documents?

15 A. Yes, uh-huh.

16 Q. Were they kept in a particular part of the school, that  
17 kind of paperwork?

18 A. They were in the main office. But, eventually,  
19 policies, the whole policies and procedures of the  
20 school were put in every unit as part of a requirement  
21 from the Care Commission.

22 Q. And the children's records that you have referred to  
23 a few moments ago; were they also in the main office?

24 A. They would be in each office. Each separate unit,  
25 right. Then, eventually, the paper came onto

1 computerised -- and, again, it was in all the units, you  
2 know.

3 And then when a child left, his record would be  
4 stored in the school for 'x' amount of years, and then  
5 taken to Cora eventually to be stored, you know.

6 Q. Do you know where in the school those kind of records  
7 would be stored?

8 A. In the offices.

9 Q. In the individual units?

10 A. Each office -- each unit had an office, yeah, with  
11 a cabinet.

12 Q. In paragraph 31, you tell us that you spent a lot of  
13 your time -- I think you call it 'on the shop floor', as  
14 it were, 'watching': watching other staff and children?

15 A. It was part of my duty, you know, as a senior, I think  
16 I was at that time. Or even an established member of  
17 staff, to say, 'This is a good bit of work there',  
18 'Well done', you know, 'Try this next time'. That sort  
19 of thing, you know, and just looking out and giving them  
20 support.

21 Q. Would staff members on occasion ask you questions or  
22 raise concerns with you, if they had any?

23 A. Yes, they would, aye.

24 Q. And what about boys; did they do that sort of thing as  
25 well? Would they ask you questions --

1 A. All the time, yeah.

2 Q. -- or raise concerns with you?

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. We'll come to look at that a little bit later in your  
5 statement.

6 You mention there that the children had their own  
7 meetings as well. I just wanted to ask you about that.  
8 What did these entail?

9 A. Yes. This, again, was probably after 1999 or whatever.  
10 They had a voice in the school, don't get me wrong, but  
11 it became more formalised whereby, again through  
12 inspectors' recommendations, that we would have the  
13 boys' meeting every Wednesday. I had that particular  
14 role -- they were all recorded and minuted. So, yes, it  
15 gave them another voice, you know.

16 But it was mainly to do with duties within the  
17 house, you know: Can we stay up later? Can we have this  
18 for our suppers?

19 That kind of thing, you know.

20 Q. Were these unit meetings? Were they the boys in  
21 a particular unit?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. So if you were in a unit when the boys were having that  
24 kind of meeting; would all the boys in the unit be at  
25 the meeting?

1 A. Those that were in, yes, aye.

2 Q. Would staff members be at the meeting as well?

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: Who led the meeting?

5 A. I did. I chaired it basically like, you know.

6 LADY SMITH: Did you do an agenda?

7 A. Sometimes the young people were chairing as well.

8 LADY SMITH: Well, I was going to ask that --

9 A. Were you? Sorry. That eventually came round, but it all  
10 progressed and developed through the years, you see.

11 LADY SMITH: Did you draft an agenda for each meeting?

12 A. Yes, uh-huh. The boys -- we put the agenda on the wall  
13 and the boys would go up and write down what they wanted  
14 to talk about, and they had to apply it to the agenda  
15 obviously, and that's how we got to the -- meeting.

16 MS MACLEOD: In paragraph 36, you were asked about policy  
17 and your involvement in policy in the school, and  
18 I think you say that really was something that senior  
19 managers tended to deal with? I just wondered --

20 A. Certainly in the initial years of St Philip's we weren't  
21 involved in that. But, as time moved on and, as I say,  
22 when I became a senior, that's, yeah, policies were  
23 involved in some of that making. There was a Tuesday  
24 meeting, we used to have a Tuesday meeting, where all  
25 the managers would sit down and discuss anything from

1 routines to any policy in the place, recommendations  
2 from Care Commission, that kind of stuff, you know. And  
3 we'd discuss some forward planning, if you wanted to  
4 call it that.

5 Q. You do say when you were the care manager and the job  
6 got more intense and professional, you got involved to  
7 some degree in policy?

8 A. Yes, aye, that's what I'm talking about -- the meetings  
9 we had there. You had a voice, you know.

10 Q. And did those meetings -- if policy was being discussed;  
11 did that lead to policy documents and that sort of thing  
12 being generated?

13 A. Yes, and change, you know, of course.

14 Q. You provide us with some information about the food, the  
15 dining set up; that's at paragraph 39. You say:

16 'The main dining hall at St Philip's was separate  
17 from the four units.'

18 Do I understand from that that boys ate outwith the  
19 units?

20 A. Yes. Again, before the change -- I keep calling it the  
21 change of headmasters -- we had a main dining room,  
22 which was separate from all the units, and each mealtime  
23 we had to take the lads over, feed them and bring them  
24 back to the unit, and then take them to class and what  
25 have you.



1 Q. Are we talking there from your time, 1977 to the late  
2 1990s?

3 A. No, not late 1990s, late 1980s.

4 Q. The first ten years or so?

5 A. Yes, aye.

6 Q. And then did the boys eat in their own units after that?

7 A. Eventually, Paddy came in and started to redevelop the  
8 units, take away the dormitories and reduce the numbers.  
9 And the boys had their own kitchen in there, staffed by  
10 domestic staff, and it was night and day, absolutely.

11 Q. Was that around 1991, when Mr Hanrahan came in?

12 A. Yes, aye.

13 Q. I think you do say, in relation to your initial time,  
14 that it was a skill in itself getting 60 young people  
15 together for dinner?

16 A. Yeah, you can imagine, yeah. Most of them were all  
17 hungry, thank goodness, you know. But, yes, aye, there  
18 were two members of staff on and, again, part of the  
19 skill you had was to sort of -- what's the word I'm  
20 looking for -- just to get on with the kids. It's about  
21 having good relationships with them.

22 There was also, in those days, believe it or not,  
23 the belt was still getting used, so to control --  
24 I didn't want to use that word. But to control the  
25 children, they would -- there was a book they put in --

1       If they were misbehaving, we'd put them into  
2       an occurrence book, and perhaps some of them would  
3       think, 'I don't want my name in that book', sort of  
4       thing. So they behaved themselves, but you need to be  
5       interesting to them as well.

6   Q. When you say they went into the book; was that a list of  
7       people who had misbehaved?

8   A. Yes, aye, it was an occurrence book. Each unit had  
9       an occurrence book.

10  Q. Was there a consequence to being put in the occurrence  
11       book?

12  A. On occasion they would be belted, yes, aye.

13  Q. So if you were put in the occurrence book then -- if  
14       a boy's name was put in the occurrence book; what would  
15       then -- how would it be decided if they were going to be  
16       belted?

17  A. I don't know -- the occurrence book was for good -- all  
18       reports, right, good, bad, whatever. At assemblies every  
19       morning, the book would be read out and occasionally  
20       Mr Kane would say: right, you line up at the wall,  
21       you'll get belted for abusing a member of staff, or  
22       swearing, or misbehaving. General disruption, you know?

23  Q. I will come on to look at the belting in a few moments.

24       You provide some evidence about the showers in the  
25       school; was part of your work to supervise the showers?

1 A. Initially, on the first occasions, yes it was, aye.  
2 There was a big open shower with six shower heads, and  
3 the children, when they came back on a Sunday night from  
4 leave, would go up and get showered. Occasionally, we  
5 would discreetly have a look in, as we were told to do,  
6 as a good practice to see about marks on their bodies,  
7 that kind of stuff, which gave us an indication to what  
8 happened maybe at the weekend, whether they were abused  
9 or something.

10 Q. The showering area; was that an area where there were  
11 open cubicles?

12 A. It was an open shower, like a football team. The  
13 toilets were all closed, but the shower was a large area  
14 with shower heads coming out the walls.

15 Q. So no cubicles?

16 A. No cubicles at that time.

17 Q. There was no privacy there for the boys showering?

18 A. None.

19 Q. So the boys could see each other naked and anybody  
20 supervising the showers could see the boys naked?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You mentioned that boys showered on a Sunday night; was  
23 that the only night boys showered?

24 A. My recollection tells me yes. Sunday night was the  
25 night they came back from their homes, and they'd come

1 back real dishevelled looking, in quite a dirty state.  
2 So Sunday night was, but I'm assuming -- I'm sure they  
3 had a shower any time they wanted, you know, during the  
4 week. But that, as I say, wouldn't be supervised, as  
5 such, because they're in the school, you see.

6 Q. Is your recollection then that it was showers on Sunday  
7 nights that were supervised?

8 A. Yes, that was the main night they all came back from  
9 leave.

10 Q. Those showers were supervised?

11 A. On occasion, not all the time.

12 Q. So what would determine whether or not the showering was  
13 supervised?

14 A. I'm not too sure about that one. I just think if you  
15 had children who were more vulnerable than others, you  
16 know, who were going home to houses, you know, who were  
17 suspected -- we would certainly go up and take a look  
18 and see if wee [REDACTED]'s okay, that kind of thing.

19 Q. Are we to understand that the purpose of supervising the  
20 showering was to see if the boys had been injured in  
21 some way during their home leave?

22 A. Yes. It was a discreet look; it wasn't standing there  
23 chatting away with them and talking. It was discreetly  
24 -- just to see if we could see anything like that.

25 Q. Did you ever see anything on the boys, or about the

1 boys, that caused you concern?

2 A. I think there was one occasion when there was a mark on  
3 a boy's shoulder of a lightbulb. It looked like a  
4 bayonet mark. If my memory serves me right, we talked  
5 to the young person and then we brought it -- they  
6 didn't give us much information and we brought it to the  
7 social work's attention, and they dealt with it.  
8 I don't know what the outcome was. I can't remember.

9 Q. So, apart from that one occasion then; are we to  
10 understand that generally there were no concerns when  
11 you were supervising the showering?

12 A. Not (overspeaking) to my unit, no.

13 Q. Were there classes, academic classes, providing  
14 education within St Philip's?

15 A. Yeah. There was a classroom block, we called it, yeah,  
16 which was all the classrooms. Every subject was covered,  
17 you know.

18 Q. Did you have any involvement yourself in the teaching?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did you have any insight or information at the time  
21 about how boys were doing academically, or whether there  
22 were any issues there?

23 A. Yes, very much so. We had a key work system, where  
24 every boy had a key worker, and some key workers had  
25 three or four boys on their list at the same time, so

1           you were keeping good communication with the Education  
2           Department and it reviews the -- their education was  
3           obviously discussed, to see what they're attaining and  
4           where their problems lay, aye.

5   Q.   Were you the key worker for a certain number of boys?

6   A.   Yes, aye.

7   Q.   Was that throughout your whole period at the school?

8   A.   No, that was initially when I first moved in.

9           Eventually, the school became larger, it had 60 boys in,  
10          and I think I had five at one time in my key work.

11  Q.   Were you a key worker to some boys during your whole  
12          time?

13  A.   No, no.

14  Q.   When did you stop being a key worker?

15  A.   When I was a manager.

16  Q.   Did you ever have any concerns about the standard of  
17          schooling that was being provided to the boys?

18  A.   No, none.  None at all.

19  Q.   In paragraph 56, you tell the Inquiry about a boy who  
20          had been previously a pupil, and that he'd come back, I  
21          think, hoping to --

22  A.   To work as a sessional worker, that's right.  And he  
23          couldn't read or write, and I thought: 'Mother of God',  
24          you know.

25                 But that boy in particular was a frequent absconder

1 as well, and therefore he wasn't there very much, but he  
2 turned out as a fine young adult who was willing to  
3 help, and I just thought that wasnae very nice, you  
4 know, not to -- give him a chance.

5 Q. You say:

6 'That hurt me that one. It made me wonder what we  
7 were doing educationally if we were letting a young kid  
8 go out who couldn't read.'

9 A. It still lies with me, that. Nowadays that wouldn't  
10 happen, thank God, you know.

11 LADY SMITH: Just going back to what was involved in being  
12 a key worker. From the way you described it, it sounded  
13 as though you were the link person between a child in  
14 the school and the Education Department; have I got that  
15 right?

16 A. And the social worker.

17 Q. And obviously the social worker.

18 A. Yes. If there were meetings, for example, the key  
19 worker would write up the reports and gather the  
20 information from the education and then set up the  
21 meeting and talk about the young person in their care,  
22 you know.

23 LADY SMITH: That is quite different from giving learning  
24 support to an individual child.

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS MACLEOD: Did social workers from outside, from Local  
3 Authorities, come in to visit the children?

4 A. Yes, aye.

5 Q. Was that during your initial period and later on?

6 A. More so later on than initially, yes. But initially,  
7 they'd come in maybe every three or four months, or when  
8 we called them in, if there were behavioural issues or  
9 issues to do with childcare.

10 Q. In paragraph 63, you do mention that everything changed  
11 over time, reviews became more regular; that things just  
12 evolved over time?

13 A. Progress, that's right, yes. That happened throughout  
14 the years I was there.

15 Q. Another development, I think you tell us about in  
16 paragraph 66, is the locking of dorm doors at night.  
17 I think you say that initially dorms --

18 A. No, it was not dorms. No, that's wrong. The dorms were  
19 never, never locked. The front doors, to a degree,  
20 weren't locked either. This all came round from the  
21 change -- we got key pads and all that so that nobody  
22 outside can walk into a unit. Basically, it was to do  
23 with -- after the Dunblane incident, you know, where we  
24 had to get fences up, et cetera, et cetera. So that  
25 changed a lot with security.



1 Q. This is a change you are telling us about that initially  
2 there were not locks, but then locks did come in?  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 LADY SMITH: But then what had to be locked was any door to  
5 the outside -- that would give access to somebody from  
6 the outside.  
7 A. That's right. So there was a bell on the door. If it  
8 was an outsider, for example, they would come up and  
9 press the bell. Whereas before they could walk in, you  
10 know. So that was a big change, but the dormitories  
11 were never, ever locked.  
12 Q. You have mentioned the use of the belt already, when we  
13 were discussing the occurrence book, and I just want to  
14 come on to ask you about that.  
15 You talk about that in your statement from  
16 paragraph 71. You tell us that corporal punishment was  
17 allowed when you first started --  
18 A. Yeah.  
19 Q. -- at St Philip's. You say that only senior staff could  
20 belt the boys?  
21 A. Correct.  
22 Q. So which staff belted boys when you started at  
23 St Philip's?  
24 A. The staff that I mentioned previously: Mr McGeechan;  
25 Mr Kane; Mr Hughes; Mr O'Dowd and Mr McLaughlan.

1 Q. And what was the process, then, if a boy was going to be  
2 belted? You have mentioned their name could be put in  
3 the occurrence book to begin with. And from there, what  
4 would happen if they were going to be belted?

5 A. They'd be called out at assembly and belted in front of  
6 the whole school.

7 Q. There and then?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. Which part of their body would be hit with the belt?

10 A. Their hands.

11 Q. How many times would their hands be hit?

12 A. The maximum would be six, I believe. But in between one  
13 and six. It all depends on the senior staff and what  
14 they thought on the occasion, why they were there, you  
15 know.

16 Q. How often was there an assembly at the school?

17 A. Practically every morning.

18 Q. How often were boys belted?

19 A. I don't know. 'Regular' is the wrong word, I think, but  
20 on occasions, yeah, there were boys belted.

21 Q. Are you able to help me at all with whether it was every  
22 day, every week, every month?

23 A. It would certainly be every week, yeah.

24 Q. Was the belting recorded anywhere?

25 A. Yes, it was, aye. I mentioned a punishment book, which

1 I think still exists to this day somewhere in the  
2 archives. The boy's name would be in it, the reason why  
3 he was in it, and the punishment that he got, and  
4 signed.

5 Q. You have already told me that it would be witnessed by  
6 staff and other pupils at the assembly?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh.

8 Q. Would another staff member have to sign the punishment  
9 book as a witness?

10 A. No, that was -- senior staff took that on board.

11 Q. Was it just the use of the belt that was recorded in the  
12 punishment book, or were other kinds of punishment also  
13 recorded in there?

14 A. That was the only punishment they got. Apart from the  
15 likes of losing their leave or not being able to go out  
16 to activities, which was a restriction they had. That  
17 would be recorded in their file in the units, rather  
18 than the punish -- punishment book was only used for the  
19 belting of children.

20 Q. For the belting, you have told me about -- the boy's  
21 name would go in the occurrence book and then they might  
22 be belted; what would lead to a boy's name going in the  
23 occurrence book and then being belted? What sort of  
24 things were they being belted for?

25 A. Fighting, for example. Misbehaviour, absconding,

1 something like that, sometimes. Yes.

2 Q. Were punishments recorded on the child's own file as  
3 well?

4 A. In those days, no, I don't think so. Just that main  
5 punishment book.

6 Q. I think you go on to explain that corporal punishment  
7 was banned?

8 A. In Scotland, it was banned and we stopped using it, aye,  
9 thank God.

10 Q. From that time then, you mention, in 1985/1986; was  
11 there any physical punishment of the boys?

12 A. No.

13 Q. What was used as punishment then? What were the ways in  
14 which boys were punished if they required to be  
15 punished?

16 A. The withdrawal of privileges, mainly. That would be it,  
17 yeah.

18 Q. What sort of privileges would be withdrawn?

19 A. Well, when Paddy came in, we introduced a system called  
20 'status groups', and the boys would be a starter,  
21 a junior, a top junior, and a senior, and these were  
22 targets that the young people would work to achieve.  
23 There were certain goals in each category.

24 If you're doing well, and you're doing well in class  
25 and doing well in home, and that kind of thing, you call

1 a meeting and provide -- we would ask for the status to  
2 be changed of the young person, so therefore they would  
3 move -- to junior first of all. Then there would be  
4 targets set to reach top junior and then there would be  
5 targets set to reach senior.

6 Now, each system had privileges related to it. So  
7 if you were a starter, you'd not much going on, you were  
8 supervised quite a lot, maybe you wouldnae be trusted,  
9 that sort of thing. So there are targets set for young  
10 people to move on and advance.

11 If you're a senior, you had opportunities to go down  
12 to Airdrie, for example, do your own shopping, this kind  
13 of stuff. So every one of the levels was related to a  
14 responsibility the young person could take, which was  
15 really quite a good system, actually.

16 Q. Was the withdrawal of leave home to family -- was that  
17 used as a punishment?

18 A. In the early days it was, uh-huh. If a boy absconded,  
19 et cetera, he wouldn't get home at the weekend. Not  
20 anymore. Leave wouldn't be used as a punishment  
21 latterly.

22 Q. Can I ask you then about restraint, 'Frank'?

23 Looking, first of all, to your early days, the late  
24 1970s onwards; was restraint used at St Philip's?

25 A. Occasionally, yes, it was, uh-huh.

1 Q. Who was allowed to use restraint on the boys?

2 A. Staff. Staff members who were there.

3 Q. Any staff?

4 A. Any staff, uh-huh.

5 Q. Were you provided with any training --

6 A. Not at that time. No, not at that time. When a young  
7 person exploded you just put your hands on and held them  
8 as tight as you can. It wasn't until TCI was invented  
9 and came round that we were trained in positive holding  
10 of young people.

11 Q. When was that?

12 A. Again, it would be in the 1990s, early 1990s with Paddy.  
13 And all members of staff had to do training on it, and  
14 every six months to do more training, so every year,  
15 basically, you had to do your TCI.

16 LADY SMITH: Did you go somewhere else to get the training  
17 or did people --

18 A. It was in-house.

19 LADY SMITH: People came to you?

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Was it outsiders who came to do the training?

22 A. At first it was, and then there were members of staff  
23 who were identified to go and learn how to give it to  
24 our staff, you see. So they came back, once they were  
25 trained as TCI -- what's the word I'm looking for --

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 A. -- well, capable of TCI training. They would train the  
3 rest of the staff.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS MACLEOD: Were boys on occasion injured in the process of  
6 restraint?

7 A. I can't remember. There was certainly a lot of  
8 complaints came out from young people about how -- the  
9 way they were held and that kind of stuff, you know.  
10 And injuries... I'm not too sure. I can't remember that  
11 one.

12 Q. Did you witness what you would describe as 'excessive  
13 restraint' being used on boys?

14 A. No, never.

15 Q. I think you do perhaps mention, in paragraph 85, that  
16 maybe there was once or twice where you did see  
17 excessive restraint being used, and you say it was  
18 'always for the wrong reasons'. You say:  
19 'A member of staff ...'

20 A. I see it, yeah.

21 Q. Can you recall what that might have been?

22 A. I can't remember that, to be honest with you, but  
23 I daresay it happened.

24 Q. You mentioned a few moments ago that there were  
25 complaints from the boys about restraint?

1 A. There would be. None of the young people liked being  
2 restrained; that is the first thing, you know. But the  
3 use of restraint was a last measure.

4 TCI is all about talking a young person down before  
5 you had to put hands on him. Occasionally, when you'd  
6 go into a classroom and the young child is just wanting  
7 to have a go at you and whatever, you make that decision  
8 you have to remove the young person and that can be  
9 very, very difficult.

10 We had a Day Support Unit, which was staffed by  
11 a separate staff group, who were on call to the teachers  
12 and their needs.

13 But, yeah, complaints were -- not the norm. But,  
14 yeah, the kids complained, yeah, aye.

15 Q. Did children complain to you about being restrained?

16 A. Occasionally, yes, aye.

17 Q. What did they say to you?

18 A. He put my arm up my back, or something, too much, or  
19 something like that.

20 Restraint was always recorded now, right? And that  
21 was passed on to senior staff who went through it, and  
22 listened to both the staff and the young person.

23 Q. So incidents of restraint were recorded?

24 A. It was, aye.

25 Q. Where was that recorded?



1 A. It was recorded in a book in the office.

2 Q. And was that the occurrence book or a different --

3 A. No, it wasn't the occurrence book. The occurrence book  
4 was previous to 1993, 1992, if you want to call it that.  
5 This was a folder which lay in the office of the --  
6 actually, the secure unit, you know -- I might be  
7 getting mixed up here.

8 St Philip's eventually moved into that picture you  
9 showed me, right, in 2008 or 2009, I can't remember. We  
10 moved in because the St Philip's Open Unit was getting  
11 rough, down, quite shabby looking, what have you. The  
12 St Philip's Secure Unit ended the secure status because  
13 of various reasons, right? The Scottish Office didn't  
14 use it anymore, so it was lying there costing  
15 St Philip's about 350,000 a year just to leave it  
16 there.

17 So we moved in eventually, into the secure unit.

18 LADY SMITH: That was into the modern building we saw in the  
19 photograph?

20 A. That's the one we saw, yes, right. And to me, it always  
21 had that secure look about it. You know, the heavy  
22 doors and things like that and it was -- it didnae go  
23 down well with me.

24 Q. When did you move in there?

25 A. I think we moved in about --

1 LADY SMITH: I think you said about 2005 in your statement  
2 somewhere?

3 A. No, no, it wasn't as early as that.

4 LADY SMITH: Was it 2005 the Scottish Office stopped using  
5 it?

6 A. Aye, then it lay dormant for years, so it maybe -- 6 or  
7 7 or 8 -- 2008 maybe.

8 MS MACLEOD: How long were you there?

9 A. We moved across -- I was there for about four years.

10 Q. Then you moved back?

11 A. Then I retired. I retired from that.

12 LADY SMITH: You did 39 years in total?

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: So that means 35 years after you started in  
15 1977, you moved into the old secure unit? Would that be  
16 right? You started in 1977 --

17 A. 1977. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: And you did a total of 39 years?

19 A. Yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: And you thought the last four were when you  
21 were in the new building?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 LADY SMITH: So that means 35 years after 1977, or  
24 thereabouts, you moved across?

25 A. Yeah, that sounds about right.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS MACLEOD: I think you had been saying it was when you  
3 moved across there that restraint was recorded, in  
4 a book?

5 A. Restraint was recorded at the old school as well, you  
6 know.

7 Q. When did restraint start to be recorded?

8 A. I would say probably the late 1980s.

9 Q. Was there a complaints procedure introduced at  
10 St Philip's?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. When was that?

13 A. It's a difficult one, you know. I would say 1991 or  
14 whatever -- round about the early 1990s.

15 Q. Is that around the time of the change in headmaster?

16 A. Very much so, aye.

17 Q. And was that a complaints procedure for staff and for  
18 boys?

19 A. Primarily for boys, yes, aye.

20 Q. So if a boy wanted to complain about something; what was  
21 the procedure?

22 A. He would come to a member of staff, any member of staff,  
23 and that member of staff would bring it to the attention  
24 of the senior or care manager, depending on the severity  
25 of it. It could be a complaint about: 'I don't like

1 chips; can I have potatoes?' or it could be 'I don't  
2 feel safe here', and then you would investigate that.

3 Q. And how did boys know -- how would a boy know about that  
4 procedure? Was it explained to them by somebody?

5 A. It would have been, yes. I can't recall that, but yes,  
6 it would have been. It would be recorded at their  
7 meetings as well, the Wednesday meetings.

8 Q. Did boys -- Sorry, carry on.

9 A. Outside agencies would come into the school as well, to  
10 talk about -- Who Cares? workers and things -- so they  
11 got knowledge that way as well.

12 There used to be a regular meeting with the Who  
13 Cares? workers, and the staff wouldn't be there. It  
14 would just be the boys and them, and then they can come  
15 in and discuss whatever they want to discuss.

16 Q. But the complaints procedure within the school; was it  
17 written somewhere for the boys to know what that was?  
18 If they had a concern, did they know who they should  
19 raise that with?

20 A. It would be through their key worker we would be  
21 explaining that to them. 'Key time', they called it,  
22 yeah. But they wouldn't have formal written details of  
23 that. It would be done verbally to them. But they knew  
24 their rights, I'll tell you that, you know.

25 Q. Did boys make complaints through the complaints

1 procedure?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Who did they complain to?

4 A. The staff members in their unit.

5 Q. Did boys complain to you?

6 A. Personally? Yes, aye. A couple of times.

7 Q. Are you able to recall any of the complaints made by

8 boys?

9 A. That would be, again, to do with the unit, the running

10 of the units, you know, times to stay up, 'how come

11 I'm a top junior? How come I'm not that?', sort of

12 stuff. Basic daily complaints.

13 Q. Did boys make complaints against staff to you?

14 A. They would do, aye, yeah.

15 Q. Which staff members did boys make complaints about to

16 you?

17 A. Various. I mean, staff members -- if there was

18 a serious incident, serious complaint, that kind of

19 things, then staff -- I've seen staff being moved out

20 into other units. I've seen staff being suspended on

21 occasions, and then being reinstated 11 months after,

22 once the complaint went to court. That was one incident

23 I keep remembering, because he was my deputy, this

24 member of staff.

25 Q. I think you tell us about that, 'Frank', in your

1 statement; is that in paragraph 91?

2 A. Yes, aye.

3 Q. You say:

4 'A staff member was accused of punching someone.'

5 A. That's right, yes. I see it.

6 Q. Which staff member was that?

7 A. His name was KMP .

8 Q. Was it a boy who made the complaint --

9 A. A boy, uh-huh.

10 Q. -- that KMP had punched him?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that complaint made to you?

13 A. Eventually, yes. I don't think I was on duty at the

14 time. But, yes, certainly the seniors on duty would

15 have taken that down and passed it on.

16 Q. Looking at the internal procedure then; what happened

17 internally in relation to that complaint?

18 A. Well, KMP would be interviewed by the senior staff and

19 then a social work department as well, and then the

20 decision was to suspend him until the court case came.

21 Q. You tell us that that staff member got his job back?

22 A. He did, yes, aye. I don't know that much about the

23 case, but it went to court and I think it was 11 months

24 later it was thrown out by the court.

25 Q. You mentioned that a staff member got moved to

1 a different unit?

2 A. Some did, aye, if there was a member of staff accused  
3 of, I don't know -- children used to say, 'I don't feel  
4 safe with him in here', so we have to investigate. So  
5 initially what we do is move the member of staff as  
6 a safeguard, and then bring in another member of staff  
7 from another unit.

8 Q. Are you able to recall any members of staff who were  
9 moved in that way?

10 A. Not to my knowledge. I can't remember.

11 Q. You make the distinction between serious incidents and  
12 more minor incidents in your statement as well. I just  
13 wondered, in relation to serious incidents, would they  
14 be reported to social workers, for example?

15 A. Yes, aye, all the time.

16 Q. And the police?

17 A. If required, yes, uh-huh.

18 LADY SMITH: Who decided whether an incident was a serious  
19 incident or a minor one?

20 A. That would be the senior staff.

21 LADY SMITH: By that you mean?

22 A. I was a care manager, right, but I was in a middle  
23 management position. Senior staff would then take  
24 decisions like that.

25 LADY SMITH: Those are people who are not directly involved

1           in the units?

2    A.   Mm-hmm.

3    LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

4    MS MACLEOD:  In paragraph 93, you mention a complaint you

5           recall from the 1990s, where you say a member of staff

6           was accused of punching a boy?

7    A.   Yeah.

8    Q.   Is that a different incident?

9    A.   No, that's the one I was mentioning.

10   Q.   That's the one you were mentioning?

11   A.   Aye.

12   Q.   In paragraph 94, in terms of records of complaints, you

13           tell the Inquiry that complaints were recorded and kept

14           in every individual unit?

15   A.   Yes, uh-huh.

16   Q.   Do you know if that was a particular book that

17           complaints were recorded in --

18   A.   Yeah, a file, something larger than that there,

19           (indicating) you know.  They were in polypockets, and

20           put in and signed off by staff and by senior staff as to

21           what the outcomes were.

22   Q.   You say they were kept in the main office, with a copy

23           also going in the file of the young person?

24   A.   Yes, uh-huh.

25   Q.   During your 39 years at St Philip's, did you see



1 anything, any behaviour by staff towards boys, that  
2 caused you concern?

3 A. No, nothing.

4 Q. You go on to tell us that there were inspections of the  
5 school in the latter period?

6 A. Since the beginning of the 1990s, yeah, the school was  
7 inspected on a yearly basis.

8 Q. You tell us that you recall the first inspection?

9 A. I do, yes, uh-huh.

10 Q. And that the inspections then happened once, if not  
11 twice, a year?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. They were unannounced inspections?

14 A. Some of them were, yeah.

15 Q. Did inspectors speak to boys on their own?

16 A. Yes, aye, very much so. First of all they sent out --  
17 what's the word I'm looking for -- for feedback from the  
18 children, you know --

19 LADY SMITH: A questionnaire?

20 A. Questionnaire, thanks. And the boys would fill it in  
21 and what have you, and then we'd hand them back, post  
22 them back to the Care Inspectorate, who then came into  
23 the school and spoke to managers, staff, boys,  
24 everybody, to get a feel of how things were going.  
25 Eventually they would come up with recommendations, if

1           there were any, or requirements, which were most  
2           important, and no doubt requirements such as complaint  
3           procedures, all that, would evolve from that, you see,  
4           and be tightened up and what have you. But the children  
5           had a great voice in their care, you know.

6   Q. When you provided your statement, 'Frank', you were  
7           asked about a number of staff members, to see if you  
8           recalled them and if you saw them interacting with  
9           children?

10   A. Yes, yes, yes.

11   Q. I'll ask you about some of these people you were asked  
12           about. You were asked about a **HWI** ?

13   A. Yeah.

14   Q. What was his role in the school?

15   A. He was a basic care worker, a housefather like myself.

16   Q. Did you see him interacting with children?

17   A. Yes, uh-huh.

18   Q. How would you describe the way in which he interacted  
19           with children?

20   A. Very good, aye. He was a good football player so the  
21           kids were attracted to him that way. He liked the  
22           football and would take the children up to the 'play  
23           barn', as we called it, gymnasium, yeah, no problem.

24   Q. Did you ever see him behaving in a way that concerned  
25           you with children?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did you ever receive any complaints from children about  
3 HWI [REDACTED] ?

4 A. I wouldn't have received them anyway. I was the same  
5 grade as him. It would be a senior member of staff that  
6 dealt with that, but no, I don't believe there has been.

7 Q. Are you aware of any complaints being made against him  
8 during your time at the school?

9 A. None.

10 Q. You were asked about a staff member called  
11 HKF [REDACTED]. What was his role at the school?

12 A. HKF [REDACTED] was a basic grade member of staff up until --  
13 I can't remember when he became a night staff, and he's  
14 now [REDACTED] in that position in this present day.

15 Q. Was there an allegation made against him at one time?

16 A. I think there was, uh-huh. I'm not particularly sure  
17 what it was, but it was certainly -- I don't know if  
18 he'd mishandled somebody or something, but yeah.

19 Q. You tell us in your statement, paragraph 121, there was  
20 an allegation made against HKF [REDACTED] by a boy who said he  
21 punched him. So this is a separate incident to the one  
22 we have spoken about before, with the other staff  
23 member?

24 A. Yes, this is a different one.

25 Q. You say:

1           'The complaint was investigated by social work and  
2           dismissed.'

3   A.   Yeah.

4   Q.   Were the police involved in that investigation?

5   A.   Not to my knowledge, no. It went to the Social Work  
6           Department, who made a decision on what the outcome  
7           would be.

8   Q.   Did you ever see HKF ██████████ interact with children  
9           in a way that concerned you?

10   A.   No, not at all, no.

11   Q.   You were also asked about a HYS ██████████, a GXP ██████████  
12           █████████, a GXQ ██████████ and a GXS ██████████.  
13           And I think you've told the Inquiry that you didn't have  
14           any concerns about the way they treated children?

15   A.   No. What was the -- could I just go through the names  
16           again please?

17   Q.   Of course. HYS ██████████?

18   A.   HYS, the night staff, that's right, okay.

19   Q.   Paragraph 122 and 123. A GXP ██████████?

20   A.   GXP ██████████, yep, aye.

21   Q.   GXQ ██████████?

22   A.   Uh-huh. GXQ.

23   Q.   And GXS ██████████?

24   A.   Yeah, okay. They're fine. I had no problem at all. No  
25           concerns.

1 Q. You were also asked, when you gave your statement, about  
2 some allegations that were made to the Inquiry by  
3 a former pupil of the school against you, 'Frank'?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. 'Frank', I just want to look at that section of your  
6 statement now, and that starts at paragraph 130. At the  
7 very front of your folder, there should be a document  
8 which looks like this, (indicating) which we call the  
9 'pseudonym key'. It has your own pseudonym, but it also  
10 has the pseudonym for this boy who provided the Inquiry  
11 with his evidence, and you'll see that his pseudonym is  
12 'David'.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. 'David' has given a statement to the Inquiry. At  
15 paragraph 87 of his statement, he said:

16 'I can remember 'Frank' was quite handy at kicking  
17 the boys in the unit if they had done something wrong in  
18 his eyes. One of the boys he would kick was...'

19 And he names a particular boy:

20 'Later in life this boy suffered from depression and  
21 committed suicide.'

22 Did you ever treat a boy in the unit in that way?  
23 Did you kick boys in the unit?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did you ever kick a boy in St Philip's?

1 A. Not at all.

2 Q. You tell us in your statement at paragraph 131:

3 'All I can say about this accusation is that it's

4 absolute nonsense.'

5 Do you remember the boy that made this allegation?

6 A. I remember the name but I don't remember the boy.

7 I couldn't picture him in my mind.

8 Q. Do you remember the other boy that he names in --

9 A. Again, name's familiar, but again I can't put a picture

10 to him.

11 LADY SMITH: Did you ever get angry with boys in the unit,

12 'Frank'?

13 A. Never.

14 LADY SMITH: Never?

15 A. Never. It's not in my nature to do that. I just --

16 never.

17 MS MACLEOD: You say at paragraph 134:

18 'The passage of time has not affected my memory in

19 relation to what has been alleged.'

20 You go on to say:

21 'I accept that treating a child in that way would be

22 abuse.'

23 But that you didn't do that?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. You go on to say:

1           'I would like the Inquiry to know that I worked at  
2           St Philip's for 39 years as a worker and a manager and  
3           never had a single complaint made against me by either  
4           staff or residents over that entire time.'

5   A.   Yeah, true.

6   Q.   You have told us already 'Frank' that you left  
7           St Philip's in 2015 and that was you -- you retiring?

8   A.   Yes, it was, uh-huh.

9   Q.   You go on to say that you miss the school?

10  A.   Mm-hmm.

11  Q.   And that it was a great place to work?

12  A.   It certainly was, yeah.

13  Q.   One thing you say is:

14           'A problem for me was always not being able to find  
15           out how children got on once they'd left St Philip's.'

16  A.   Definitely, yeah.  It's the same old question -- when  
17           someone says 'How good are you at your job?'  Well, how  
18           successful are we?  We don't know -- that may have  
19           changed now because of the 'positive destinations', I  
20           think they call it, and they follow-up on children --  
21           but certainly not.  It was disappointing.  Occasionally  
22           you get children coming -- in the street, I'd meet them  
23           in Bellshill, you know, and you'd just talk away and it  
24           would be great.  (Inaudible)

25  Q.   In paragraph 142 onwards, in the last part of your

1 statement, you provide some comments about helping the  
2 Inquiry, and you say that you're not sure why it is that  
3 people are now making allegations.

4 You say:

5 'Why do children wait until they're older and make  
6 these allegations?'

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Having worked in St Philip's, then, for 39 years, do  
9 I take it that it's come as a surprise to you that  
10 allegations have been made against the school?

11 A. Yes, very much so.

12 Q. You say:

13 'I think all the lessons have been learnt and we're  
14 almost there at the moment. We have learnt from the  
15 past. We have all the complaints procedures and kids  
16 have a voice now. There are various vehicles in place  
17 to report staff. There are safeguards in place. All  
18 that kind of stuff.'

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. Do I take it from that you feel like there's been real  
21 progress with those things?

22 A. I can see progress over the 39 years, definitely, and  
23 I would hope there's more progress in the last ten years  
24 since I've not been there, you know, but yeah.

25 Q. You say:



1           'It's changed and it's changing all the time, and  
2           all for the better. That's my opinion, anyway.'

3   A.   Definitely.

4   Q.   I don't have any more questions for you 'Frank'.

5           Thank you very much for providing the evidence that  
6           you have done today.

7           I just want to give you an opportunity, in case  
8           there is anything you want to add that we haven't  
9           covered?

10   A.   I think we've covered everything actually, you know,  
11        but, as I say, the children of today in care are so much  
12        better looked after. And that's not to say that they  
13        weren't looked after initially when they went to  
14        St Philip's. It's just totally different procedures and  
15        policies now, and all for the better I think.

16   MS MACLEOD: Thank you 'Frank'.

17           My Lady, I haven't received any applications for  
18        questions.

19   LADY SMITH: 'Frank', can I add my thanks to you for coming  
20        today and speaking to us so helpfully about your lengthy  
21        time working at St Philip's.

22           I'm sure you didn't relish coming to do this, but  
23        I hope you appreciate why we felt it was necessary.

24   A.   I understand, yeah.

25   LADY SMITH: Thank you for accommodating our requirements.

1 A. Thank you, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: We'll take the afternoon break now, and then  
5 there should be another witness available; is that right  
6 or not?

7 MS MACLEOD: No, my Lady. That is the final witness for  
8 today.

9 LADY SMITH: For today? Well, in that case, I was  
10 misinformed. I thought we were still waiting for  
11 another witness today.

12 I think we've made such good progress with read-ins  
13 this morning that we'll just stop there for today and  
14 then sit again tomorrow morning when the plan is --  
15 what?

16 MS MACLEOD: The plan is to have three oral witnesses  
17 tomorrow, the first at 10 o'clock.

18 LADY SMITH: Three tomorrow, that's right, yes. Very well.

19 Thank you very much indeed.

20 Thank you.

21 (3.15 pm)

22 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
23 on Friday, 16 August 2024)

24

25

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