

MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL INQUIRY
SITTING AT CORN EXCHANGE, CATHEDRAL QUARTER, BELFAST

HEARD BEFORE THE INQUIRY PANEL
ON THURSDAY, 30TH JUNE 2022 - DAY 8

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1 THE INQUIRY RESUMED ON THURSDAY, 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 2022
2 AS FOLLOWS:

3
4 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Just -- morning,
5 Mr. McEvoy. 10:00

6 MR. McEVROY: Good morning.

7 CHAIRPERSON: Just before we start, just a couple of
8 housekeeping issues. Can I just remind people once
9 again about masks when they're moving around, and for
10 the general public please, and in Hearing Room B, if
11 there are people there. 10:01

12
13 Also testing, we are encouraging people, please, to
14 test twice a week. And, finally, can I just mention
15 movement in the room. Can I ask people to resist the 10:01
16 temptation to move about this room when a witness is
17 giving evidence? If there is an urgent need to do so,
18 then please leave and have any conversations outside.
19 But given the sensitivity of many of the witnesses that
20 we have, any movement in the room is particularly 10:01
21 disturbing. Yes.

22 MR. McEVROY: Morning, Chair. Morning, Panel. This
23 morning's session will be taken up with the evidence of
24 the brother of Patient P9. I am able to advise the
25 Panel that the brother of P9 can be known for the 10:01
26 purposes of his evidence as Robert, and P9 can be known
27 as his forename, Joe.

28 CHAIRPERSON: That's great, thank you very much.

29 MR. McEVROY: Before the witness joins us, I just wanted

1 to indicate that there is an Inquiry statement in the
2 normal way. There is one exhibit. The exhibit is in
3 the format of a very brief statement. I propose,
4 unless the Panel has or foresees a problem, to read
5 that statement into the record additionally, simply 10:02
6 because it eliminates a few issues in the statement.
7 CHAIRPERSON: It's only a page-and-a-half; I think that
8 would be very sensible.
9 MR. McEVOY: That's right.
10 CHAIRPERSON: Can you just give me one moment, I'm 10:02
11 sorry, just to get myself on to CaseView... Apologies,
12 sorry. Thank you very much.
13 MR. McEVOY: So if the witness could then be called,
14 please. I should also add the Inquiry Secretary has
15 reminded me that in attendance with Robert will be the 10:03
16 family support worker.
17 CHAIRPERSON: Fine.
18 MR. McEVOY: And, in the normal way, or what we hope
19 will be the normal way, she will simply attend to give
20 emotional support and assistance to the witness -- 10:03
21 CHAIRPERSON: -- and understand the rules, that's fine,
22 thank you very much. Robert, thank you very much,
23 indeed, for coming along to help the Inquiry. The
24 Secretary to the Inquiry is now going to administer the
25 oath, so remain seated while you take the oath or 10:05
26 affirmation, thank you.
27
28
29

1 ROBERT (BROTHER OF P9), HAVING AFFIRMED, WAS EXAMINED
2 BY MR. McEVOY, AS FOLLOWS:

3
4 CHAIRPERSON: Robert, if at any time you need a break,
5 we can stop, all right? 10:06

6 A. Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON: And I'm going to hand you over now to
8 Mr. McEvoy, who's going to ask you some questions.

9 1 Q. MR. McEVOY: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Robert.

10 A. Morning. 10:06

11 2 Q. Thank you for coming along. There is a statement -- I
12 know that you don't have the statement in front of you,
13 and I don't think particularly that you will need it
14 anyway, you are familiar with it.

15 A. Yeah. 10:06

16 CHAIRPERSON: Can you hear all right?

17 3 Q. MR. McEVOY: You can hear me okay?

18 A. I can, yes.

19 4 Q. If you can't, don't be afraid to tell me, in no
20 uncertain terms, all right? 10:06

21 CHAIRPERSON: If you pull the microphone a bit closer?

22 A. Can you speak again there?

23 5 Q. MR. McEVOY: Of course. Can you hear me okay, Robert?

24 A. No.

25 CHAIRPERSON: Is it a battery problem? 10:07

26 A. Sorry.

27 CHAIRPERSON: It's just possible I can help with that.

28 SECRETARY: We have spare batteries, if you need them.

29 CHAIRPERSON: Well, we might have. I'm not sure...

1 [witness adjusting hearing aid]
2 CHAIRPERSON: Is that working now?
3 A. No.
4 CHAIRPERSON: I think we'd better rise.
5 MR. McEVROY: I think that's the best course. 10:08
6 CHAIRPERSON: It's not fair on the witness otherwise.
7 I will speak to the Secretary to the Inquiry to see if
8 I can assist, because I'm sorry to say I have the same
9 difficulty sometimes.
10 A. Sorry. 10:08
11 MR. McEVROY: You're okay.
12 CHAIRPERSON: we will rise now.
13
14 THE INQUIRY ADJOURNED BRIEFLY AND RESUMED AS FOLLOWS:
15 10:24
16 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. All right, shall we
17 try again?
18 6 Q. MR. McEVROY: we will. Thank you, Chair. And we are
19 all good to go now Robert, aren't we?
20 A. Yes, yes. 10:34
21 7 Q. So, Robert, there is a statement that you made in
22 conjunction with the Inquiry statement-taking team back
23 in April of this year.
24 A. Yes.
25 8 Q. And with that statement is a short exhibit which you 10:35
26 might have heard me indicate to the Chair just before
27 you came in, which is a previous statement, okay?
28 A. Yeah.
29 9 Q. I'm going to read those out and, when I'm doing that,

1 if there is a sensitive issue, if I can put it that
2 way.

3 CHAIRPERSON: All right, thank you.

4 13 Q. MR. McEVROY: So, Robert:

5
6 " I make the following statement for the purpose of the
7 Muckamore Abbey Hospital inquiry. In exhibiting any
8 documents, I will use Robert -- that's my name -- so my
9 first document will be Robert 1.

10
11 My connection with Muckamore is that I am a relative of
12 a patient who was at Muckamore. My brother, Joe, was a
13 patient there. The relevant time period that I can
14 speak about is between 1972 and the early 2000s. With
15 the assistance of our family... " --

16
17 CHAIRPERSON: Mr. McEvoy, I am so sorry to interrupt
18 you. Can you hear everything that Mr. McEvoy --

19 A. I can hear just a fan or something -- there's a
20 background fan or something.

21 MR. McEVROY: It could be the AV equipment.

22 CHAIRPERSON: Yeah. I wonder if you should move, if
23 you're happy to, to move next to the witness?

24 MR. McEVROY: I will, I think that might be the best
25 course.

26 (Counsel then sits beside the witness).

27 CHAIRPERSON: And if you could just take it from
28 paragraph 1.

29 14 Q. MR. McEVROY: So I am going to pick up where I was

1 reading, okay? You can hear me okay?

2 A. Yeah.

3 15 Q. All right. We will start just at paragraph 1 again,
4 okay. So:

5 10:38

6 "My connection with Muckamore is that I am a relative
7 of a patient who was at Muckamore. My brother, Joe,
8 was a patient there. The relevant time period that I
9 can speak about is between 1972 and the early 2000s.
10 With the assistance of our Family Liaison Officer, I 10:38
11 have prepared a document entitled 'Statement to Public
12 Inquiry', which is undated and which is attached to
13 this statement at Robert 1.

14
15 We weren't a close family. Our parents were in a mixed 10:38
16 marriage. Our dad was a Protestant and our mother was
17 a Catholic. My brothers and sisters were raised
18 Catholic. We lived with our parents and grandparents
19 and our home was in..."

20 10:38

21 -- and then you give the area.

22
23 "There was one bedroom upstairs and a living room
24 downstairs. Joe was bigger and rougher than me. When
25 I was about three or four and Joe was about five or 10:38
26 six, we were put into a care home. Two of my sisters
27 and another brother were in one part of the care home.
28 Joe was in the care home until he was around 12. Joe
29 didn't get on with the nuns and they were fond of the

1 strap, which they would use on us. It was more of a
2 cosh, it could be turned on its side and it would be
3 very stiff. There was stitching on it and the rumour
4 was that it had coins stitched into it.

5
6 Joe was shifted to a mainstream school and then to a
7 training school. He was there until he was about 15.
8 Joe worked in a local business where my mum also
9 worked, moving things, helping. I am not sure what all
10 he did.

11
12 Our family spent time in another country. I did not go
13 with them. Joe and I got into trouble, things like
14 house-breaking. Joe went to another training school
15 when he was 15 or 16. He was there for a couple of
16 years. Both of us were there at the same time. When
17 Joe was 17 or 18, he ended up in a prison for the same
18 things, mischief and house-breaking. When Joe was
19 about 20, he put his hand through a window to try to
20 commit suicide. I didn't know that this had happened
21 until afterwards. This was the reason why he was put
22 into Muckamore. My mum told me that Joe had been put
23 in Muckamore and took me down there. I took him
24 cigarettes and sweeties. He was working in the
25 cookhouse and he had a girlfriend there.

26
27 I hadn't seen Joe for a while and I do not recall the
28 dates. When our mum died, I brought Joe from Muckamore
29 to the funeral. I got a wreath from me and Joe. My

1 other family didn't bother.

2
3 After our mum died, I started going to Muckamore to
4 visit Joe. It was difficult to get from my home to
5 Antrim. Sometimes I used to walk, sometimes cycle. I 10:41
6 was on the dole and I didn't have a lot of money. I
7 always got him fags. The staff would keep them and
8 give them to Joe one at a time. If they didn't, he
9 would smoke them all one after the other.

10
11 During the visits, there was no privacy. We would
12 normally walk around the grounds. One time, I don't
13 recall when, there was a party. I was at the party and
14 stayed late. The staff there seemed to be okay. I do
15 not recall their names. Over the two times Joe was in 10:41
16 Muckamore, I think I was only in his room once. I am
17 not sure when this was. The room was small and had a
18 bed screwed to a wall. It was fine. When I was
19 visiting him I used to have to go to find Joe. I
20 usually took Joe for a walk, and it would have been 10:41
21 hard for me to get Joe to go back in. Joe ended up
22 getting a house outside the main Muckamore building.

23
24 Joe was always washed and dressed. He always had
25 cigarette stains on his clothes. 10:42

26
27 There was a female patient who said that a male nurse
28 can't keep his hands to himself. I do not remember
29 when this was and I do not remember who said this to

1 me. I do not recall the name of the nurse.
2
3 Joe used to abscond from Muckamore. He would end up at
4 my flat, sometimes with the girl he was seeing. I do
5 not remember the dates. Joe would do this when he was 10:42
6 not taking his tablets. If he was not taking his
7 tablets, he would hurt people. Joe would not tell me
8 why he ran away. He always thought that he could live
9 outside, but then after a while he would get worried
10 that they wouldn't let him get back into Muckamore. 10:42
11 Joe caused a lot of disruption for me and I fell out
12 with him for a couple of years. I cannot remember why
13 and I cannot remember when.
14
15 I do not remember Joe ever complaining. I would ask 10:43
16 him how things were and he would say that 'You don't
17 talk.' I do remember Joe being on the wrong tablets,
18 I am sure what date this was or who was involved in his
19 care at that point. Joe received electric shock
20 therapy. Joe thought that it was good as his reading 10:43
21 improved. Joe was very religious and he respects
22 anyone in authority. Joe did mention that he had saved
23 money when he was in Muckamore and that they had kept
24 it. He was also left money. I am not sure who left it
25 to him -- my Mum I think -- approximately £1,000. Joe 10:43
26 never got the money back from Muckamore. I'm not sure
27 of the dates, who gave Joe the money to, or who Joe
28 asked about the money.
29

1 Joe would say that he knew who was dangerous. He would
2 tell me what patients and staff to avoid. I do not
3 remember any of their names. I don't know what they
4 did on him. Joe did like some of the staff at
5 Muckamore, but I don't remember their names. I think 10:44
6 the ones who worked in the kitchen.

7
8 Joe was released from Muckamore to a resettlement
9 residence. I cannot remember who made these decisions
10 or the date that Joe moved from Muckamore to the 10:44
11 resettlement residence. We had fallen out. He lived
12 in a bungalow with a woman who was another resident.
13 He let her have the bigger room and he did most of the
14 cooking. The other resident and Joe got on very well.
15 Joe was caring for the other resident and he has always 10:44
16 treated women with respect.

17
18 Joe got ill. He stopped taking his tablets and was put
19 back into Muckamore. I do not remember what date this
20 was. When I went out to the resettlement residence to 10:44
21 get his tablets, they were all there and they were out
22 of day. He had stopped taking the tablets. When
23 Muckamore sorted out Joe's medicine, he was released to
24 a nursing home. He was adamant that he would not go
25 back to Muckamore. The place had changed between him 10:45
26 leaving and him going back there. I had a phone call
27 from someone at Muckamore, a member of staff. I am not
28 sure when this was and do not remember their name.
29 They said that the stuff I had seen on TV was on

1 another unit.

2

3 When he was back in Muckamore, he was thrown into his
4 room, his cell as he called it, and he told me that he
5 was held by the arms by men and he was on his tiptoes. 10:45

6 I am not sure when this happened or who was involved.
7 There were three men and a girl. I am not sure of
8 their names. When I asked Joe why this happened, he
9 said that a man with a beard was making fun of him and
10 he came too close to him. Joe said that the man, whose 10:45
11 name Joe did not know or did not tell me, had been
12 asking Joe 'Is this your girl?'. Joe did not like this
13 and he head-butted the man. If Joe hit you, you'd know
14 about it. Joe doesn't use his fists, he would use the
15 palm of his hands. 10:46

16

17 Joe was happy to move out of Muckamore. Joe loves his
18 nursing home and they keep me informed. If he gets a
19 cut and needs a plaster, they phone me. If he needs a
20 doctor, they phone me. Muckamore wouldn't have phoned 10:46
21 me.

22

23 I know they have lots of staff and what I would really
24 like is for someone with responsibility over the staff
25 to investigate the people working for them there and to 10:46
26 bring charges against staff who did wrong. The staff,
27 50% of them were bad, and the other 50% were not
28 caught. Why isn't management being punished? They
29 must have let it happen. I have asked Joe recently

1 whether anything had happened to him but he has just
2 repeated 'You don't tell'."

3
4 I'm going to move on now, Robert, and read out from the
5 statement that you prepared in association or in
6 conjunction with your family support worker. 10:46

7
8 "Joe was admitted to Muckamore aged 20 years. He was
9 transferred from prison. That was over 50 years ago.
10 He will be 73 years old in July 2022. He has learning 10:47
11 disabilities and schizophrenia. I asked Joe about his
12 time in Muckamore and Joe told me that he was pushed
13 about. He talked about a guy with a goatee beard
14 shoving him about, and there were two other males and
15 one female. Joe head-butted him and Joe was given 10:47
16 tablets. I asked him why he did not tell me, as his
17 brother. He just said he kept it all in.

18
19 My mum and I used to go and see Joe most Sundays.
20 Without Joe's tablets, he can go straight down and can 10:47
21 be very disruptive. Mum continued to visit Joe on a
22 Sunday until she died. Joe was disruptive with my
23 neighbours and Joe and I had a fallout. I did not see
24 him for approximately five years until one day I was
25 driving up a road near where I live and I saw Joe on 10:48
26 the bus. I followed it and I went to where he then
27 lived. It was a resettlement residence. Then they
28 moved him and another resident into another bungalow.
29 The other resident died and they put another young lad

1 with Down Syndrome in with Joe in the bungalow. There
2 was a staff member there most of the day. They started
3 then to build more housing up the back.

4
5 Joe ended up in hospital as he took really bad with his 10:48
6 mental health. I went to the bungalow and got his
7 blister pack of tablets. No one was making him take
8 them and the doctor told me the tablets were out of
9 date. I think it was..."

10
11 -- and you indicate the hospital you think he was in. 10:48

12
13 "I met a person who I think is a nurse..." --

14
15 CHAIRPERSON: It may be important to say that it wasn't 10:48
16 Muckamore.

17 MR. McEVOY: Yes. It wasn't, in fact, in that -- I
18 think it was a different hospital.

19 CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

20 16 Q. MR. McEVOY: I think we can say it was possibly -- I 10:49
21 think we can say it was the Royal?

22 A. Yeah, I'd say the Royal or the City.

23 MR. McEVOY: Yeah, nothing turns on that.

24
25 "I went and got all of his stuff out of the bungalow. 10:49
26 He was admitted to hospital, but it only lasted for two
27 to three weeks. He was put back to Muckamore to sort
28 out his medication. When all this came out about
29 Muckamore, I got a phone call from Muckamore staff to

1 say it was not the unit Joe was in that all this was
2 happening, it was another unit.

3
4 When Joe was stabilised on his medication, he returned
5 to his nursing home. I didn't hear any more about 10:49
6 Muckamore until our family liaison social worker
7 phoned. I should have picked up on it but I didn't and
8 I feel guilty for that.

9
10 In his nursing home, Joe likes to do a bit of 10:49
11 gardening. He waters the plants and all. I don't
12 worry about Joe now. I feel he is in the best hands.
13 We visit every two weeks. I asked him what he has to
14 eat et cetera and I am always happy he is well cared
15 for. When Joe brings back the past, I feel he brings 10:50
16 me back to my childhood -- what a childhood. Joe and I
17 never had a stable home. We moved about a lot and I
18 had a long care history."

19
20 we'll just take a moment, Sir. 10:50

21 CHAIRPERSON: Yes, of course.

22 17 Q. MR. McEVROY: we are nearly done with this part.

23
24 "We moved about a lot and I had a long care history. I
25 lived with family in a two up/two down in an area of 10:50
26 Belfast. We moved to another place close by. There's
27 six of us."

28
29 Then you indicate your various brothers and sisters --

1 A. Yes.

2 18 Q. -- all right, and I'll not name them all.

3

4 "Every one of us were in care. I was three or four
5 years old when I was carried up to a care home. When 10:51
6 Joe was 12, he got moved to the training school. I
7 left the care home when I was 11 and went back to..."

8

9 -- I think you name the area --

10

11 "...to live with my grandparents and my dad, who was an
12 alcoholic. This didn't last very long. At
13 12-and-a-half, I was took to court and I got three
14 years in a training school. I was there until I was 14
15 or 15. I got in more trouble and I was put in prison. 10:51
16 I then went to another training school. Joe followed
17 me to the training schools. Joe was transferred from
18 prison and then to prison. Joe was transferred from
19 prison to Muckamore. Joe used to work in a local
20 business. Joe had no schooling. He has told me he had 10:51
21 electric shocks when he was in Muckamore."

22

23 And then hopefully the Inquiry will be able to see,
24 although we have redacted them in this version, will be
25 able to see two photographs of Joe. And when were the 10:52
26 photos taken of Joe, are they reasonably recent?

27 A. They're recent. I took them the last time I was there
28 in Bedford Street.

29 CHAIRPERSON: Sorry?

1 A. Sorry, I took the photographs when I was down in
2 Bedford Street.

3 19 Q. MR. McEVOY: Is that when you were seeing the Inquiry
4 statement-taking team at their offices?

5 A. Yes, I brought the photographs. 10:52

6 20 Q. Do you need a moment?

7 A. No, I'm okay. [Witness upset]. It wasn't the same --
8 the photographs let you see a person, not just somebody
9 called a patient -- just let you see he's a human
10 being. 10:53

11 MR. McEVOY: we will take five minutes, perhaps.

12 CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, I think so. Could I just ask you
13 to establish while we break whether there is anything
14 else --

15 A. No, I'm okay, I'm okay, I'm okay. 10:53

16 CHAIRPERSON: You're all right?

17 A. Yes, I'm okay. It's just I just can't -- I'm okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON: we all realise how difficult it is to
19 talk about this stuff, so just take your time. Just
20 have a think about whether there's anything else you 10:53
21 want to tell us.

22 A. I should have -- I should have knew there was something
23 -- I worked in a mental home myself, I should have
24 knew. I seen the way people get treated where I
25 worked. It wasn't nice. There's good and bad, but I 10:54
26 should have knew. I should have picked up on it, and I
27 didn't. I didn't pick up on it.

28 MR. McEVOY: we'll take five minutes, Chair, and, as
29 you say, we will assess whether or not there's any

1 other --

2 A. I'm all right.

3 CHAIRPERSON: So, Robert, have a think about whether
4 there's anything else that you want to tell us. But,
5 in case there isn't, I just want to thank you for 10:54
6 coming along because it's obviously exceptionally
7 difficult what you have come along to tell us, but it
8 is really helpful to the Inquiry to hear about Joe and,
9 as you say, to understand that, you know, we have got
10 to see him as a human being and a person, and not just 10:54
11 as a patient. So can I thank you, if you don't come
12 back in, thank you very much indeed for coming along.
13 If you do come back in, then we will welcome any
14 further evidence. But we will take a short break, all
15 right? Okay, I think we will rise. 10:55

16

17 THE INQUIRY ADJOURNED BRIEFLY AND RESUMED AS FOLLOWS:

18

19 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

20 21 Q. MR. McEVROY: So, Chair, as the Inquiry can see, the 11:24
21 Inquiry's own support worker has joined Robert just
22 simply for, again for an additional layer of emotional
23 support. There won't be very much more, but I just
24 have one brief matter to ask you about, Robert.

25

26 In your evidence, you described an incident involving
27 Joe?

28 A. Yeah.

29 22 Q. -- where he head-butted someone, and you described this

11:25

1 person as having a beard or a goatee beard -- I think a
2 beard in the main statement and a goatee beard in the
3 exhibited statement?

4 A. The same as mine.

5 23 Q. I know you don't have a name, but do you know who that 11:25
6 person was?

7 A. No, no, it was just staff, as far as I --

8 24 Q. And did Joe tell you that?

9 A. Yes.

10 25 Q. All right. 11:25
11 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

12 A. Do you want me to say what he said?

13 26 Q. MR. McEVOY: well, if you can remember, certainly the
14 Inquiry --

15 A. well, I did ask them what happened, because usually you 11:26
16 don't hit staff and get away with it -- you don't hit
17 staff and get away with it. And he says "No, nothing
18 happened, nothing." "You mean happened to you?".
19 "No." So I knew that happened then, the way he said
20 it. The way I -- the staff knew what he was -- they 11:26
21 were making fun of him, they were making fun of him and
22 he knew that -- well, I'm just surmising that he knew,
23 but that's the way I know it, he knew when Joe hit him
24 that he was in the wrong for making fun of him.

25 CHAIRPERSON: The staff member did? 11:26

26 A. Yeah, the staff member. I don't know the staff member,
27 but I'm just surmising myself in my own brain that
28 that's why nothing happened to Joe. As I say, he did
29 get that part in the cell and I, myself personally, I

1 think Joe's got mixed -- not mixed up, but he's got
2 part of the incident from one incident to the other
3 where he was lifted in the cell itself because he's
4 talking about three or four people in the cell with him
5 -- one was a woman and a couple of men and he was 11:27
6 actually lifted off his feet, which to me means he was
7 being moved, and you don't do that when you're in a
8 cell standing -- well, he calls it a cell and,
9 personally, I'm calling it a cell -- it's his bedroom
10 we're talking about, he calls it a cell. He said he 11:27
11 was lifted off his feet, moved, and your man tried to
12 get him -- but he got his feet back down on the ground
13 because he -- my brother is a big guy, same as me, tall
14 -- better built than me. And that's that incident
15 there. The only thing I want to say to you is... 11:28
16 27 Q. Did you want to say, Robert, that -- I think in your
17 statement you described how there's only a year between
18 you, isn't that right?
19 A. There's two years.
20 28 Q. Two years between you. 11:28
21 A. Two years between us.
22 29 Q. And you described in the early part of your statement
23 how you went through a lot of the same childhood
24 experiences in care and afterwards together?
25 A. We did, yeah. 11:28
26 30 Q. And in the exhibited statement then, you talk about Joe
27 having learning disabilities?
28 A. Oh, yes, he -- so Joe -- Joe -- look it, Joe was bigger
29 than me; harder than me, so he was; tougher, but he was

1 vulnerable.

2 31 Q. Yes. 11:29

3 A. He's a big giant, a big softy. I have more education,
4 street-wise, whereas Joe hadn't got that. He just --
5 he was -- he was mentally, do you know what I mean, it
6 wasn't his age, which I think -- but, to me, he was
7 just a big softy. He was more vulnerable to things
8 than I was. I'm a hard -- brain-wise, nothing wrong
9 with me. Education-wise, Joe hasn't got the education,
10 whereas I've got the education of living on the street 11:29
11 and growing up. Joe hasn't got that. He never had it.
12 He's just -- he's just Joe. Is that all right? It's
13 just --

14 32 Q. Is that all you wanted to say? Is there anything else
15 you wanted to say? 11:30

16 CHAIRPERSON: Can I just ask you something? Do you
17 mind if I just ask you -- when you said in your
18 statement that when you went to visit Joe when he was
19 at Muckamore --

20 A. Yes. 11:30

21 CHAIRPERSON: -- sometimes you bicycled and sometimes
22 you walked?

23 A. Yes, I did.

24 CHAIRPERSON: And Mr. McEvoy, quite rightly, didn't
25 tell us where you were coming from, but I've looked it 11:30
26 up.

27 A. You want to know how far?!

28 CHAIRPERSON: It was a fair old distance, wasn't it?

29 A. I don't know if you know Belfast!

1 CHAIRPERSON: well, it was about 14 miles so --
2 A. 14? I don't think so! I think it was further than
3 that. Do you know the top of the Springfield Road?
4 CHAIRPERSON: I don't, no, I'm not going to tell you I
5 do. But I have looked to see where you were coming 11:30
6 from.
7 A. where the police barracks are --
8 CHAIRPERSON: It's a good old walk.
9 A. -- from there to Muckamore, I would have set off early
10 in the morning and walked it. Maybe -- well, you 11:31
11 didn't get many thumbs, lifts. If I had a bicycle, I
12 would have rode from there.
13 CHAIRPERSON: well, if I can just say so, it shows your
14 commitment to your brother.
15 A. Oh, I wasn't that -- it wasn't that -- do you know what 11:31
16 I mean, I'm not an angel that I looked after my
17 brother.
18 CHAIRPERSON: I don't think that either.
19 A. Because, to be honest with you, he done my head in, you
20 know. 11:31
21 CHAIRPERSON: All right.
22 A. I'd go and see him and, ehm, about an hour and
23 sometimes I'd go down to see him -- this is now -- and
24 I would have to sit and listen to him and he would
25 bring me back, which he always does, to the childhood, 11:31
26 the family thing. But I say he does my head in, but I
27 try and stay there for as long as I can. And sometimes
28 I'd go down, up to where he is now, and I'd be there
29 ten minutes and I know from him rightly he wants to go

1 to bed! So you go, "Okay, come on away." To be honest
2 with you, the same as going to Muckamore, when he was
3 in Muckamore, I'd have went -- and now I'm on a roll --
4 I'd have went down to Muckamore, as I say, on the bike
5 until the bike collapsed eventually, and he would have 11:32
6 turned around and looked for the fags. The first thing
7 he looked for was the cigarettes I brought down for
8 him. If I hadn't got them, then God help me, you know,
9 I'd have to listen to him moan. But I would have got
10 him the cigarettes. And the same thing, I'd have been 11:32
11 there maybe half an hour after going all that way and
12 he'd go, you know, "Are you not going home?".

13 CHAIRPERSON: And then you could cycle back?

14 A. And you'd go, "Right, no problem."

15 CHAIRPERSON: All right. 11:33

16 A. You know, after going all this way down, it wasn't
17 "Thank you", do you know what I mean? It just here was
18 "Are you going home?", you know. And it's the same
19 when I go up to there, I know myself his wee moods now.
20 I think he's tired, he loves to have his naps, you 11:33
21 know, so I don't mind that, I don't mind that. But Joe
22 is just a big pussy cat, a softy. I'll say I'm the
23 intelligent one -- well, supposed to be the intelligent
24 one, and I should have picked up on all -- all this,
25 you know. I should have picked up on it, to be honest 11:33
26 with you.

27 CHAIRPERSON: well, as you said, Joe wasn't telling you
28 what was happening.

29 A. And they say it's not my fault that there, but I do

1 think that I should have. Joe can't -- Joe was just a
2 religious guy who, anybody in authority, he'd look up
3 to and, see, to be honest with you, I don't do that. I
4 have never done that. I've lived with it, I've seen
5 what they're capable of and I don't -- anybody up... 11:34

6 CHAIRPERSON: But Joe would?

7 A. Yes, yeah. And that's -- and I wish to thank you
8 people for being -- for being on Joe's side.

9 CHAIRPERSON: All right.

10 A. Thank you for being on Joe's side. 11:34

11 MR. McEVROY: Thank you, Robert.

12 A. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON: Robert, thank you very much indeed for
14 coming along and for doing your bit for Joe, which you
15 have done really well. So thank you very much, indeed. 11:34

16 A. Ohhhh, God...

17 CHAIRPERSON: All right.

18 A. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRPERSON: I'll ask you to go with the Secretary to
20 the Inquiry and the counsel, so thank you very much for 11:35
21 coming along.

22 A. Thank you.

23

24 THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW

25 11:35

26 MR. McEVROY: Chair, that completes the morning session
27 in terms of the evidence then. Mr. Doran is going to
28 deal with P7 this afternoon.

29 CHAIRPERSON: Fine, two o'clock. And is P7 going to be

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coming into the hearing room, do we know?

MR. DOYLE: As I understand it, he is, yes, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: okay, lovely. Thank you very much. Two o'clock then.

11:35

THE INQUIRY THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.

1 THE INQUIRY RESUMED AT 2:00 P.M. AS FOLLOWS:

2
3 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

4 MR. DORAN: Chair, this afternoon's witness is P7, and
5 P7 will be accompanied by Brian, who is the Nursing
6 Manager in the care home at which P7 currently resides.

14:09

7 CHAIRPERSON: Right.

8 MR. DORAN: He understands that he is here in a support
9 role also. P7 will also be accompanied by Tara
10 Thompson, registered intermediary, who will be able to
11 assist us, if necessary, as we proceed with P7's
12 evidence.

14:10

13 CHAIRPERSON: So what I'm going to do, they will come
14 in, but I will ask the intermediary to take the
15 intermediary oath, and she has that prepared, and then
16 we will see to what extent we need her assistance then.

14:10

17 MR. DORAN: Yes, indeed.

18 CHAIRPERSON: All right. Thank you very much. Can we
19 have the witness, please.

20 MR. DORAN: Yes, Chair, I understand that P7 has now
21 asked for his supporter, Brian, to sit in the public
22 gallery rather than beside him, but, of course, if the
23 position changes, we can review that as we go along.

14:11

24 CHAIRPERSON: Sure. Yes.

25 MR. DORAN: Chair, I understand that P7 would be very
26 grateful if the Panel would introduce themselves so
27 that he knows their names.

14:12

28 CHAIRPERSON: Yes, of course. We have met, actually.
29 My name is Tom Kark and I am the Chair of the Panel.

1 PROF. MURPHY: I am Glynis Murphy and I am a
2 psychologist and I met you when you visited.
3 DR. MAXWELL: I am Elaine Maxwell and I am a nurse.

4
5 P7, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS EXAMINED BY MR. DORAN, 14:13
6 AS FOLLOWS:

7
8 33 Q. MR. DORAN: Good afternoon, P7.

9 A. Good afternoon.

10 34 Q. Can you hear me okay? 14:14

11 A. Yeah.

12 35 Q. I am Seán Doran, Counsel to the Inquiry. We met a few
13 weeks ago when you came to visit the Inquiry building,
14 isn't that right?

15 A. Yes. 14:14

16 36 Q. And we have also had a chat this afternoon about how
17 the Inquiry works?

18 A. Yes.

19 37 Q. I am going to read out your statement.

20 A. Yes. 14:14

21 38 Q. And then ask you a few questions. As you know, we also
22 have Tara with us and Tara will be able to help --

23 CHAIRPERSON: Hold on.

24 A. I can't hear.

25 39 Q. I am going to speak a little bit more loudly -- does 14:15
26 that help?

27 A. Yeah.

28 40 Q. Can you hear me okay now?

29 A. Yeah.

1 41 Q. That's good. As I was saying, Tara is going to help
2 us, if we need help, as we go along.
3 A. Yeah.
4 42 Q. I'll be calling you "P7" at all times.
5 A. Yes, okay. 14:15
6 43 Q. Now, you were in Muckamore for about ten years, isn't
7 that right?
8 A. That's right.
9 44 Q. And that was from August 2006 up to 2016?
10 A. Yes. 14:15
11 45 Q. And you have helped the Inquiry by making a statement
12 about your experiences?
13 A. Yes.
14 46 Q. You might not remember the exact date, but you signed
15 the statement on the 11th April of this year? 14:15
16 A. Yes.
17 47 Q. Just before I read your statement, I want to explain
18 something else. In the statement, you mention another
19 patient --
20 A. Yes. 14:16
21 48 Q. And I'm going to be referring to that patient using a
22 number also.
23 A. Yes.
24 49 Q. He will be called P8.
25 A. P8, okay, yes. 14:16
26 50 Q. And are you happy enough to refer to him as P8?
27 A. Yes.
28 51 Q. There are also a few staff members mentioned in your
29 statement.

1 A. Yes.

2 52 Q. And they will also have numbers.

3 A. H13 and H14?

4 53 Q. That's right. And there's also, I think, H8 and H12.
5 I'm not going to refer to them by name. 14:16

6 A. Yeah.

7 54 Q. And can you try your best not to refer to them by name?

8 A. Yeah.

9 55 Q. That's great, P7. It's tricky, but we will both try to
10 do our best. So, I'll read your statement now. 14:17

11

12 "Statement of P7

13

14 I, P7, make the following statement for the purpose of
15 the Muckamore Abbey Hospital Inquiry. I do not have 14:17
16 any documents to exhibit to my statement.

17

18 Tara Thompson, registered intermediary, was in
19 attendance with me when I was making my statement. My
20 connection with MAH is that I am a former patient at 14:17
21 MAH. The relevant time period that I can speak about
22 is between 15th August 2006 to 2016. I was born in
23 1960."

24

25 The statement then tells us where you were born and 14:18
26 bred and where you moved to to look after your Granny
27 when you were three-and-a-half. The statement
28 continues:
29

1 "I went to primary school for four years and then went
2 to boarding school. I have special educational needs.
3 I can read with help and I can write a letter, but I
4 would need a bit of support with that. I need help
5 with big words. After boarding school, I went to a
6 training centre.

14:19

7
8 I like to watch football and I am a big supporter of
9 Ballymena United. I enjoy playing pool and go to
10 special pool tournaments where we all dress up and
11 compete. I keep in touch with my friends in the
12 location of the boarding school on the phone.

14:19

13
14 On 15th August 2006, I was contained in MAH full-time.
15 At first, I was in Ward M7A. M7A was for men over 18.
16 We all slept in a dormitory. I didn't like it at the
17 beginning as I was home sick, but I got used to it. I
18 don't remember exact dates but I think I was there
19 until 2008/2009. I was then moved to the Cranfield
20 Ward. I had my own bedroom with an en suite and my own
21 TV. Everybody had their own room in Cranfield, it was
22 great. I don't remember the exact date but I think I
23 was moved to the Six Mile Ward in and around 2012.

14:19

14:20

24
25 At MAH, we used to carry on and have banter with the
26 nurses, doctors and carers. The staff bent over
27 backwards for me and the management in the three wards
28 that I was in was excellent. H12 and H13 were the
29 managers who mainly looked after me, including other

14:20

1 staff. I couldn't have received better care and my Dad
2 and sister would say the same.

3
4 I didn't like that some of the residents would attack
5 the staff and the staff would have to intervene. The 14:21
6 staff would sometimes get punched by other patients and
7 would have to P and I them."

8
9 Chair, I asked the witness to explain what was meant by
10 that prior to giving his evidence and he explained that 14:21
11 he was referring to a form of restraint similar to that
12 exercised by the police. So that explains the use of
13 the term P and I in the statement.

14 CHAIRPERSON: All right. We don't know what it stands
15 for? 14:21

16 MR. DORAN: Not entirely clear yet, Chair.

17 CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Okay.

18 MR. DORAN:

19
20 "This is when the patient would be restrained until 14:21
21 they had calmed down. This was not done in a vicious
22 way. The staff held emergency alarms like a pager and
23 they would set them off when they needed help with a
24 patient. The staff were very good. Sometimes I got
25 bullied and harassed by other patients. Patients 14:22
26 sometimes called me names and accused me of things that
27 were not true. I always told the staff when this
28 happened and the staff would speak to the other patient
29 and make them apologise. H14 was my support worker. I

1 remember one time, I don't remember exactly when this
2 was, but another patient, P8, used inappropriate
3 language to me and H14 overheard. I went down to my
4 room and cried. H14 called P8 into his office and made
5 him apologise to me. He told him that we are all here 14:22
6 to get help and to get treatment and not to hurt
7 anybody's feelings.

8
9 In March 2009, I had to get an operation on my back. I
10 went to the Royal for this. I had the operation on 1st 14:23
11 April 2009. I was in the Royal for four or five
12 nights. When I got back to Cranfield, I got extra care
13 and the staff at MAH made a fuss over me until I
14 recovered.

15 14:23
16 In 2016, it was time for me to leave MAH. I was to go
17 to supported living. After I was assessed, they said
18 that it would not be suitable for me and that fell
19 through. After that, I went for a trial at a nursing
20 home, where I now live. I went in for a few hours at 14:23
21 first, and then during the day, and then a few
22 overnights as a trial. After about six weeks, I was
23 moved permanently to the nursing home. My time at MAH
24 had finished and I was glad to get out and into the
25 nursing home. The staff at Six Mile helped me move 14:24
26 out. Everybody mucked in. They bent over backwards
27 for me. During my time in MAH, I never saw anything
28 bad being done to the other patients by the staff."
29

1 And if we just then move on to the end of the
2 statement, it's signed P7 and dated the 11th April
3 2022.

4

5 Now, P7, are you happy with your statement?

14:24

6 A. Yeah.

7 56 Q. Sometimes, people make statements and then when they
8 read them back afterwards, they think "I need to add
9 something to that" or "There's something not quite
10 right"?

14:25

11 A. That's dead on, Seán.

12 57 Q. The statement is dead on. That's fine, P7. I just
13 want to ask you a few questions. You moved to
14 Muckamore on the -- you moved to Muckamore on the 15th
15 August 2006, isn't that right?

14:25

16 A. Yes.

17 58 Q. You've given the exact date. Does that day stick out
18 in your mind?

19 A. Yes, it was a Thursday.

20 59 Q. Right. And tell us more about your moving in.

14:25

21 A. About approximately a quarter past three, I'm --
22 [inaudible] down to M7 and it was just like, like a
23 prison cell.

24 60 Q. Do you mean the room that you were brought to?

25 A. I mean all the doors were locked. You know, you
26 couldn't get out.

14:26

27 61 Q. And were you not used to living somewhere like that?

28 A. No, I was always -- I was always -- I was fit to move
29 about and all.

1 62 Q. So did you find it a bit strange?
2 A. Yeah, but I got used to it.
3 63 Q. But it took you a little bit of time to settle in?
4 A. Yeah, yeah.
5 64 Q. And I think you say you were home sick at first? 14:26
6 A. Yeah.
7 65 Q. And who were you missing?
8 A. My Dad.
9 66 Q. So it took you a little bit of time to get used to not
10 being with your Dad? 14:26
11 A. Yeah. And I missed my sisters as well.
12 67 Q. Your sisters too?
13 A. Yeah.
14 68 Q. How many sisters have you?
15 A. Two, and a half-sister. 14:27
16 69 Q. I think you said you were in a dormitory for the first
17 couple of years?
18 A. Yes.
19 70 Q. Do you remember how many people there were in the
20 dormitory? 14:27
21 A. About -- I can't remember now, Seán.
22 71 Q. That's okay. And, after that, you moved to Cranfield?
23 A. Yeah -- oh, it was Six Mile -- or, sorry, Cranfield,
24 sorry.
25 72 Q. You went to Cranfield first? 14:27
26 A. Yes, uh-huh.
27 73 Q. And it seems from your statement that you enjoyed being
28 in Cranfield?
29 A. Yes, the staff were excellent.

1 74 Q. You thought the staff were good to you?
2 A. Yeah.

3 75 Q. And I think you said that, in Cranfield, you had your
4 own room and your own TV?
5 A. Yes, and you could have went down there to -- you could 14:27
6 go down there if you were getting hassled, you could go
7 down to your room and chill out.

8 76 Q. Yes. And what do you mean by "getting hassle"?
9 A. Just be kept going and that, you know.

10 77 Q. And without naming any names, obviously, but who would 14:28
11 keep you going?
12 A. Different ones.

13 78 Q. Now, are you talking about other patients or --
14 A. Yes, other patients, yeah.

15 79 Q. Yes. And after Cranfield, you then went to Six Mile? 14:28
16 A. Six Mile, yes.

17 80 Q. And why did that move take place?
18 A. why?

19 81 Q. Yes.
20 A. Because I was -- I was starting my treatment. 14:28

21 82 Q. Sorry, if you could just say that again, P7?
22 A. It was the start of my assessment for treatment.

23 83 Q. The start of your assessment for treatment, yes. And
24 what about Six Mile then, did you enjoy your time in
25 Six Mile? 14:29
26 A. Yes, I did, indeed.

27 84 Q. And were the staff good to you there?
28 A. Fantastic.

29 85 Q. You say in your statement that, sometimes, you saw

1 patients punching staff?

2 A. Yes.

3 86 Q. How often would that sort of thing have happened?

4 A. Oh, not very often.

5 87 Q. And you also say in your statement that you thought the 14:29
6 staff were good at calming patients down?

7 A. Yeah.

8 88 Q. And how would they have done that?

9 A. Just talk to them. If they were very violent, they
10 would P and I. 14:30

11 89 Q. P and I. Can you help us, do you know what those two
12 letters stand for?

13 A. Prevention and, eh, protection -- I forget the other
14 word.

15 90 Q. So the first one's either "prevention" or "protection" 14:30
16 and you're not sure what the second one is?

17 A. Something similar the police do.

18 91 Q. Yes. And how did that work?

19 A. How did it work? They just pulled their alarm and the
20 alarm works, right, and they come running in because 14:30
21 they heard the patient put them down - not in a bad
22 way, not in a bad way.

23 92 Q. Yes. And you say that sometimes you got bullied by
24 other patients?

25 A. Yes. 14:30

26 93 Q. And you also say then that the staff would help you
27 out?

28 A. Yes.

29 94 Q. I think you gave one example of another patient using

1 inappropriate language to you?

2 A. Yeah.

3 95 Q. And the support worker made that patient apologise to
4 you?

5 A. Yeah. 14:31

6 96 Q. And I think you say the support worker said something
7 like "You're all here to get treatment and not hurt
8 feelings", is that right?

9 A. That's right.

10 97 Q. And I think you also say that you had an operation on 14:31
11 your back in 2009?

12 A. Yeah, that's correct.

13 98 Q. And the staff helped you to recover from that?

14 A. Yes.

15 99 Q. Now, you are in a nursing home now, isn't that right, 14:31
16 P7?

17 A. Yeah.

18 100 Q. And you went there in 2016?

19 A. Yes.

20 101 Q. You said that you had a few trial runs before you moved 14:31
21 in?

22 A. Yeah.

23 102 Q. How did that work?

24 A. I was in Six Mile -- [redacted] or some of the staff
25 would have come up and collected me, collected me and 14:32
26 --

27 103 Q. Chair, I wonder if we could just use the --

28 CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

29 104 Q. MR. DORAN: There was just a reference to a name in Six

1 Mile. P7, it's absolutely fine. We're going to move
2 on. You were just telling us about how you moved from
3 Muckamore to your nursing home.

4 A. Yes.

5 105 Q. And you had a few trial runs, isn't that right? 14:32

6 A. Yeah, well [redacted] -- or the nursing home --

7 106 Q. Chair, could we exercise that function again? P7, you
8 have absolutely no need to apologise. Sometimes
9 witnesses mention names or place names and we have a
10 very simple system in place for making sure that no 14:33
11 record is taken of that, so you're absolutely fine. I
12 was just asking you about how the change worked from
13 Muckamore to your nursing home?

14 A. In Muckamore, it was locked -- locked in the ward. In
15 the nursing home I was in, it was more open -- not like 14:33
16 a lock -- a lock.

17 107 Q. Well, I think you say in your statement that you were
18 glad to move there?

19 A. Yeah.

20 108 Q. And was that because you had a bit more freedom? 14:34

21 A. Yeah, yeah.

22 109 Q. And I think you say the staff helped you to move?

23 A. Yeah.

24 110 Q. And you also say in your statement that you never saw
25 anything bad being done by the staff at Muckamore, is 14:34
26 that right?

27 A. No, no.

28 111 Q. Now, P7, those are all of the questions that I want to
29 ask you, so thank you for answering the questions that

1 I have put to you so far, but it may be that members of
2 the Panel will want to ask you some questions before
3 you leave.

4 A. As long as they're not too hard!

5 MR. DORAN: well, I can't promise that. 14:35

6 CHAIRPERSON: I'm going to try one!

7 A. Can you speak up, Tom, please?

8 CHAIRPERSON: Can you hear me now?

9 A. Yeah.

10 14:35

11 P7 WAS THEN QUESTIONED BY THE CHAIRPERSON, AS FOLLOWS

12

13 112 Q. CHAIRPERSON: All right. I am just going to come back
14 to P and I. How did you know it was called P and I?

15 A. The staff told me it was called P and I. 14:35

16 113 Q. CHAIRPERSON: Right. And what were the circumstances?
17 How did the staff tell you it was called P and I?
18 Sorry, what did they say to you about P and I?

19 A. I can't hear.

20 CHAIRPERSON: Could you repeat my question, please? 14:35
21 (Assistant repeats question).

22 A. I was told it was called that --

23 MR. DORAN: Yes, maybe I can put the question? My
24 microphone seems to be working particularly well this
25 afternoon. 14:36

26 CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

27 114 Q. MR. DORAN: It's just, P7, in what circumstances did
28 you find out that this was called P and I?

29 A. I was told at the start if there was any -- you know, I

1 heard alarms going off and I thought, I thought
2 somebody was coming to get me.

3 115 Q. Ah, and was this in your early days in Muckamore?
4 A. At the start -- the start of my treatment, Seán.

5 116 Q. Yes. So you were told at that stage that restraint was 14:36
6 called "P and I"?
7 A. Yeah. Yeah.

8 CHAIRPERSON: All right. All right, well, thank you
9 very much.

10 A. That's the best I can explain -- 14:36
11 MR. DORAN: That's very helpful, P7.
12 CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Can I thank you very much for
13 coming to help the Inquiry. It's nice to see you
14 again.

15 A. Right. 14:37
16 CHAIRPERSON: And your evidence has been very helpful,
17 all right? So thank you very much for coming.

18 A. Yeah.
19 CHAIRPERSON: Okay. If you'd now like to go with the
20 Secretary to the Inquiry? Thank you very much. 14:37
21

22 THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW
23

24 CHAIRPERSON: Right. The plan for next week?
25 MR. DORAN: Yes, Chair, on Tuesday -- we will not be 14:37
26 sitting on Monday.
27 CHAIRPERSON: No.
28 MR. DORAN: But, on Tuesday, the Inquiry will hear from
29 two witnesses, the brother of a former patient, P3, and

1 P3's brother will give evidence by video-link. The
2 arrangements are in place for that to be done. The
3 Inquiry will also hear from the sister of a former
4 patient, P13. There will also be two statements read
5 in between the two oral witnesses. First of all, the 14:38
6 sister of a former patient, P10, and then the statement
7 of a former patient, P6.

8 CHAIRPERSON: Right.

9 MR. DORAN: On Wednesday then, we will hear from the
10 final witness of this session, and that is the father 14:38
11 of a former patient, P11.

12 CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

13 MR. DORAN: So that will complete the evidence before
14 the summer recess.

15 CHAIRPERSON: Right. That's very helpful. All right, 14:39
16 thank you very much.

17 MR. DORAN: Thank you, Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON: There will be other work for the Inquiry
19 administratively tomorrow, but we will not be sitting
20 tomorrow and, indeed, we won't be sitting until Tuesday 14:39
21 of next week. So can I wish everybody a good weekend
22 and please test, if you can. Thank you very much
23 indeed.

24
25 THE INQUIRY WAS THEN ADJOURNED TO TUESDAY, 5TH JULY
26 2022 AT 10 A. M.