

1

Wednesday, 1 June 2022

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. The plan announced yesterday was
4 to start today with a read-in and I think that's still
5 the plan; is that right, Ms Rattray?

6 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

7 LADY SMITH: Whenever you're ready, I'm ready for you to
8 fire away.

9 Robert Marchmont (read)

10 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we start with the statement of
11 Robert Marchmont, who is an applicant who does not wish
12 to be anonymous. His statement is at WIT.001.001.8233.
13 He was boarded out by Glasgow Corporation to a croft
14 near Elgin from [REDACTED] 1956 to [REDACTED] 1965, and
15 Your Ladyship will recall that we heard oral evidence
16 from Robert's sister and brother.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes. That was just yesterday of course, wasn't
18 it?

19 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: And this is the other brother that they
21 referred to as having gone to the croft near Elgin with
22 them.

23 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS RATTRAY: "My name is Robert Marchmont. I was born in

1 1949. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

2 When I was a small child I lived with my dad and my
3 mum and I also have one brother George who is a year
4 younger than me. I had two sisters, one who died when
5 she was 41 and was two or three years younger than me,
6 and Josephine, who is about a year older than me.

7 We were born in Glasgow. It was a big house,
8 a tenement like all the rest. I think the street had
9 been bombed in the war. The houses round about it were
10 black with coal dust and smoke. Where I was born was
11 lovely yellow sandstone and it looked quite new. We
12 also lived in another house in Glasgow but the only
13 thing I remember about that house is blackouts on the
14 windows, shutters or curtains.

15 My dad was in the Navy during the war. When he came
16 out of the Navy, he got a job in fish shops in Govan.
17 He was the manager of the two branches. I can't
18 remember dad being there much. The only occasion
19 I remember him being at home was when I had earache.
20 I distinctly remember him walking me up and down, trying
21 to get me to sleep. I don't think my mum and dad got
22 on. Mum didn't want us. She met somebody else when we
23 were taken into care and went on to have two more
24 children.

25 Most of the time, we didn't have our parents in the

1 house. We hardly had any food and there was often no
2 electricity. The electricity was either switched off or
3 my mum couldn't afford it. Mum was out most of the
4 time. Neighbours reported us for wandering about the
5 streets or being cooped up in the house with no adults
6 there. In the end, we were taken away."

7 At paragraphs 6 and 7, Robert speaks of his memories
8 of Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon.

9 Moving now to paragraph 8 on page 3:

10 "When I was about seven years old, my sister came
11 and told me we were going to be fostered to somebody in
12 the country. We were taken to a place on George Square
13 to get kitted out in clothes. We were measured up and
14 then they gave us pants, trousers, shoes and wellington
15 boots. We got dolled up in our new clothes. I remember
16 going to the train station and seeing all the big glass
17 work and steam engines. It was fascinating to me. We
18 went on the train and it took ages, hours and hours.
19 I think a woman from the Corporation came with us.

20 We should have got off at Elgin train station but
21 the train went on to Inverness, about 50 miles too far.
22 The lady who was responsible for us needed to get two
23 taxis to fit us and our clothes. They looked like big
24 funeral cars. She showed us the house, [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED], which was about half a mile off the main road.

1 There were tyre tracks up to the house. It was five or
2 six miles from the village of [REDACTED], Elgin. Elgin
3 was a further five miles or so away. Even though we'd
4 had a long journey, our hearts dropped. It was
5 terrible. Even before we reached the house, something
6 inside me told me that I was going to hate it, but we
7 had no option. It didn't have a proper toilet, a proper
8 table or electricity.

9 A lady came to the door wearing a head square and
10 old-fashioned clothes. Her name was JCU [REDACTED], known
11 as JCU [REDACTED] or JCU [REDACTED]. We had to call her auntie, although
12 she was no auntie of ours. She had a straight leg,
13 which she had bandaged up most of the time. She could
14 still walk faster than we were able to run from her.
15 I didn't like her and I didn't like the house. We went
16 into the house. The lady from the Corporation talked to
17 her and told her our names. We just stood there, not
18 knowing what to do.

19 When the taxis left, I dropped down and cried and
20 cried. I should have said, "No, take me back", but
21 I didn't. We were there and we had to give it a chance.
22 I just wish things had been different.

23 The house was quite old. It had a corrugated tin
24 roof. Every time it rained, the rain seemed twice as
25 loud because the roof amplified it. There was a lobby

1 within the front door. There was a grandfather clock
2 and a hatstand in the lobby. There were two doors from
3 the lobby, one leading to the front room and another
4 leading to the bedroom, which JCU used. We
5 didn't go in there.

6 There was another bedroom through the lobby where we
7 all stayed when we first arrived. People from the
8 Corporation told her that boys shouldn't be sleeping in
9 with girls, so she had to change the sleeping
10 arrangements after a while. George and I went into the
11 small bedroom and our younger sister shared with Jo.

12 JCU then slept on a bed settee in the living room.
13 There was an old black open fire in the front room. It
14 had hooks above it. She didn't have a proper oven so
15 all the cooking was done on that fire. All her pots
16 were black.

17 She told us the toilet was in the shed outside. We
18 had come from Dunclutha with a proper toilet and running
19 water. The toilet at [REDACTED] was a bucket. It
20 was awkward in the dark because it was always full of
21 spiders. There was no flush. We had to wash the dishes
22 in the rainwater which came off the roof. We had two
23 buckets of water, one for drinking, which came from
24 a well about half a mile away. We collected the water
25 every day. It was beautiful water. The other bucket

1 was for doing the dishes. The bucket of drinking water
2 was kept in a three-legged holder. The cats couldn't
3 get up to drink it. She had a dishwasher, which was
4 about a dozen cats that licked clean all the pots and
5 plates. They were allowed to roam around and go up on
6 the table.

7 Our bedroom had one big bed and one small bed in it.
8 There was also a round table and a commode. She allowed
9 us to use the commode for the first week, but after that
10 we had to go to the toilet outside. There was
11 a wardrobe and a set of drawers. There was also a coal
12 fire in the bedroom. I think it was only on twice more
13 after we first arrived. She didn't like burning wood or
14 coal. We used to have a little paraffin lamp turned
15 right down. The black charcoal from the flame gradually
16 covered the glass so it got harder and harder to get any
17 light from it.

18 Auntie could weave patterned mats in big frames.
19 They didn't cover the whole floor but we had them next
20 to our beds. She sat in a chair next to the fire.
21 There was also a three-seater sofa and two seats next to
22 a small window. The bedding was an eiderdown. I was in
23 the single bed with George. Jo slept in the big bed and
24 our little sister slept there when she arrived.

25 [REDACTED] was a working croft at one time.

1 JCU owned 12 acres of land. I think she rented
2 out the land to a farmer who would decide what to do
3 with the land. Sometimes he would grow potatoes,
4 sometimes it would be corn or wheat and sometimes it
5 would be left barren. She got money for allowing a man
6 to keep cows and sheep on the land. In the winter, we
7 kept an eye on the sheep.

8 There were sheds outside the front door. The wood
9 was kept in one, which was left open. She kept geese
10 and chickens in one of the sheds. One year, we were
11 sitting around the door. It was elevated by big slabs.
12 We were wearing our Sunday best. The geese came over.
13 My brother George was sitting with his zip open. The
14 big goose tried to get in and peck him. It wasn't funny
15 at the time.

16 JCU got us up what seemed like three or four
17 hours before school. We collected the water from the
18 well and did any other jobs we had to do. We would feed
19 the chicken and geese and make sure the cows and sheep
20 were all right. She would degrade us all the time.
21 Whoever she called first, she would usually fall out
22 with. She would then call somebody else. He or she had
23 to make her a cup of tea. The last four years I spent
24 at JCU lay in bed all day.

25 Bedtime was sometimes good but sometimes it was bad.

1 On good days, we'd kneel down and say our prayers at the
2 side of the bed. We'd hop into bed and in the winter
3 we'd be given a hot water bottle because the room was so
4 cold. As George and I got older JCU would tie the
5 bedroom door shut so we couldn't get out. I think she
6 did this because I was growing up and I had a little bit
7 of strength behind me. We would look through the
8 keyhole to see what she was doing. She had a wireless
9 next door and I used to like to lie and listen to it, if
10 I wasn't crying. The hot water bottles became our
11 toilets because we had nowhere else to go. If they were
12 full or we'd had too many pees, we had to piss round the
13 back of the drawers or through the slats of wood.

14 Breakfast was porridge. At first JCU made it.
15 After a year or so, Jo or I made the porridge. On
16 a couple of mornings if I wasn't well and the others had
17 gone to school, I got a boiled egg. Lunch didn't happen
18 very often. Sometimes she'd give us scrambled egg for
19 breakfast and lunch. We got school lunches at
20 [REDACTED]. I thoroughly enjoyed them because I was
21 starving. When we came in from school around 4 o'clock,
22 there would be a pot of soup nearly every day. She
23 would thin it out with water. When dinner was supposed
24 to come around, we had one slice of cheese or a jar of
25 meat paste from the butcher or jam sandwiches. We sat

1 at a table with JCU at the head. On Saturdays we
2 might have mince and on Sundays we might have mince and
3 dough balls, but it was very small measures.

4 Some Saturday mornings she would make a cup of tea.
5 She would put her glasses on and have a fag in her
6 mouth. She would be in a good mood. They would invite
7 us in with her whilst she drank her tea and we would be
8 like a happy family. Those moments were few and far
9 between. We had to wait until she told us to have tea
10 or wait until she made it for us. We couldn't just go
11 and help ourselves.

12 Sometimes I'd steal a slice of bread from the
13 cupboard. If we took food from the cupboard, we
14 wouldn't get it for our dinner and that would be it.
15 There were at least a dozen cats and a dog. The cats
16 got pride of place in the house. They had the best of
17 everything. She would buy loaves of bread from the
18 baker. She would take the lovely inside out and put it
19 into a saucer of milk for each cat. We had to make sure
20 the cats had had their feed. Because we were so hungry,
21 I would eat the cats' food. We called it saps. If she
22 was in a good mood, she would let us have the crust of
23 the bread.

24 There were no shops so we sometimes depended upon
25 vans coming up to the croft. One would sell lemonade

1 and another was a baker's van. If she wanted something
2 from him, she would ask one of us to look out of the
3 window for him coming. That made us late for school.
4 She would buy a loaf of bread and fancy biscuits. She
5 bought me a bike. I had to go to [REDACTED] so I could
6 pick up bits and pieces. We had to go to [REDACTED],
7 which was over a mile away, to get milk. I cycled to
8 school and into Elgin.

9 When she sent me off to buy her fags from [REDACTED]
10 I started to pinch them. I started taking one at
11 a time. My head would go round and my body was shaking.
12 I thought I'd better run away because she'd know
13 something was wrong. I was frightened to go back to the
14 house for a couple of hours. Sometimes she'd notice.
15 I would deny taking them. I lied about a lot of things.
16 I would still get hit for taking them.

17 There was one day during the school holidays. We
18 got a lot of dock leaves all around the croft. I would
19 be sent to pull them out. I could never pull all the
20 roots out. She told me that I would find a penny at the
21 bottom of every root. I was out there with George.
22 I threw a penny into the hole and made it look as if it
23 had been there for a long time. I ran in and showed her
24 the penny. I carried on doing that over the next couple
25 of hours. It was my way of telling her I had money.

1 I'd pinched them from her.

2 JCU was given money by various people. I knew
3 where she kept it. In the morning when I was having my
4 porridge I would open up the drawer and go into her
5 purse. I started off taking silver. I would take
6 a crown or half a crown. I got more and more and
7 I stole a £20 note. It seemed to take months and months
8 to spend it. Every day I would wait on the van and fill
9 my belly as much as I could. My sister would ask me
10 where I had got the food. I told her I'd stolen it so
11 she said she would tell on me unless I got her something
12 to eat as well. We were starving, we had no food.

13 One day I remember going to school and I was so
14 hungry. A child had thrown away some food. It was
15 a piece of pastry and jam. I saw it and I crept up to
16 the bin. I waited until nobody was looking. I took
17 such a big bite of it that it stuck in my throat and
18 I couldn't swallow it. Eventually I spat some of it out
19 and I managed to get it down.

20 Glasgow Corporation sent JCU money for our
21 clothes. She would tell them what we needed for school.
22 We had everyday clothes for the croft and Sunday best.
23 Sometimes we had to wear our Sunday best for school.
24 Mostly, we wore hand-me-downs given to us by friends of
25 JCU. There was a lady called Mrs who had

1 a son a bit older than me. She would give JCU his
2 old clothes. The trousers had a big leather patch on
3 the backside. I hated them. We had tackity boots like
4 you might get in the army. If they were too tight we
5 would get blisters. We had to take them off and walk
6 home barefooted.

7 We used cold water for our face and hands in the
8 morning. We used carbolic soap. We had our own
9 flannels and toothbrush which we kept in a little bag.
10 I only remember actually getting into the bath once. We
11 had been in Elgin and we had to walk home. I needed the
12 toilet. I tried to go as fast as I could, but
13 I couldn't keep it in. I soiled myself. JCU
14 cleaned me up. On other occasions we just washed the
15 bits that needed to be washed. It was freezing cold
16 water, so we often pretended that we'd washed everything
17 when we hadn't. JCU would sit in her chair
18 watching us, so we had to make it look like we were
19 doing it. We never washed in warm water. When
20 I started at Elgin Academy, I could have a shower after
21 sport.

22 As I grew up, I didn't want to take my clothes off
23 in front of my brother and sisters. She used to make us
24 stand in the room and take our clothes off. She would
25 say that she was a nurse. One day JCU lost her

1 temper. I think she said something rude to me.
2 I nearly threw the enamel bucket at her. She made me
3 strip off in front of my brother and sisters. I ran out
4 of the room. I had no clothes on. I didn't hit her,
5 but she knew I could have. It made her realise that
6 I wouldn't take any more.

7 When I was eight or nine, the toilet blew down in
8 a gale force wind. I couldn't lift it because I wasn't
9 strong enough. The toilet was moved in with the geese.
10 Every time we went to the toilet, we were surrounded by
11 geese. Sometimes we would just do the toilet in the
12 midden, which was where she buried dead animals or
13 rotten food. It was fully visible to people on the
14 road. We would use the midden if somebody else was in
15 the toilet or the bucket was full. I had to empty the
16 toilet bucket. I had to dig a hole and empty the
17 contents of the bucket into the hole. Sometimes it was
18 too heavy for me to drag. JCU [REDACTED] had a commode in
19 the back bedroom. She didn't have to use the outside
20 toilet.

21 We went to [REDACTED] primary school. I was put in
22 the same class as Josephine at school. When the teacher
23 started writing on the board, I hadn't a clue what the
24 teacher was doing. I couldn't understand. They took me
25 out of Jo's class and put me in the infant class. I was

1 there for about three days. I cried every day because
2 it wasn't like Dunclutha. I used to get strapped at
3 school. I couldn't read, but if the teacher asked me
4 a question, I knew the answer, but I was last or
5 second-last all the time. I was put into another
6 classroom and I did very well.

7 I hated primary school. We were bullied. The
8 children would say we were dirty and we had fleas. We
9 did have fleas. I saw them on my arms a couple of
10 times. Whoever they jumped on wouldn't have been too
11 happy. We had different clothes from other people. We
12 wore hand-me-downs. Sometimes I had to wear my sister's
13 navy blue knickers for sport because I didn't have
14 shorts. It was very embarrassing. I got through it.
15 I was good at running. We walked to school until we got
16 our bikes.

17 When I was about 13, I went to Elgin Academy. By
18 that time, I could fight off any bullies. When my class
19 was going to the swimming pool, there was no teacher
20 there. We had to queue and wait. Somebody pinched
21 somebody else's towel and grabbed his trunks. They were
22 being chucked around. The boy was running after
23 everyone to try and get them back. When he got to me,
24 he knocked me over. I smacked him and took half his lip
25 away. I didn't mean to hit him that hard. I felt so

1 bad. I never saw him again. I don't think he came back
2 to school. I got six of the best for that from the PE
3 teacher. My life changed that day. The people in my
4 class realised I wasn't a pushover. From that day,
5 people respected me. I wasn't bullied or teased any
6 more.

7 I quite liked Elgin Academy. I came first in
8 religious instruction and third in the class all round.
9 I got one book for coming first. I'd been coming last
10 year after year and I was told I was no good all the
11 time. I was really proud of myself. I'd come third and
12 I knew I wasn't a waste of space and I'd managed on my
13 own accord. But when I left school, I couldn't read,
14 I couldn't write and I couldn't count.

15 When we first arrived, we were told to go out and
16 get some potatoes. Jo and I went out with a bucket and
17 fork. We went to the potato field but we couldn't see
18 any potatoes. We were there for an hour or so. We went
19 back into the house and told JCU that we couldn't
20 find any potatoes. She told us there was a whole field
21 of them. We said 'Yeah, but we can't find any'. She
22 said, 'Put the fork in, dig the thing up, shake it out
23 and the potatoes are there'. We also had to look after
24 the hens and the geese and make sure they had clean
25 water and feed.

1 Before we arrived, JCU did all the work on the
2 croft. When we moved there, we took over all the work.
3 We had to go and get the water from the well. We walked
4 down a steep dirt track where tractors would go up and
5 down. It was all uphill on the way back. It was quite
6 a trek. For a seven-year-old child, trying to carry two
7 buckets of water up the hill was very difficult. If we
8 didn't bring full buckets we had to go back and get
9 more. We had to make sure there was enough water for
10 JCU to use during the day.

11 We came home from school one day and saw the big
12 telephone pole. We could switch the lights on. We got
13 a telly in eventually and a proper cooker. We also got
14 running water after a while. George and I had to dig
15 a trench from a farmer's field where the pipeline ran.
16 We had to dig through to the road and all the way up the
17 garden path, past the outhouses and past the front room
18 window. I had to do it when I got home from school.
19 The earth was so compact, it took me weeks. She would
20 hit us to get us to work.

21 The main job we had was collecting firewood. When
22 we were very young, we spent our summer holidays going
23 over to the woods. We came back with branches or bits
24 of wood that we could carry. We had to saw them and cut
25 them into sizes that would burn. We had a big saw and

1 my sister Jo held one end and I held the other. The saw
2 was so blunt that it took ages and ages. I used to saw
3 round about it and then put the wood on a rock and break
4 it with sheer weight.

5 I think JCU was given money by the Corporation
6 for firewood but she only bought firewood on one
7 occasion whilst I was there. I only remember her
8 getting coal on three occasions. I quite enjoyed
9 collecting firewood. It meant I was out of JCU
10 way and she couldn't get me.

11 JCU used to give geese to her friends as
12 presents at Christmas. Initially, she killed the geese.
13 A couple of years after we arrived, she made me kill the
14 geese. It was very frightening. We liked the geese but
15 she made us kill them. I used to see JCU or
16 Mr the man who kept the cows and sheep, kill the
17 geese. I thought it couldn't be that hard. I put its
18 neck down, put the stick on it, put my feet on the stick
19 and pulled it up to break its neck. I thought it was
20 dead. I tied its feet together and hung it up on the
21 apple tree. Before I could get it up an the apple tree
22 it jumped out of my hand. It was flapping about the
23 garden. It frightened me to death. I didn't know it
24 was going to flap about like that.

25 I had to kill the birds every Christmas or whenever

1 JCU wanted a hen or goose for dinner. She would tell
2 us which goose to kill. My little sister had seen us
3 carrying the dead birds under our arms. She decided she
4 would try to do it for herself. She went and got
5 a chicken but she forgot to kill it. She was plucking
6 it. The poor chicken was trying to get away. That was
7 a big laugh for us.

8 There were apple trees on the grounds. One of our
9 summer jobs was picking the apples. Jo and I had to go
10 and work for people who lived near the croft. We would
11 go off in the tractor singing songs. We planted
12 carrots, potatoes and turnips and went howking neeps.
13 We went grouse beating and weeding carrots. We didn't
14 get paid, but we would be given a bucket of tatties or
15 a rabbit to take home with us. We used to get paid for
16 berry picking in the summer holidays. I used to enjoy
17 doing that. At the end of the day your basket would be
18 weighed. I used to put a few stones at the bottom.
19 I never made much money from that because I used to eat
20 more than I picked.

21 JCU would manipulate me to do jobs. If crops
22 weren't growing on the fields, they would be riddled
23 with thistles and nettles. We had to go into the fields
24 with a scythe to cut down the nettles and thistles. She
25 made me think that I had to catch the thistles before

1 they blossomed. I would be out there almost every day
2 of the school holidays. I didn't know how to sharpen
3 the scythe properly. It broke so the only way I could
4 chop them down was to take the blade and chop off as
5 many heads as I could.

6 I went through the cubs and progressed to the
7 scouts. I had a uniform. JCU was friends with
8 Mr EEN through the church, who sexually abused me.
9 He was involved in the cubs and scouts and he got me my
10 uniform. JCU didn't have to pay for it.
11 I enjoyed the cubs and the scouts. The man in charge of
12 the scouts was a teacher at school. He did
13 a very good job. I think his name was Mr Raffin.

14 I don't remember there being any toys. One year
15 I do remember getting some sort of yellow tractor for
16 Christmas. I used to play with it outside. I don't
17 think there were any books, except books that we took
18 home from school. There was nothing in the house to
19 entertain us. JCU listened to the wireless.
20 I could relate to a couple of the programmes and I would
21 listen through the bedroom door.

22 The church was Church. From
23 the time we arrived, we went to Sunday School first and
24 then on to church. Most of JCU friends were
25 church people. When she applied to foster children,

1 a lot of the church people were telling her that it
2 would change her life but it didn't. They had
3 a collection. When the plate came round, I would put my
4 penny in but I would take out two shillings. I would go
5 to the shop and spend it on sweeties. Somebody saw me.

6 One day I was in the church by myself. There was
7 an old organ. You had to pump your feet and pull things
8 out to start playing. I was singing a hymn. I couldn't
9 play it properly but there was nobody there. I wondered
10 if there was any money lying about so I could go and buy
11 a sweet. I got halfway to the door and something took
12 me by the back of the neck. I could see but I couldn't
13 see. I was in the middle of the road and I nearly got
14 knocked down. It was as if somebody it frogmarched me
15 out. It was as if God knew I was going to steal money
16 and dragged me out of the church to stop me. It was
17 a warning. I've tried to be honest ever since.

18 The minister's name was [REDACTED] He was
19 a lovely man in every respect. He gave lovely sermons.
20 When I got my bicycle, he gave a special sermon about
21 a little boy and a bicycle. Because I'd been stealing
22 the money he looked after me. He took me out in his
23 car. He took me out on his boat fishing. I enjoyed
24 rowing the boat but I didn't know anything about
25 fishing. I think his wife might have discussed us with

1 people in the congregation. His wife wrote to Glasgow
2 Corporation about us because she was concerned about our
3 welfare.

4 When I left to return to Glasgow, [REDACTED] gave
5 me a wallet. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever
6 seen. It must have been quite expensive. It was a bit
7 big to carry about so I used to carry it in my case.
8 When I went to Aberdeen on the trawlers, I kept it for
9 years. One day I came in from sea and forgot where I'd
10 left my bag. I lost the wallet. It must have cost him
11 a fortune and he'd given it to me and I lost it.

12 A woman from the Corporation came to visit about
13 once a year. She would take a statement from [REDACTED].
14 [REDACTED] would tell her what clothes we needed or what we
15 needed for school. Sometimes she visited when we were
16 still at school. We would see the car marks. [REDACTED]
17 would tell us she'd been. As time went on, [REDACTED] would
18 tell the lady that I had been naughty and that she
19 needed to smack me. The lady from the Corporation would
20 write it down. She told [REDACTED] that she had to keep me in
21 tow and that if I deserved a smack, she should give me
22 a smack. That was where [REDACTED] got the green light
23 to in nearly murder us.

24 We didn't have any visits from family, either they
25 didn't come or they weren't allowed. I think contact

1 was made on one occasion. I think it was because our
2 father had died. JCU had to tell us. I think we
3 were asked if we wanted to see him. I remember Jo and
4 I speaking about it. We thought that he hadn't tried to
5 find us in seven or eight years so he mustn't have
6 wanted to know us at all. At the same time, we didn't
7 give him a chance to see us. I think the Glasgow
8 Corporation kept it that way and kept our mum from
9 knowing where we were or how we were doing.

10 I think the doctor had to call to the house once
11 a year. Most of the time, he called by when we were at
12 school so I don't know what he said.

13 Our birthdays weren't really celebrated. We had
14 a big goose on Christmas Day. The smell of it cooking
15 was lovely. We got presents from church people who
16 lived locally. They sent us selection boxes. JCU
17 would give us one little sweet at Christmas time and
18 then put them away. She must have eaten the rest
19 because we never did.

20 A friend of JCU's would invite us to her house
21 at Christmas time. We would have a family dinner. It
22 was always motor racing on the telly at her house.
23 I used to enjoy that and watch a lot of telly. We would
24 have chips. We didn't know what they were.

25 I ran away a few times. On one occasion I was gone

1 for about a day and a half. I was making my way back to
2 Glasgow to the Corporation. I didn't get that far.
3 I still smelled of creosote. I ran away two or three
4 times. The police brought me back. I thought they'd
5 known something was wrong because it was the third time.
6 If they'd just asked, I would have told them. I never
7 told them. I was too frightened of the consequences.
8 If JCU lost her temper, she could have done
9 anything to my brother and sisters."

10 My Lady, at this point I'm just going to read out
11 part of the records, which are at GLA-000001865,
12 page 31.

13 LADY SMITH: Okay.

14 MS RATTRAY: There is a record in August 1963 of Robert
15 being missing and the police being notified and
16 eventually the police finding him and taking him back.

17 And then there is a visit by Glasgow Corporation on
18 17 October 1963 and that record says the following:

19 "Visited. Robert and Ms JCU seen. Robert has now
20 recovered from his escapade in August when he absconded
21 from home. It seems this arose when he was working at
22 the berry picking. One morning he had been told by
23 Ms JCU not to wear his watch and not to take his
24 bicycle pump with him. He disobeyed her and
25 consequently lost both that day. He was afraid to go

1 home, but after spending a few hours looking for the
2 watch and pump decided to come home. However, after
3 coming home, he ran out of the house after his sister
4 spoke to him and he did not come. Three days passed
5 before he was brought back in a taxi from Keith where he
6 was picked up by the police. I spoke to Robert about
7 this and warned him that this must not happen again.
8 I told him also that he must obey Ms JCU in everything
9 and be much more helpful in the house."

10 My Lady, returning to the statement and at
11 paragraph 57:

12 JCU thought more of her cats than she did of
13 us. One night, she got us up at 1 or 2 in the morning.
14 She sent us out in our pyjamas to look for the cat.
15 Josephine went one way and I went the other, shouting
16 the cat's name. We shouted and shouted. I went all the
17 way down to the well and towards the wood. I got
18 through the last gate before the wood. I was praying
19 that we'd find the cat. If we went home without it,
20 we'd get into big trouble. All of a sudden, the cat
21 came out from out of the blue. It looked up at me.
22 I picked it up and I nearly killed it for getting us out
23 of bed at that time in the morning. I grabbed hold of
24 it and got her back. JCU went on about the poor
25 cat, nothing about us in our pyjamas.

1 Sometimes I ran out of the house and stood outside
2 so I wouldn't get a smack. I knew I would get beaten if
3 I went back inside so I stood outside in the freezing
4 cold in my pyjamas for half the night. On a number of
5 occasions JCU would use her commode. She was on
6 her way to empty it in the midden. Instead, she threw
7 it over me. I had to stand there stinking of urine and
8 faeces.

9 Past the midden, there were more sheds. They were
10 often empty. I kept one shed for myself. I would creep
11 in there in the rain if I had run out of the house to
12 get away from her. I would stay there most of the night
13 in my pyjamas in the snow. I would go back into the
14 house because I was so cold and so hungry and I thought
15 she would be asleep. I had to walk past her bed. She
16 knew I was there. She would look the door, take the key
17 out and come through with her stick. I was either in
18 bed or saying my prayers. She beat me almost to death.

19 If I had been hit by a dog's lead, it left a mark.
20 Both my arms were full of marks nearly every day. If it
21 wasn't a strap, it was a hockey stick or a poker or
22 a block of wood. It could be anything she got her
23 hands. She would hit us and kick us. She could throw
24 things at us and she would belt us. Nine times out of
25 ten, she'd hit our funny bones because we put our arms

1 up to protect ourselves. Hardly any days went by when
2 none of us got hit.

3 She cut me several times throwing blocks at me. She
4 made an excuse to the farmer, saying the blocks had
5 slipped out of her hands when I was being naughty.
6 I knew she meant it. She told the farmer and the social
7 worker that I was getting out of hand. She kicked, spat
8 and grabbed my testicles through my clothing. She put
9 her cigarettes out on my hands or face. It burnt me,
10 but my hands got used to it.

11 On one occasion, Jo and I went into Elgin. Because
12 we had taken longer than we were supposed to, JCU
13 wanted to know what we'd been doing. I had bought a big
14 thick stick of rock. I thought she could share it out
15 and have some herself. She started complaining that we
16 had spent so much money. She took the rock off me and
17 hit me over the head with it three or four times. The
18 rock smashed into pieces. In the middle of the chaos
19 and her beating me, I started eating the rock off the
20 floor. I didn't want her getting the better of me.

21 On another occasion she was angry with me and Jo for
22 spending too much money. She asked Josephine what we
23 had bought. Jo said she'd bought a little cake and told
24 her what size it had been. A little while after,
25 JCU started on me. She asked me what Josephine

1 had bought. I said we'd bought cake but I said
2 something completely different from Jo about the size.
3 She knew right away it was a lie so we both got beaten
4 up again.

5 JCU had a lovely little Shetland Collie dog.
6 Towards the end of my time there, she used the dog to
7 bite me and my sisters. When she was giving us
8 a hiding, she would bring the dog through and it would
9 be snapping at our heels and legs. She made the dog do
10 it.

11 There were so many beatings. There were just so
12 many. After the beatings, she would leave us in the
13 room crying. Then she would play us against each other.
14 If I was in her good books, her slave for that day, she
15 would make me smack my brother or sisters after the
16 beating. She made us all do that to each other. Jo
17 found a better way to do it. She would scream and shout
18 and hit the bed with a slipper.

19 I can't remember what Jo did or didn't do, but
20 I vividly remember JCU pulling Jo back into the
21 bedroom. She was hitting her and smacking her at the
22 same time. She had to pass me in the lobby. She was
23 bashing Jo's head against the wall. I nearly broke
24 down. I knew it wasn't right. I didn't know what to
25 do. If I'd stopped it, I wouldn't have been responsible

1 for my actions.

2 My little sister used to crawl under the bed to get
3 away from the beatings. JCU kept her pee and poo
4 bucket under there. She would come in with a hockey
5 stick and poke her out and beat her again. That has
6 haunted me all my life. I would ask myself: could
7 I have stopped it?

8 When I saw my little sister being beaten, I would
9 tell myself, 'Stop this, Bob'. The trouble was, I was
10 frightened in case she made my little sister's life
11 worse. I thought if I hit JCU, I wouldn't have
12 been able to stop. That's what still worries me to this
13 day. Even my big sister would get pulled by the hair
14 and bashed against the wall. She would brush past me
15 and look at me. I would say to myself, "It's not
16 right". I was angry at myself because I couldn't stop
17 it. I didn't know how to stop it. She could have
18 killed me, she could have killed my sister, or I could
19 have killed her.

20 When I finished school and started work, I knew
21 I was quite strong. I hit somebody and took half his
22 lip away. I vowed I wouldn't do it again because I'd
23 get jailed. I knew I could do some damage to
24 JCU. I wasn't frightened of that. I was
25 frightened of what she would do to my siblings to get

1 revenge.

2 She wasn't a suitable person to have children. God
3 knows what the people at Glasgow Corporation were
4 thinking. She only wanted one child to look after. She
5 told us that many times, especially when she was beating
6 us. She would degrade us all the time and tell us we
7 were nothing, that we were a bit of shit on the wall.
8 There was hardly a day that went past when she didn't do
9 that. She only put a different face on when she wanted
10 us to do something for her. If she wanted me to go to
11 [REDACTED] to get her fags or something, I used to stay
12 and have a game of football or sit at the garage and
13 watch the different cars coming in. I used to steal
14 a sweetie from the counter of the shop. I used to fill
15 up the cars with petrol, then the man started giving me
16 a sweetie. If she was nicer to me, her anger or
17 frustration would be taken out on the others in my
18 family.

19 I remember going to collect our milk from a nearby
20 farm owned by the [REDACTED] family. They had a telly. They
21 had made some toffee. I pinched a couple of bars as
22 I came in. They didn't mind. I stood watching the
23 telly. I was in there for too long. [REDACTED] JCU came down to
24 the farm and knocked on the door. She didn't say
25 anything, she just belted me full force across the face

1 in front of everybody. Not only was it sore, it was
2 embarrassing. I burst out crying.

3 Mr EEN was a church man who got very friendly
4 with JCU. He was quite high up in the church. He
5 used to cut the grass and keep the church clean, that
6 kind of thing. He treated me and my sister to a meal
7 out once a year. We looked forward to it. We went to
8 cafe and had lovely coffee and cakes.
9 I think it was all planned so that he could get me at
10 the right age for sex.

11 Mr EEN had been good to me. He had taken me to
12 air displays, he'd taken me to the pictures, he'd taken
13 me to cafes. Every time he came over, he wanted me to
14 sit on his knee. Every time I sat on his knee, his hand
15 would be there in the middle between my legs. That was
16 when I knew it wasn't right. JCU was there but
17 she probably wouldn't have known what he was doing. He
18 would come over to the house to take us out. We would
19 laugh and joke. JCU would tell me to make a cup
20 of tea for Mr EEN. I would get up and put the
21 kettle on and then he would draw me back to his knee
22 again.

23 As time went on, he would have me over to his house.
24 It was absolutely terrible. He would want me to touch
25 him. It happened nearly every time I was alone with

1 him. It started when I was about 11 years old. By the
2 age of 12, he took me to Edinburgh and we stayed with
3 a lady called Mrs [REDACTED]. He went to the
4 Edinburgh Festival every year. We shared a bed.
5 I didn't have anywhere else to sleep. He did sexual
6 things to me. It didn't stop until I left school.
7 I knew what he was after by then so I cut contact with
8 him.

9 My body stayed the same. I was picked on, hit and
10 spat upon. I think my body just froze over time.
11 Mr EEN [REDACTED] was interfering with me down below. Because
12 of the embarrassment of having to stand naked in front
13 of my brothers and sisters to wash and because of
14 Mr EEN [REDACTED] making me feel like what he was doing to me
15 was an everyday occurrence, I knew it wasn't right but
16 I didn't know how to say it.

17 When the lady from the Corporation came, we didn't
18 get a chance to speak to her on our own. We were
19 frightened to say anything to her. If we had, JCU [REDACTED]
20 would just have said we had been playing up. I was also
21 scared that if the Corporation found out, they would
22 split my family up. The lady from the Corporation just
23 wrote down what JCU [REDACTED] told her. Most of her reports
24 were the same from year to year.

25 I think most of the neighbours knew what JCU [REDACTED]

1 was like. Mrs [REDACTED] saw her hit me across the face. We
2 were too frightened to say anything to them. I wanted
3 to tell the church minister about the abuse but I was
4 frightened. I didn't want our family to be split up.
5 I was scared to tell the lady from the Corporation as
6 well, although we never got to speak to her outwith the
7 present of JCU [REDACTED]. We thought we might end up in
8 different homes where we couldn't see each other.
9 I also worried that another home might be worse than
10 where we were.

11 My sister Jo moved out about a year before me. She
12 was learning to be a nurse in Aberdeen. I had to ask to
13 get out of there. Because Jo had moved out, JCU [REDACTED]
14 anger was transferred to us. Each time my little sister
15 ran away crying or screaming, I didn't know what to do.
16 When I left school, I was old enough and strong enough
17 but she would still beat me. I left when I was 15.
18 I left school on the Friday and started work on the
19 Monday. My first job was working in a tree nursery at
20 [REDACTED]. I was old enough to
21 work but she gave me no money. I had to walk 12 miles
22 to work and 12 miles home in the rain, in the snow,
23 everything.

24 I worked at the nursery for about a year and a half.
25 My first wage was £7.50. JCU [REDACTED] would take my money

1 and I wouldn't get anything. All she gave me was my
2 fare to get to [REDACTED]. Because I was a smoker, I had
3 to use some of that to get fags. I started getting
4 credit from the man in the shop but I'm still due him
5 money.

6 I wrote to Glasgow Corporation and asked to get out
7 of [REDACTED]. They wrote back to me asking why
8 I wanted to leave. I told them that if I didn't get out
9 of there, I was going to end up killing JCU [REDACTED]. They
10 moved heaven and earth to get me out of there. A date
11 was arranged and I got the train to Glasgow. Somebody
12 met me at the station. She sat in the front of a taxi
13 and never said a word to me. I sat in the back,
14 wondering where I was going. I was taken to a hostel
15 for boys of my age."

16 My Lady, from paragraphs 81 to 91, Robert tells us
17 of his life after care. He spent time in a hostel in
18 Glasgow after leaving the croft. He went on to work in
19 shops, a fish factory and then worked on the trawlers
20 where he was able to command a boat and get his third
21 officer's ticket despite the fact he says he couldn't
22 read or write when he left school.

23 He traced his mum and his dad but although there
24 were so many questions he wanted to ask his dad, he
25 didn't know how to ask them. He tells us that he got

1 married, has three children, 19 grandchildren, and at
2 the time of signing his statement, the ninth and tenth
3 great grandchildren were on the way.

4 I'm now moving to page 23 and paragraph 92:

5 "A few years after I got married, I decided to write
6 a book. I wrote page after page after page. Over
7 a period of months, things would come into my head and
8 I would write them down. I didn't know how to put it
9 into sentences and paragraphs because I left school
10 without being able to read and write. I wrote to
11 Esther Rantzen. She was doing the programme 'That's
12 Life'. She had helped people who had been abused.
13 I was hoping she would help me. She couldn't help me
14 until the book was finished. I never did finish it
15 because I wasn't allowed to use real names. At that
16 time, nobody knew about me and my siblings being abused.
17 Josephine told me I should tell people because it might
18 prevent another child from being beaten or treated like
19 we were.

20 I had the book at home for months and months.
21 I burnt the book in the fire. It was like being reborn.
22 After that, it was as if somebody had taken a load off
23 my mind. I don't worry about my time in care, it's just
24 gone. Now I can just carry on with my life. Before
25 I wrote the book, there was always something I would

1 remember about being in care. If there were good times,
2 they were followed by bad times. After I wrote the
3 book, there was a sense of it being out of my system.

4 I used to write to my sister Jo about what had
5 happened. I never reported it to the police. I didn't
6 know who else to talk to. Josephine and I didn't want
7 to tell anybody. Over the years, the news would have
8 more and more stories about children being hurt. Jo and
9 I decided we needed to talk about what happened. We
10 came forward to the Inquiry to put things right.

11 Being in care is something I've had to hide from
12 a lot of people. I daren't tell people because they
13 don't know the truth of what you're saying. It's such
14 a long story to tell and each part is a different story.
15 At first, I was always embarrassed. I didn't like to
16 form relationships. I would get a terribly red face.
17 Since I burnt my book, I'm able to talk openly about my
18 time in care without being embarrassed. I don't need to
19 hide anything.

20 I try to think of the good times on the croft. When
21 I was lying in hospital, I was able to remember times
22 when we were playing outside, shouting, screaming and
23 laughing at one another. We did have a few good times.
24 I can see these images and I can relate to them. I'm
25 able to see me with a smiling face. They're in my mind

1 only and I've had nobody to share them with. George
2 went his own separate way and our little sister died.

3 I don't remember much about my little sister. She
4 was emaciated and very poorly. She joined us in Elgin
5 two years later. By then we hardly knew her. We didn't
6 know what to say to her. She was quite fragile. We
7 didn't know what to ask her. She knew we were brother
8 and sister, but she was like a lost sheep. She was at
9 the croft a long while after the rest of us left. I can
10 only imagine what she went through. She had nobody to
11 turn to. She died when she was in her 30s. We'd
12 just found her again.

13 I've thought about being in care a lot. I've cried
14 about it a lot. The damage is done. I hate to say it,
15 but sometimes I regret that I didn't kill the woman when
16 I could have and should have. I've been back to the
17 house a few times. I didn't feel anything. It was just
18 a place where I spent many bad hours. At the same time,
19 it had some kind of pull on me and I felt like I was
20 home. But I wasn't home because it was a foster home.

21 I think my time in care has impacted on me as
22 a parent. I've tried to be a good dad. I used to smack
23 my sons over the bottom several times when they were
24 naughty. I asked my children for honesty. I didn't
25 always get it.

1 Josephine recovered records and sent them down to
2 me. It was yearly records that the Corporation
3 prepared. I couldn't make out a lot because I couldn't
4 read the writing. A lot of it was repetition. They
5 would come to see the children but the children were at
6 school so information was obtained from JCU . Some
7 of it referred to me being of an age that I was trying
8 to exert my authority and use my strength. The records
9 would say that if I'd been naughty then I deserved
10 a smack. That gave JCU a green light to play
11 merry hell with children that she shouldn't have had in
12 the first place.

13 I hope that my story might help a child out there
14 who's going through the same thing. A lot of children
15 keep things bottled up when they have nobody to turn to.
16 Later on in life, they start lying about different
17 things. It is a difficult thing to get around.

18 As much as people do their job, there should be
19 a trial receivership between the person who is going to
20 be in care and the person giving the care. That should
21 be the case especially for youngsters who cannot express
22 themselves or explain themselves. It should be done in
23 stages and explained to the child in stages. I think
24 that children in care should be told why they are in
25 that position and have it explained to them.

1 If you're taken away from your parents at a fairly
2 early age and dumped in the middle of nowhere where you
3 don't know anybody, I think the person giving the child
4 their love and their home needs to put respect and
5 honesty first and foremost. It's hard to explain to
6 an upset young child that their mother and father can't
7 take care of them. If the child is crying or shouting
8 in temper, it's hard to do, but there has to come a time
9 when the child knows why he's in care. It doesn't
10 happen overnight but there has to be a degree of trust.
11 The person caring for the child needs to know the child
12 and needs to give and take a little bit of everything.
13 Nobody told us where we were going or why we were going
14 there. There was no monitoring of me and my siblings.

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

19 And the statement was signed by Robert on 25 April
20 2018.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Rattray.

22 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we actually have another read-in now,
23 the next oral witness not being due until 11.45.

24 LADY SMITH: I thought that's so. Very well, when you're
25 ready let's go on to that one.

1 Ah, just before we leave that statement, before
2 I forget, I should say of course Ms JCU name's been
3 used again but it can't be used outside this room. Also
4 Mr EEN was mentioned and again, because of my
5 general restriction order, it can't be used outside the
6 hearing room. Thank you.

7 Ms Rattray.

8 'Wayne' (read)

9 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. This statement is of
10 an applicant who wish to remain anonymous and has chosen
11 the pseudonym 'Wayne'. His statement is at
12 WIT.001.003.0338.

13 'Wayne' was boarded out by Glasgow on two occasions.
14 The first placement was to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] 1955
15 to [REDACTED] 1958. The second placement was in
16 Glasgow from [REDACTED] 1959 to [REDACTED] 1961.

17 "My name is 'Wayne'. I was born in 1943. My
18 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

19 I was born in Glasgow and lived with my father and
20 my mother. I can't remember where the family home was.
21 They married in 1942. My dad was from London and he was
22 in the Navy. He was posted to Scotland, where he met my
23 mum. They had three children, myself, my brother who
24 was born in 1945, and my sister who was born in 1947.

25 My mum died of TB after my sister was born and my

1 dad couldn't manage to care for us when he was going to
2 sea. I have now learned that my dad was a deserter from
3 the Navy at the time he put us into care. My dad had
4 a sister in Easterhouse in Glasgow who wanted to take my
5 sister but she was not able to take my brother and
6 myself as well. My dad didn't want to separate us so
7 all three of us went into care to Smyllum Orphanage".

8 From paragraphs 4 to 41, 'Wayne' tells us of his
9 experience in Smyllum in Lanark and then Gryffe House
10 Children's Home in Bridge of Weir.

11 Moving now to paragraph 91 on page 17, and whilst
12 paragraph 91 is redacted because it relates to
13 Gryffe House, it does cover the transfer so I will read
14 it out.

15 "I think it was the council, the powers that be,
16 that decided to move me on again. There was a man in
17 his early 60s. I can't remember his name. He was
18 something to do with the Corporation. I saw him a few
19 times. He told me I was moving to a family. I asked
20 what was happening about my father and sister. He said
21 they were going somewhere else, but I was not told
22 where. I think I was moved on on my own because that's
23 how children's homes were run at the time.

24 I had become more relaxed for want of a better word
25 at Gryffe House. That disappeared when I got told I was

1 moving on. I was just told get in the van. [Secondary In

2 [Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3 Now, my Lady, while 'Wayne' refers to his foster
4 parents, he believes their names to be [FRM-SPO]
5 [FRM-SPO], the records tell us the placement was with
6 a Mrs [REDACTED] and her husband.

7 [FRM-SPO] were farmers. They lived in
8 [REDACTED]. It was a working farm and still is. [FRM-SPO]
9 [FRM-SPO] had an adult son. He worked in a hotel.
10 That's probably why we went there, because there were
11 only two adults to work the farm. [REDACTED] was fine.
12 She had grey hair.

13 My brother and sister were with me at the placement.
14 They arrived after me. All three of us went to [REDACTED].
15 It was the first time the three of us had been together
16 since before Smyllum. My brother was eight years old.
17 It was like I was a stranger to him. I was 10, having
18 been born in 1943, he was born in 1945. I was at
19 [REDACTED] for two years.

20 The food was basic. Bread was the basic thing we
21 ate. They did have meatballs or faggots sometimes.

22 Sunday was a luxury. We would get a slice of jam
23 roly-poly or a slice of cake. We only got that on
24 a Sunday.

25 We had a bath on a Saturday. [REDACTED] would bath

1 us. There was no hot water. We had to boil a kettle on
2 the old black stove. My sister had a bath first, then
3 my brother and then me because I was the oldest. It was
4 the same water for all three of us.

5 Our clothing was just whatever they chucked at us.
6 I remember going to school in a V-neck jumper. It had
7 one long sleeve and the other was cut short. For
8 footwear we only had wellies at [REDACTED]. It was
9 embarrassing in the summer months when other children
10 were going around in shoes.

11 I remember the school in [REDACTED]. I enjoyed school,
12 not so much for the schooling, more for the contact with
13 other children. I made friends with a local boy.

14 I can't remember the name of my teacher. She had
15 probably passed on now. There was only one teacher at
16 the school. Myself, my brother and my sister were all
17 in the same class. I went to school in [REDACTED].
18 I missed a lot of school due to working on the farm.
19 I remember my friend asking me why I hadn't been to
20 school one week and I told him I was working on the
21 farm. I think my teacher knew too. It's the way it was
22 in rural communities at the time.

23 I remember the local priest would take photographs
24 of the class. I felt uncomfortable. I was not used to
25 photographs and I wondered what was going on that he had

1 to take a photograph. It was a peculiar thing because
2 I was not from a family that took photographs. Also, it
3 felt uncomfortable because it was a priest taking the
4 photographs.

5 Me and my brother used to go across a field to get
6 fresh drinking water from a well. It was about
7 12 minutes' walk each way. We did it before school and
8 after school, rain or shine.

9 We would have to milk the cows daily. We had to dig
10 up the potatoes and cauliflowers. That's why I missed
11 school so much. They had a great big field from the
12 farmhouse down to the beach. We would sometimes have
13 a wash down at the beach when we were working.

14 Me and my brother would get sent up to the local
15 shop for groceries. They had food in tins there.
16 Sometimes [REDACTED] would give us a biscuit for going.
17 Once I got a penny for getting the shopping. It was
18 like a gold bar. I could spend it on gobstoppers and
19 other sweets. Simple things like cakes, biscuits and
20 sweets were a luxury.

21 The three of us, my brother, sister and me, being
22 together is a happy memory. I learned to ride a bike at
23 [REDACTED]. Me and my brother found an old frame and
24 a couple of wheels. It was not much of a bike. It had
25 no handlebars or front tyre. But to me it was a luxury.

1 It was a happy time for me because my sister was
2 happy. I remember teaching my sister how to milk a cow.
3 She loved one of the cows, she called it Blondie.
4 I have happy memories of the cows. We would squirt milk
5 at each other. There was a wee dog. My sister loved
6 it. The three of us being together is a happy memory.
7 We didn't really get time to play, but we made our
8 own games. We played rounders using a stick. I still
9 have a mark on my foot from being injured after standing
10 on a dog's bone playing rounders. There was no
11 television.
12 My friend from school invited me over to his house
13 for tea a couple of times but it never happened because
14 I was working on the farm. We were hardly ever off the
15 farm. The three of us missed out on a lot of luxuries
16 because of other people.
17 There was a lot of religion in [REDACTED]. There was
18 a church at [REDACTED] but I felt uncomfortable around the
19 priest. That was probably because of Smyllum. It felt
20 very strange as a child having to talk to a statute and
21 it was not talking back. I would try to make excuses
22 for not turning up. Me and my brother got shouted at
23 for not going to church a couple of times. My
24 punishment for not going to church would be to go back
25 to church at 6 pm and genuflect to all the statues. As

1 a kid I didn't know what all the statues were for.

2 I did have to go to confession at [REDACTED] but
3 I never spoke about what happened at FRM-SPO farm.
4 I only went to confession a couple of times.

5 I never celebrated my birthday as a child. It
6 wasn't until I was an adult that I realised about people
7 doing that.

8 Christmas was just a normal day at FRM-SPO farm.
9 I was 13 or 14 years old before I realised what
10 Christmas presents were all about. I still find
11 Christmas difficult now. I was never shown love or toys
12 as a child.

13 There were no luxuries like doctors. I don't think
14 there was a doctor in the village.

15 I remember my sister cut her foot on the pet dog's
16 bone. I tried to console her. I took her to the
17 farmer, Mr FRM. I got a bollocking from him. He said
18 I shouldn't be playing, I should be working. I was made
19 to dig potatoes as a punishment. I'd just been trying
20 to help my sister.

21 FRM sometimes came home drunk. He was a big
22 farmer. He would whack [REDACTED] in front of us. I tried
23 to stop him. He hit me too and I got bruises on my
24 face. I was assaulted this way two or three times
25 a month. I can't remember if he hit me with his hand.

1 He hit me with whatever was available, such as his
2 bicycle pump.

3 FRM [REDACTED] seemed to have a lot of bad feelings
4 towards [REDACTED] because they had taken on three children.
5 Even the local police officer said we shouldn't be on
6 that farm. I saw him talking to FRM [REDACTED] sometimes
7 and you could kind of tell what they were talking about
8 based on their expressions and I then read about it
9 later in my records. He had a few run-ins with
10 FRM [REDACTED]. I can't remember the police being at the
11 farm but they probably were. FRM [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would
12 cover things up. I missed a lot of school because of
13 FRM [REDACTED], both due to having visible injuries and
14 because he had me working on the farm, doing the work of
15 a grown man.

16 FRM [REDACTED] never really spoke to us properly. He
17 seemed to resent us being there. There was one time he
18 hit all three of us. Me and my brother were in bed. My
19 sister was in a separate bed. I tried to protect my
20 sister. She was crying and she had wet the bed. She
21 wet the bed when FRM [REDACTED] started shouting before he
22 hit us.

23 FRM [REDACTED] would hit us and the next day it was
24 like it never happened. FRM [REDACTED] was a handful. He
25 was very overpowering and often drunk. He was violent

1 when he was drunk. [REDACTED] was aware of him hitting
2 us. She was there but she was in fear. I think she was
3 on edge by the time it got to the weekend. I think she
4 lived in fear of him. She was an adult and was in fear
5 of him. We were just children.

6 I am not saying that FRM [REDACTED] didn't abuse my
7 sister when my brother and I weren't around. I felt
8 uncomfortable about that, but I didn't see anything.
9 She was in the same bedroom as me and my brother.
10 Sometimes she would see FRM [REDACTED] and just pee
11 herself.

12 I believe something sexual may have happened but my
13 sister never said anything. I would love to turn the
14 clock back and prove that FRM [REDACTED] did, to prove that
15 he was the start of my sister's problems in life. She
16 had always had a horrible life because of men. I have
17 always felt uncomfortable about it.

18 We would get abuse at school for being orphans. We
19 got that at FRM-SPO [REDACTED] farm too, from the family on the
20 next farm. I got into fights with their son at school
21 and on the farm. I gave him a black eye for calling me
22 an orphan. His mother came up and spoke to FRM-SPO [REDACTED]
23 FRM-SPO [REDACTED] about it. His parents said they didn't want
24 me or my siblings across their land for any reason. As
25 punishment, FRM-SPO [REDACTED] kept me off school for a couple of

1 days working on the farm.

2 I left [REDACTED] on my own. I went to Anniesland.
3 Mr Marshall, the man in the suit, took me away from
4 [REDACTED]. I got in the bus without my brother and
5 sister. I asked where my brother and sister were.
6 I don't know why I got moved on from [REDACTED], I wasn't
7 told. Mr Marshall took me to get clothes at John Street
8 before going to the [REDACTED] FSU-SPO. He picked out some
9 clothes that he thought would fit me.

10 It seemed like myself, my brother and sister were
11 just getting to know each other. The adults seemed to
12 take great delight in moving one or two of us. I think
13 that's just the way councils were run. It seemed like
14 they thought: these kids are too happy, let's move them
15 on.

16 I left [REDACTED] and went to the [REDACTED] FSU-SPO in
17 Anniesland, Glasgow. I think my brother and sister
18 stayed at [REDACTED] for a few weeks, then got moved on to
19 somewhere else. I felt so uncomfortable for my sister."

20 My Lady, at this stage just to mention that extracts
21 from 'Wayne''s records are part of the bundle at
22 GLA-000000187 and notes in those records from 1956
23 onwards at the visits do raise concerns regarding the
24 treatment and the state of the children.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS RATTRAY: And it's clear that the visitor made enquiries
2 with the local people, including the police officer,
3 including the schoolteacher and the priest, and
4 ultimately the children were removed for the reasons
5 that 'Wayne' has described in his statement.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS RATTRAY: "I went to stay with FSU-SPO
8 They had two daughters. The FSU-SPO were both in
9 their 60s. I was at the FSU-SPO house for over
10 18 months.

11 I was on my own at Anniesland. I had been split up
12 from my brother and sister after leaving FRM-SPO
13 family. They had a son who worked as airport security.
14 His girlfriend was there too. They had two daughters
15 who didn't live with them but popped in. I got on fine
16 with one of them. She was 21 years old.

17 Mrs [REDACTED] was a nice woman, I felt relaxed around
18 her. She did some voluntary work. It was FSU
19 who was the problem. He had worked but was retired.
20 I don't know if the FSU-SPO fostered children before
21 or after me.

22 Like a lot of homes, the FSU-SPO gave a false
23 impression of what things were like when you arrived but
24 I felt more secure being in a family. I had never
25 really been in a family unit before. I thought I was

1 coming from hell on ██████████ to heaven with the FSU-SPO ██████████
2 family in Anniesland but it wasn't like that.

3 I was met by the FSU-SPO ██████████ family. It was a nice
4 house. They had a TV in the front room that you had to
5 put 50p in the back to make it work. I used to make
6 excuses to go and have a bath when soaps were on TV
7 because they showed family life.

8 Mrs ██████████ would ask about which foods I liked and
9 then she would make those meals. She asked if I liked
10 mince and tatties. I said yes and she made it for me.
11 The three of us would sit and have a family meal
12 together.

13 I tried to live a normal life at Anniesland but my
14 situation was affecting me. I was losing weight, people
15 were commenting on it. Mrs ██████████ would give me
16 a plateful of food and I would leave half of it.

17 I went to Knightswood School. I got on all right
18 for a little while. I got some abuse from some other
19 kids because I was fostered.

20 I would hang about with other local kids. The
21 FSU-SPO ██████████ let me go out and eventually I got my own key.
22 Sometimes Mrs ██████████ would give me 10 pence, which was
23 a fortune to me. I remember going to the park and
24 having a kickabout.

25 I got to know other kids round about by hanging

1 about a nearby cafe. When they heard I was at the
2 FSU-SPO, they said, 'Oh, you must be an orphan'.
3 I couldn't sit in the cafe and explain my family
4 situation to those kids. I used to go to the cinema at
5 Anniesland to get away from it all. I felt unwanted.

6 I tried to keep occupied at weekends. I used to
7 hate the weekends because it meant Monday was coming
8 around. If it hadn't been for the abuse FSU
9 perpetrated on a Monday, Anniesland would have been
10 great.

11 When I was at Anniesland there was a priest that ran
12 the local football team. I played as goalkeeper in the
13 team. If you didn't go to church he went mad. I went
14 out on Sunday and pretended to go to church. I didn't
15 want to go to church because of the abuse I suffered at
16 Smyllum. A couple of weeks later he asked where I was
17 that Sunday, he went mad at me. Then he dropped me from
18 the team. I was punished by the FSU-SPO for not going
19 to church. I got grounded and wasn't allowed to watch
20 TV or go to the movies.

21 During my whole time at Anniesland as far as
22 I remember I didn't have any contact with my brother and
23 sister. I didn't want to lose contact with them but
24 I didn't know where they were.

25 I got letters from my aunt and went to see her

1 a couple of times at Easterhouse. My aunt told me about
2 my dad. She had originally told me both my parents were
3 killed in a car crash. I tried to talk to my aunt about
4 my dad but she didn't want to know. She then told me he
5 had deserted from the Navy. She thought he might have
6 ended up in London.

7 A couple of times I didn't come home in time even
8 though I had a key. When I did go in, they shouted at
9 me. I came back once about 1 am. The lights were on in
10 the front room. I didn't want to go in because of fear.
11 It was raining and I was soaking but it was still better
12 than going in. I made up a story that I had been out
13 with a girl. Mrs [REDACTED] said she would talk to me
14 about it the next day but I didn't tell her what
15 FSU [REDACTED] was doing to me. I didn't want to destroy
16 their family. She probably wouldn't have believed me
17 anyway.

18 I wet the bed at the FSU-SPO [REDACTED]. I had bad dreams.
19 I would tell Mrs [REDACTED] and she was fine about it but
20 I was embarrassed. I don't think she told FSU [REDACTED]
21 about it.

22 I can remember FSU [REDACTED] being in bed with me
23 but I can't remember how old I was. He always got
24 hammered on whisky on a Monday night. I can remember
25 hearing Mrs [REDACTED] shouting at him that he wasn't

1 getting to sleep with her. I remember him smelling of
2 whisky and body odour. He would get me to masturbate
3 him. A couple of times he put his penis between my
4 buttocks. He didn't put it in my anus but it was
5 horrible.

6 My life got destroyed by FSU [REDACTED]. I thought
7 I was getting away from all that by getting away from
8 the priests and FSU [REDACTED] was a civilian. I was on
9 a high when I thought I had got away from the sexual
10 abuse at Smyllum and then my world came crashing down
11 again.

12 FSU [REDACTED] was drunk when he abused me but
13 I don't blame the drink. He must have thought about
14 what he was going to do to me before he got drunk. It
15 was like going from someone who was nice to someone
16 being a monster. He would come in when I was getting
17 washed and offer to wash my back for me.

18 FSU [REDACTED] sexual abuse of me usually took place on
19 a Monday. The next day he would act like nothing had
20 happened.

21 I liked Anniesland as an area. I tried to have
22 a normal life but the abuse was affecting me. I don't
23 think Mrs [REDACTED] knew what was going on.

24 I never mentioned the abuse by FSU [REDACTED] to
25 anyone. Mrs [REDACTED] was a lovely lady but I never

1 spoke to her about the abuse. I couldn't talk about it
2 with the kids I hung about with at the cafe. I just
3 wanted to stay away from the area.

4 One day I was with Mrs [REDACTED] and I started
5 crying. She asked me what was wrong. I couldn't tell
6 her what FSU [REDACTED] was doing. I just said I wasn't
7 happy staying with them. She contacted Glasgow City
8 Council and arranged for me to be moved. Mrs [REDACTED]
9 wasn't happy about it. I couldn't get away from there
10 quick enough. My life had been destroyed.

11 I went to stay with my aunt for a couple of days,
12 I can't remember where I went to after that. I must
13 have been somewhere but I can't remember.

14 When I left care, I wanted to get as far away as
15 possible. It was nothing against Scotland but I wanted
16 to get far away from the places I had been in care.
17 They had a careers talk at school and that's when I said
18 I wanted to join the Merchant Navy. I left school at
19 15 years of age and worked in a metalworks in Maryhill,
20 Glasgow. I joined the Merchant Navy when I was 16. It
21 was the best thing I ever did. After I left the
22 Merchant Navy I joined the Army."

23 Moving now to paragraph 153:

24 "On my first leave, I went back to the FSU-SPO [REDACTED] in
25 Anniesland for a couple of days. I didn't have anywhere

1 else to go. The ship I was working on was being
2 refitted in Belfast for 63 days so I couldn't stay on
3 the ship. I had some photographs of my travels to show
4 the FSU-SPO . FSU cut up the photographs.
5 I don't know why he did it. I can't remember
6 confronting FSU about the abuse. The rest of
7 the FSU-SPO family were fine but I felt uncomfortable
8 after a couple of days. I didn't confront FSU
9 about the abuse he subjected me to. I can't remember
10 where I went next but I never went back to Anniesland
11 after that."

12 From paragraphs 154 to 170, 'Wayne' tells of his
13 life after care. He left the Merchant Navy and served
14 in the Army for 18 years, including periods in Northern
15 Ireland. He then worked for 22 years as a court worker
16 in a Magistrates' Court until he retired.

17 His brother died at the age of 21. He speaks to his
18 sister every week. He says she has had great
19 difficulties in her life due to her experiences in care.

20 Moving now to paragraph 171 on page 32 where 'Wayne'
21 speaks about impact:

22 "I never told my wife, my kids or anyone about the
23 abuse I suffered in childhood, not until I spoke to my
24 counsellor. I just learned to live with it.

25 I felt that I missed out on a lot of education.

1 I should have been at school at [REDACTED] but I was
2 working on the farm. Even in later years at Knightswood
3 I felt I was the orphan, I was behind other pupils.
4 I love history, even now, but I could never pick up
5 algebra and things like that. The schools I was in
6 couldn't wait for me to catch up. I did stay behind for
7 extra lessons but it didn't help. I feel comfortable in
8 life and that affected my education. I think I learned
9 the most in [REDACTED] because the teacher would focus
10 attention on me.

11 In my life in general, I have missed out on a hell
12 of a lot. Things like going for a walk with your family
13 or going to the cinema. My whole life since I was five
14 years old has been taken off me because I was never
15 settled. It is very upsetting to think about. It
16 wasn't until middle age that I began to understand many
17 things in life, like Christmas.

18 I never got a chance to bond with my brother and
19 sister. I still find it difficult to get close to
20 people. I feel my sister has had a terrible life
21 because of me. I am her big brother but I wasn't there
22 for her. We were never around each other long enough.
23 It affected my ability to form relationships with women
24 and that was very difficult. I never had any formal sex
25 education. I am glad I can be there for my sister now.

1 I have found it difficult being around the families
2 of my friends. I would get embarrassed because I wasn't
3 used to displays of love and affection. I had no
4 experience of that type of behaviour for the first
5 20 years of my life."

6 I am now moving to paragraph 181 on page 34:

7 "I have trouble sleeping. I find it difficult to
8 relax. I have flashbacks about my childhood and
9 Northern Ireland too. I used to get flashbacks on
10 a Monday because of FSU [REDACTED]. The flashbacks come
11 on really quickly. I can be laughing and smiling one
12 minute, and the next it just hits me."

13 And now to paragraph 189 on page 35:

14 "I wrote to Birthlink and got some information about
15 my time in care. They have information regarding my
16 sister too. My hope is that information can be shared
17 with my sister, but she no longer has the capacity to
18 request the information herself. I am in touch with my
19 sister's care team and am advocating strongly on her
20 behalf. I would like her situation to be assessed by
21 the Inquiry team even if she cannot give a statement.
22 I have asked her care team to apply to the Scottish
23 Government redress scheme.

24 In Combat Stress in Surrey, they have a room for us
25 to sit in and be alone. Maybe someone would come in and

1 make a cup of tea or just chat about stuff. I think
2 something like that would be good for people dealing
3 with the effects of abuse in care. Maybe a drop-in
4 centre.

5 I have felt a big sense of relief by talking to the
6 Inquiry staff.

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

11 And the statement was signed by 'Wayne' on
12 12 November 2019.

13 My Lady, that completes the read-ins schedule for
14 this week. The next witness is scheduled for 11.45, so
15 perhaps if we take an early break.

16 LADY SMITH: We'll take an early break and we'll sit again
17 at 11.45. Thank you very much for those read-ins,
18 Ms Rattray.

19 And three names from that read-in, FRM-SPO, but
20 it may not have been FRM-SPO, the and the
21 FSU-SPO names were all given and they can't be used
22 outside this room.

23 (11.18 am)

24 (A short break)

25 (11.45 am)

1 LADY SMITH: Welcome back and welcome to our newcomer.

2 We have now a witness who is ready to come in and
3 give oral evidence; is that right, Ms Innes?

4 MS INNES: That's correct. The next witness is using the
5 pseudonym 'Megan'. She was in foster care in the 1960s
6 with Aberdeen County Council, so now Aberdeenshire. We
7 have been able to see some material from the counties of
8 Aberdeen and Kincardine social work department which
9 were jointly working together at that point. It's not
10 clear from the records that we have received when
11 'Megan' was in foster care, and as we may come to in her
12 evidence, she also herself had difficulty in recovering
13 any records relative to her time in foster care.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Megan' (affirmed)

16 LADY SMITH: Is that comfortable for you, 'Megan'?

17 A. Yes, it is now, thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: Good. Just before I hand over to Ms Innes,
19 you'll see parts of your statement coming up on screen.
20 I don't know, has 'Megan' got a red folder in front of
21 her or not?

22 MS INNES: She does, my Lady, yes.

23 LADY SMITH: She does. It's hidden from me. That red
24 folder has your statement in it as well, if you wanted
25 to look at the paper version, but you don't have to look

1 at either of them, you can just listen to what Ms Innes
2 asks you and answer her questions if that works best for
3 you.

4 And that's the key for me, because I want to do what
5 I can to make you as comfortable as possible while
6 you're giving evidence. If it works for you, it works
7 for me, and if you have any questions or concerns, do
8 let me know and I'll see what I can do about them.

9 A. (Witness nodded).

10 LADY SMITH: We'll aim to run from now until 1 o'clock, but
11 if you want a break in between now and 1 o'clock, if it
12 just is too much for you, please say. That's not
13 a problem, all right?

14 A. (Witness nodded).

15 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
16 she'll take it from there.

17 A. (Witness nodded).

18 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

19 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

20 Questions from Ms Innes

21 MS INNES: 'Megan', we understand that you were born in
22 Aboyne in 1957; is that right?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. You've given a statement to the Inquiry, which is
25 referenced WIT.001.001.649 and it's coming up on the

1 screen in front of you there. If we can go to the final
2 page, page 36, and we see that this statement is dated
3 29 March 2021. I think that's when you signed it; is
4 that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It says at paragraph 154 there that you have no
7 objection to your witness statement being published as
8 part of the evidence to the Inquiry and you believe that
9 the facts stated in the statement are true; is that
10 right?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Can we go back to the beginning of your statement now,
13 please, and talk a little about your life before you
14 went into care. You tell us, as you've said, that you
15 were born in Aboyne and your family were travelling
16 people; is that correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And there was your parents and then you're the oldest?

19 A. (Witness nodded).

20 Q. And then you had a sister who is 10 months younger than
21 you; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And a younger brother, who I think maybe was born in
24 1961, would that be right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about what your family life
2 was like before you went into care?

3 A. I recall not very much about it, really, but I do
4 remember living in a tent. And I remember it being
5 quite warm. I remember my brother was a baby, very
6 small, and I remember my sister didn't talk very much or
7 very well. But really, outside that, I haven't really
8 much memory. Or maybe I don't want to remember.

9 Q. Okay. Then you tell us in your statement that you think
10 when you were about four, a man in uniform arrived and
11 you thought at the time that might have been
12 a policeman, but on reflection you think that might have
13 been the RSPCC, perhaps?

14 A. Yes. It was during the night, but I thought he was
15 a policeman because he had a uniform on like
16 a policeman, but on reflection it's probably, as you
17 say, the RSPCC. And then Ms FSG .

18 Q. You met a lady called Ms FSG who became your social
19 worker; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us that you were taken away that night that
22 they arrived and you were taken to a Children's Home in
23 Ellon?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And did all three of you go together, do you remember?

1 A. No. My brother was left with my mother and father.

2 Q. So it was just you and your younger sister?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Then you tell us that you went to the children's home.

5 Can you remember how long you stayed there or not?

6 A. I think it would only have been a few months or a couple
7 of months. Not very long. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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16 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 9 in your statement, it is
17 redacted in the copy that you'll see coming up, but you
18 talk about your first meeting with a Mr and Mrs FNZ-SPO
19 coming to the home and you say that the matron asked
20 them if they would like to take you and your sister?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. Can you tell us what you remember about that?

23 A. I can remember very clearly the lady -- not the
24 gentleman, but the lady did say, "I only want one,
25 I don't want two". They had a daughter of their own.

1 Q. Can you remember what the response of the people in the
2 home was?

3 A. The matron was quite emphatic that we were sisters and
4 we were to be kept together.

5 Q. Did they come and visit and then -- well, we know that
6 you moved to live with these people.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Was there a gap, can you remember, between them visiting
9 and having that conversation and then you moving?

10 A. It was about a week and they came back.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. And still she asked for one. And it ended up we both
13 went.

14 Q. How did you feel? Can you remember how you felt about
15 moving?

16 A. I just wondered where I was going and if I was going to
17 go home.

18 Q. You tell us there at paragraph 10 of your statement that
19 you moved to FNZ-SPO home. You've already
20 mentioned that they had a daughter.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How old was the daughter? Was she older than you?

23 A. Five years older, I think, than I was.

24 Q. When you got to the house, what was the house like, can
25 you remember?

1 A. Very nice. Very nicely furnished. It had three
2 bedrooms. Everything was immaculate, everything was in
3 place. There was a party, I think it was maybe their
4 daughter's party or something, there was a party, and
5 I remember it was nice. And Mr [REDACTED] welcomed me to the
6 family, but she didn't.

7 Q. Okay. So the foster mother didn't welcome you at all?

8 A. (Witness shakes head).

9 Q. What can you remember of her at the start?

10 A. That she was quite ... it's hard to explain. Like she
11 was dismissive of me. She -- she wasn't cruel to me,
12 but she was dismissive. And she'd seen to my needs, but
13 that was about as much as she did.

14 Q. Okay. If we just look at paragraph 11 of your statement
15 that's on the screen at the moment, you say there that
16 Ms FSG [REDACTED], the social worker, told you that you were
17 going to live with them and that you were to behave
18 yourselves.

19 A. (Witness nodded).

20 Q. You then have some reflections on the attitude of
21 Ms FSG [REDACTED] towards you.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you remember what that was like?

24 A. I felt she was being derogatory towards me. I felt --
25 well, she didn't really know me and she -- I had assumed

1 that she had already decided what she thought I was or
2 who I was.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. She had a dislike, an intense dislike of travelling
5 people, and she made that quite clear.

6 Q. And when you say she made that quite clear, how did she
7 make that clear?

8 A. Being dismissive of me most of the time and telling me
9 that I wouldn't amount to much and telling me I was like
10 my father and telling me I was like my mother. Being
11 quite derogatory at times. When I misbehaved, mostly,
12 she was like that. Other than that, she didn't have
13 much communication with me.

14 Q. Okay, we'll come back to that a little bit more in
15 a moment. So she was your social worker and can you
16 remember what she was like? You say that she used to
17 work for the Metropolitan Police, I think?

18 A. I heard that, I don't remember where I heard that.
19 I think maybe she told me herself. But she was how
20 you'd imagine a social worker. She was in her early
21 50s, I would imagine, and she wore tweeds and she drove
22 a Beetle, an orange Beetle car, and she was very -- she
23 had a presence, which was quite -- to some of the
24 children, they were quite -- they didn't do anything
25 wrong when she was around. I know she could be fair

1 with people, but ...

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I think in the -- in those -- going back a long time,
4 that maybe -- although she'd been in the
5 Metropolitan Police and although she maybe had
6 a distinguished career, she didn't have the social
7 skills that would be needed for children like me.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. It was like prejudice, which I don't think was very
10 fair.

11 Q. We'll come back to her visits a wee bit later, but if we
12 go on over the page, you talk at paragraph 12 about the
13 day that you arrived and you've mentioned that you
14 thought there was a party going on that day and you talk
15 about what you said, that Mr [REDACTED] was nice and welcomed
16 you.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. Mrs [REDACTED] FNZ was quieter. You then go on at paragraph 13 to
19 talk about the house.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. Just in terms of where you slept in the house, did you
22 share a room with your sister or with somebody else?

23 A. No, I shared a room with my foster mother -- foster
24 dad's mum, which we were told to call her gran.

25 Q. So she also lived in the house?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And where did your sister sleep?

3 A. With my -- with Mrs FNZ own daughter in the room.

4 Q. Did you have a separate bed from the grandmother in the
5 room that you were sleeping in, can you remember?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. How did you feel about sharing the room with the
8 grandmother?

9 A. She was a lovely lady. I didn't mind. She was very
10 kind. She was blind and I liked books and she had this
11 audio book. I would try and stay awake so that I could
12 listen to the story. She was very kind. Gave me pocket
13 money on a Saturday. She was a very kind lady.

14 Q. Then if we just go back a little to paragraph 13, you
15 say there that -- well, first of all, you couldn't
16 really play in the house because everything was in its
17 proper place.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were you able to go outside to play?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was there a garden?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you say that you remember when you went there you
24 wet the bed and she got very angry with you and you
25 hadn't done that before.

1 A. No, it was because I'd wet the bed. And I hadn't wet
2 the bed before ever. Just what I could remember. But
3 yes, she was very annoyed that I'd wet the bed. She
4 said it was dirty and that.

5 Q. Then at paragraph 14 you talk about another occasion
6 where she sent you to bed at 5 o'clock as a punishment.

7 A. Yes. Because her couch was velvet. It was a lovely
8 couch. And she was getting on at me or shouting and
9 I used to get very nervous if people shouted about,
10 like -- and I wet the couch. So she was very angry at
11 that time.

12 Q. If we go to the top of the next page, please, page 5 and
13 paragraph 16, you say that to the outside and to others,
14 they were good people, they went to church and kept
15 a clean home.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. You then go on to say that they treated your sister
18 differently to how they treated you.

19 A. Yes, they did, because [REDACTED] was very quiet and [REDACTED]
20 was maybe a bit more affectionate and she didn't get
21 into trouble.

22 Q. Then you talk about --

23 A. They didn't like me -- sorry. They didn't like me --
24 I used to speak for [REDACTED] and they got very angry at
25 that -- not they; she got very angry at that, didn't

1 like me doing that.

2 Q. Then you go on to talk about going to school and it

3 looks like it was a small school with one teacher; is

4 that right?

5 A. Mm-hmm. I think there was only about six people in the

6 whole school.

7 Q. Right. How did you get on with the other pupils at the

8 school?

9 A. Didn't really talk to anybody much.

10 Q. Then at paragraph 18 you talk about another incident

11 where you had wet yourself before going to school and

12 Mrs **FNZ** was very angry with you again.

13 A. Yes. That day she said that I had to go to school the

14 way I was, which was with no underwear. Which I did.

15 Which I found very embarrassing.

16 Q. At the bottom of page 5, you talk about meal times and

17 food, and you say:

18 "It was strange, we were fed well but sometimes

19 I would get different meals from the rest of them."

20 Can you tell us a bit about that?

21 A. I've always been a good eater and I'll eat anything but

22 I don't like cheese on its own. I mean, like, if it's

23 not cooked or that. She would -- it was occasionally

24 they would have something like maybe meat or something

25 and I would get stovies and I would say why have

1 I got stovies? "Oh, you wouldn't like what we've got."
2 She just said I wouldn't like it. So I didn't get
3 a chance to say whether I would or not.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. It was just small things which maybe seem quite
6 insignificant but as a child I can remember they hurt me
7 quite badly.

8 Q. You talk about if you couldn't eat something then you
9 got it for breakfast the next day.

10 A. Yes. I would eat anything but I don't like cheese. So
11 I -- this day I got cheese with -- it was in the
12 evening, I think, or lunch, I'm not sure, but there were
13 cheese on it and I really couldn't eat it, I really
14 couldn't. And she says, "You'll get it for your
15 breakfast". And I went -- the next morning I went down
16 for breakfast, which was usually toast and cereal, and
17 there was the cheese and I still couldn't eat it.

18 Q. Did she give you anything else to eat that morning, can
19 you remember?

20 A. No.

21 Q. At the top of the next page I think that we're seeing on
22 the screen now, you say that you didn't think that
23 Mr [REDACTED] was aware of a lot of the things that were going
24 on.

25 A. (Witness shook head). I think -- latterly I think he

1 did, but I think -- he was a very quiet man, who -- you
2 would say he was henpecked, although he was 6 foot 4 or
3 something. But in saying that, because it was very
4 clear that she was the boss in the house and she ran
5 everything. He was a very gentle person who read his
6 paper or -- the only time I ever heard him get into
7 trouble was when he lost his false teeth. He did
8 everything she said. But I think he was aware because
9 he would take me to the football, you know, things like
10 that.

11 Q. You go on to talk about that at paragraph 21, so on
12 a Saturday Mr [REDACTED] would sometimes take you to the
13 football when I think Mrs FNZ would be taking your
14 sister out shopping; is that right?

15 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

16 Q. Did Mrs FNZ ever take you and your sister together to
17 the shops on a Saturday?

18 A. Never.

19 LADY SMITH: Where were the football matches, 'Megan'?

20 A. Sorry?

21 LADY SMITH: Where were the football matches?

22 A. Aberdeen. Pittodrie.

23 LADY SMITH: Pittodrie, yes.

24 MS INNES: You say a little at paragraph 22 about the older
25 daughter in the placement. You say there you got on

1 okay with her but you had very little contact with her.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did your sister have a different relationship with her

4 to the one that you had or not?

5 A. Yeah, they've remained in contact to my knowledge. They

6 stayed close. She would do things with her. Go out

7 with her dolls in the pram, but I liked playing cricket

8 with the boys and football. I was out all day playing.

9 Q. Then at paragraph 23 you talk about something that

10 happened I think about Christmas time where there was

11 a jar that Mrs **FNZ** had been saving sixpences in and you

12 say that your sister, I think, had perhaps taken

13 something from that?

14 A. Mm-hmm, for sweets. But I got accused of taking these

15 sixpences and I hadn't, and I told her I hadn't and she

16 says, "Well, if you didn't, who did?"

17 Q. And what --

18 A. I said, "I don't know". I knew it was .

19 Q. Why did you not blame your sister?

20 A. Didn't want her to get into trouble.

21 Q. What was the consequence of you saying, "It wasn't me",

22 but then not saying who it was? What did Mrs **FNZ** do?

23 A. Mrs **FNZ** said, "There'll be no Christmas for you this

24 year", and it occurred that on Christmas morning I did

25 not get anything, I didn't get anything. My sister got

1 some things and ██████ got things, but I didn't get
2 anything. And she said that that was consequences.

3 Q. If we go over the page, please, and if we go down to
4 paragraph 27 and chores, what sort of chores did you
5 have to do about the house?

6 A. Just dishes after dinner and lunch, dinner. I used to
7 help my gran make the beds and do the dusting. But you
8 didn't have to do much.

9 Q. Okay. And did your sister also have to do some of these
10 things as well, can you remember?

11 A. She had to take her turn at the dishes.

12 Q. Okay. Then if we move on to paragraph 30, you talk
13 there about running away and you say that one day you
14 ran away and slept in a field for a night.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you were found the next day by Mr ██████ Do you know
17 why you ran away? Can you remember?

18 A. I was desperately unhappy. And I thought if I ran away,
19 it might -- maybe subconsciously -- I'd find my mum.
20 And I was unhappy. And I think ... I just wanted to --
21 to let -- to explain that I was unhappy, but I didn't
22 know how to because they were such nice people,
23 Ms FSG ██████ said.

24 Q. Did Ms FSG ██████ come and visit you when you were at the
25 █████ FNZ-SPO can you remember?

1 A. Initially at the beginning, and all she did was tell me
2 to behave, but she didn't after that, she didn't visit
3 after that. Until things -- the next time I think I saw
4 Ms FSG was when I went to the school that morning.

5 Q. Sorry, when you went to the school on which morning?

6 A. When I went to the school and was taken elsewhere.

7 Q. We'll come to that in just a moment. So you remember
8 I think you're saying maybe one visit with
9 Ms FSG --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- near the beginning of the time that you were with the
12 FNZ-SPO and she was telling you to behave essentially?

13 A. (Witness nods).

14 Q. Okay. You've mentioned your family. During the time
15 that you were living with FNZ-SPO, did you have any
16 contact with your parents?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And what about your younger brother?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Then under the heading of "Abuse at foster care" you say
21 at paragraph 31 that:
22 "There were no physical punishments there, just
23 mental abuse, putting me down and saying things about my
24 mum."
25 What sort of things would be said about your mum?

1 A. I remember one time at the back door a gypsy lady or
2 a lady dressed up came to the door and my mum answered
3 it and she said to me, "Oh, that could have been your
4 mother". And there was one time I was in the living
5 room and she was in the -- I was in the kitchen or
6 living room, it was one or the other, and she was
7 talking about my mum, quite derogatory.

8 Q. You talk at paragraph 32 about meeting with your sister
9 years later and she said that she always had to prove
10 herself and to please them.

11 A. (Witness nodded).

12 Q. Was that your feeling when you lived with them or not?

13 A. To be honest, I didn't really care. I can't remember
14 feeling that. I feel that I was always on edge, but my
15 sister, turned out she did quite well, she went to
16 university and did all the things that they hoped for
17 her.

18 Q. And you talk about them disciplining you and putting you
19 to your room without your tea?

20 A. That happened several times. It would be really early,
21 really early. The earliest I ever remember was about
22 5 o'clock once. But usually about 6 okay. But I didn't
23 mind because I read a lot, so I'd just read my books and
24 I preferred to be in the room. Then gran would come to
25 bed. I just -- it didn't bother me.

1 Q. Were you given anything to eat when you were in the
2 room?

3 A. (Witness shakes head).

4 Q. So you would --

5 A. No, we weren't allowed to eat in the bedroom.

6 Q. So you'd go without your dinner then?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Then you go on to talk about leaving foster care and you
9 say that you think that this happened round about the
10 age of seven or eight?

11 A. (Witness nodded).

12 Q. And you talk about an incident that happened that then
13 resulted in you leaving. Are you able to tell us about
14 that?

15 A. FNZ-SPO [REDACTED] never went out. It was unknown really
16 for them to go out in the evening. But they'd went out
17 and they'd asked gran to watch me and my sister.
18 I don't remember where [REDACTED] was. She wasn't there.

19 Anyway, my sister was making faces at gran, and my
20 gran was blind so she couldn't see it. So I pushed my
21 sister and said whatever, to stop it, not to do it. And
22 of course when they came home, they'd promised us both
23 a mouth organ and I was looking forward to this mouth
24 organ, and they were at the bottom of the stairs to the
25 bedroom, it was an upstairs bedroom, we were on the

1 landing, and the gran said that I'd misbehaved and they
2 said why and then she told them.

3 But I couldn't explain to gran why I did it because
4 I didn't want to hurt her feelings because she was
5 blind. So they told me there was a green mouth organ
6 and a yellow one and they told me that I wasn't getting
7 my one. So I don't know what happened to me. I went --
8 I was screaming at the top of my voice.

9 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 33 that you don't know
10 what you were saying:

11 " ... she was shouting at me, telling me to get to
12 bed."

13 You say you went to bed but got up during the night
14 and cut up some of Mrs FNZ clothes?

15 A. Which I did, yes.

16 Q. Then you talk about going to school the next day and
17 you've mentioned Ms FSG coming to the school the
18 next day.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you explain what happened, please?

21 A. Ms FSG came to school and the headmaster asked
22 me -- well, I was at school and the headmaster asked me
23 to come up to the office and Ms FSG was there and
24 she just said I was going somewhere else.

25 Q. Did you go back to collect things from FNZ-SPO or not,

1 can you remember?

2 A. No, I didn't, because I can remember I had on what they
3 called a dirndl skirt, you know, a top, and jacket, and
4 I remember I got clothes at the place I went to.

5 Q. Right. So you first of all went to Craiglarach
6 Children's Home in Aboyne, I think you went there
7 initially, and you say that Ms FSG took you there.
8 Then from there you went to the Hospital for Sick
9 Children in Aberdeen?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you have any understanding of why you'd been taken
12 to the hospital?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You talk at paragraph 39 of seeing a Dr Simone when you
15 were there?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. And you say you understand that she was treating you for
18 mental health reasons?

19 A. Well, for losing my temper and cutting up the clothes
20 and wetting the bed.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And because I didn't really interact with anyone very
23 well.

24 Q. You say that the conversations that you had with her, so
25 at paragraph 39, you say:

1 "Our conversations were like, why do I wet the bed,
2 why did I lose my temper, why was I such a difficult
3 child at [FNZ-SPO], why won't I speak to people.
4 I couldn't answer the questions."
5 A. (Witness nodded).
6 Q. And I think that's your recollection of the sort of
7 thing that the doctor was --
8 A. Yes, she was very kind, very nice doctor. She did say
9 to me -- well, I think you'll read about it.
10 Oh, Mr [] came to visit me.
11 Q. Mr [] came to visit you at the hospital?
12 A. Mm. He brought me an ice lolly in a flask and told me
13 not to tell his wife that he'd been. But he didn't
14 bring me any clothes or anything, he just brought me the
15 ice lolly.
16 LADY SMITH: And you say he brought it in a flask so that it
17 would stay cold?
18 A. Yes.
19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
20 MS INNES: You talk there about the doctor saying that if
21 you didn't speak, then Ms [FSG] would think that
22 you're retarded and put you in a home for retarded
23 people?
24 A. That's what Ms [FSG] was thinking about doing.
25 That's what Dr Simone told me. She said that I would be

1 with people who were perhaps more ill than what
2 I supposedly was.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. And she -- she didn't believe, Dr Simone, that I was
5 restarted in any way.

6 Q. Then you talk about doing an exam to go to a boarding
7 school?

8 A. Yes. Dr Simone had said there was a meeting with the
9 social worker, whatever, and she suggested to me that
10 I sit this exam. Which I did, and I got 99 --
11 I remember I got 99 -- thankfully it was English, so
12 I managed it. It was 99 per cent I got. So she said
13 that I'd be accepted. So she would put this to
14 Ms FSG, rather than put me in a place where
15 retarded children were, she could prove that my IQ was
16 good enough to go to a school, a mainstream school.

17 Q. Okay. And then you say that you went to a school in
18 Yorkshire?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did you feel, first of all, about leaving FNZ-SPO ?

21 A. I wasn't bothered. I didn't feel I was leaving -- maybe
22 Mr [REDACTED] but I didn't feel -- maybe gran. But I really
23 didn't have much inclination about how I felt about
24 things. I think if I did feel anything, I would block
25 it off. I wouldn't -- I'd just get on with it.

1 Q. Did you have any feelings or thoughts about leaving your
2 sister?

3 A. No. But I knew she was okay.

4 Q. So then you tell us that you went to the boarding school
5 in Yorkshire and I think that ultimately things didn't
6 work out there and you were expelled from that school;
7 is that right?

8 A. Mm.

9 Q. Okay. And then you say at paragraph 59 on page 14, at
10 the end of paragraph 59, that when you left the boarding
11 school, you went back to FNZ-SPO for a week.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then from there you went on to St Clair's Children's
14 Home?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. At paragraph 60 you talk about Mr [REDACTED] coming to get you
17 from the school.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you remember anything about that journey or --

20 A. He had driven down from Aberdeen to York -- well,
21 because it was in Yorkshire, and I remember he took me
22 to the pictures. I'll always remember the film, it was
23 the Poseidon Adventure. And I'd never been in the
24 pictures so I was quite excited about that. He was very
25 kind to me. And we stayed -- I think we stayed

1 overnight somewhere because the journey was quite long,
2 and then carried on.

3 But he was very kind to me on the journey and
4 chatted away to me. He didn't reprimand my behaviour.
5 He just said, "What are we going to do with you?"

6 Q. And what happened when you got back to FNZ-SPO house?

7 I think we can see over the page at paragraph 61. How
8 did Mrs FNZ react when you got back to the house?

9 A. I don't think she was very happy because she reacted
10 like she -- well, like she felt I wasn't there. I felt
11 that she -- she was just completely dismissive of me.
12 I mean, she kept my tidy and everything like she usually
13 did, but we had no interaction or no verbal interaction
14 or very little.

15 Q. And then you talk in that paragraph about a savings book
16 that she had kept initially and I think we'll come back
17 to that a wee bit later on.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But you say there that she would tell people, "Oh, look
20 at these children I've fostered", and she would never
21 refer to all three of you as her daughters, she would
22 say, "This is my daughter and these are the other two
23 that I foster".

24 A. Yes, she never referred to us as a family.

25 Q. If we move on a little then, please, you went to

1 St Clair's home in Aberdeen, and then at paragraph 75 on
2 page 18, you talk there at paragraph 75 about how
3 Mrs FNZ referred to you.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. And also how Ms FSG referred to you, saying you
6 wouldn't amount to much because you were a traveller.
7 She said, "You'll end up with lots of kids and be
8 an alcoholic".

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that what the social worker said to you?

11 A. Yes. Mrs FNZ when she got annoyed at me would call me
12 a tinker.

13 Q. You were at St Clair's Children's Home and then you
14 moved to Coblehaugh Children's Home in Inverurie for
15 a period. If we can move past that, I think in summary
16 you went to Coblehaugh. You then ran away from there
17 and went to London for a period and I think that you
18 were arrested and were in prison; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And then you were moved back up to Craiginchies Prison in
21 Aberdeen; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And I think this was all while you were still under the
24 age of 16?

25 A. I was only 13 and a half.

1 Q. You were only 13 and a half when you left Coblehaugh?

2 A. Yes. However, if I was nearly 14 -- I would have been
3 nearly 14.

4 Q. Okay. Then you talk about what happened thereafter and
5 you then tell us about the time that you were in
6 Craiginches Prison, and at paragraph 105 on page 25, you
7 referred to Mrs. FNZ coming to visit you in the prison.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you remember, can you tell us about that?

10 A. She said she was disgusted at me, I remember.

11 Q. You say there that you asked if she could get you some
12 shoes?

13 A. Yes, I had no shoes because in London I didn't wear any.
14 And I asked her if she could get my some shoes but she
15 couldn't. And she called me quite derogatory names and
16 said that I'd been sleeping with men for money, which
17 wasn't true.

18 Q. You also tell us that she asked you to sign over the
19 savings that she had been making for you?

20 A. Yes. Which I did.

21 Q. And was that money that she'd been saving up that she'd
22 been getting from the Local Authority to support you?

23 A. It was for like when we went to university or something
24 like that. She wouldn't give it to me while I was in
25 prison.

1 Q. And then you talk about spending time at St Euphrasia's
2 List D School?

3 A. List D School, yes.

4 Q. And then you talk about some of your experiences there.
5 If we can move on again, please, to page 33 and
6 paragraph 141, you talk about meeting your sister again
7 years later.

8 A. Mm.

9 Q. So had you had any contact with your sister, other than
10 the times that you said you went back to FNZ-SPO that
11 we've talked about? Have you had any other contact with
12 her?

13 A. No. They didn't want her to have contact with me.

14 Q. You talk about your meeting with your sister at the time
15 when you met her as an adult, I think, and you say that
16 it didn't work out.

17 A. No. She had different values. She was very
18 materialistic and very -- she's a very clever woman, but
19 very materialistic, very surface. She had no depth
20 empathy. And she thought I was as common as muck, so.

21 Q. Then at paragraph 142 you talk about finding your
22 brother, I think?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And again, until you were an adult, had you had any
25 contact with your brother at all?

1 A. None at all. I read something about him which said my
2 mother had been in prison, I imagine it would be breach
3 of the peace because she drank a lot, it would be
4 something like that. So I always remember reading this.
5 It said -- he was called [REDACTED], his proper name was
6 [REDACTED] "has been returned back to his mother because for
7 being a tinker's child, he wasn't in bad condition", and
8 that was the social worker's report.

9 Q. Okay. I think you say that you were able to find him --

10 A. I did.

11 Q. -- through an organisation for travellers called
12 Article 12?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Does that organisation support people from the
15 travelling community that have gone into care?

16 A. No.

17 Q. No? It's a general --

18 A. General. It was really by luck because my brother had
19 been married to a girl in Fife and she worked sometimes
20 for Article 12 and she told me that she was married to
21 a man called [REDACTED] but I didn't know him as that.
22 And then after talking a lot, I -- I used to go on
23 marches and things with Article 12 -- after talking
24 a lot we found out that he was my brother.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. So I phoned him up and he was Irish, and he says,
2 "I don't have a sister called FKW . And he
3 remembered me under a different name. But then he did
4 realise I was his sister.

5 Q. Okay. And I think you tell us in your statement that
6 you've been able to maintain a relationship with him; is
7 that right?

8 A. I have. I met him when I was 55. My husband had just
9 passed away, I think five years before, and then meeting
10 was nice. And from the minute we met, we got --
11 he's a very quiet, deep-thinking man, doesn't say a lot,
12 but his family are lovely, his wife's nice, two lovely
13 boys -- well, men now. But then we do get on well, yes.

14 Q. Then you go on to talk about the impact of all of your
15 experiences in care. If we can go on, please, to
16 page 35 at paragraph 148, you talk about the fact that
17 you feel that you just kept slipping through the loop?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you explain a little bit about that, a little bit
20 more about how you feel?

21 A. I felt that I was -- I don't think I was a bad child as
22 I wasn't violent, I wasn't aggressive. I was silently
23 defiant and I'd maybe bang doors or mutter, mutter, but
24 whenever either Ms -- well, it was bad cutting up the
25 clothes, but I think that's the worst thing I'd done,

1 and then getting into trouble at boarding school. But
2 for the misdemeanours, which I see them as I, was just
3 moved on somewhere else. I never got close to anyone.
4 I never trusted -- to this day I don't -- I trust very
5 few people. Very few people. And it's a shame, because
6 in a way I'm thankful because I do have empathy for
7 perhaps children that have been in care that have went
8 through the loop and it's been unavoidable or prejudice.
9 I don't think that would happen now, I quite believe it
10 would not happen now, but it did happen when I was
11 young. It definitely did.

12 And I feel -- I've suffered from mental health
13 issues since I was 19 years old and I feel and I was
14 told through a long term, a year in hospital, that my
15 childhood was the reason for my mental health issues.
16 Because I didn't -- I related it like a story. I didn't
17 have any emotion about it. When I did get feelings
18 about it, I would step back or I would get depressed and
19 not deal with it.

20 But I did meet some really nice people along the way
21 too, which -- like Mr [REDACTED] and gran [REDACTED] Secondary Institution and so
22 on. But I just always felt dismissed, completely
23 dismissed. That's all I can say.

24 LADY SMITH: 'Megan', you've told us quite a bit about your
25 social worker, Ms FSG [REDACTED], and I'm getting the

1 impression that she was your social worker all the way
2 through; is that right?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 LADY SMITH: But it doesn't sound as though she was the
5 right social worker for you.

6 A. No.

7 LADY SMITH: Have I picked that up correctly?

8 A. She had people under her, two ladies who were very nice.
9 One of them took me to St Euphrasia's and took me for
10 a picnic. She was very nice.

11 LADY SMITH: But whenever Ms FSG turned up, that wasn't
12 particularly good news for you by the sound of things.

13 A. No. When I was -- when I was 54, I met my cousin, who
14 had had similar experiences with the same social worker.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

16 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

17 I think you say here that Ms FSG just didn't
18 like you, it was as simple as that?

19 A. It's as simple as that. I don't want to be derogatory
20 about the lady because I believe she probably did work
21 very hard and probably did in her own way have the
22 children's best interests at heart, but I think she
23 firmly believed that me being who I was and where I came
24 from, and shown her obviously in the early days that
25 I wouldn't settle, was going to be trouble and I think

1 that's why she just dismissed me so much. She really
2 did think I'd amount to nothing.

3 Q. You talk a little bit, if we go on to paragraph 150, you
4 say that you did try to get copies of your records.

5 A. Social -- yes.

6 Q. But you were told that they had been destroyed.

7 A. Yes. My brother got his. My sister got hers. And my
8 cousin got his -- well, she actually threw them at my
9 cousin because he was joining the army, he was away.
10 But I asked for -- I was about 20 -- my daughter would
11 have been starting school, so that was 40 years ago.
12 I was under a social worker at the time because I cared
13 very well for my daughter but I had depression so I had
14 help, and she asked a bit about my childhood. And
15 she -- yes, and I'd like to know their interpretation of
16 it from my daughter and I and for me to read because
17 I know as a child you can interpret things wrongly.

18 Well, as a child, I think, you always question
19 yourself. I did. I always questioned myself: am
20 I right about this or right about that?

21 Anyway, this social worker applied to Aberdeen
22 Council, Aberdeenshire Council, and they said that my
23 notes had been destroyed in a fire. And that was
24 Musselburgh social work department that applied for
25 them.


1 Q. Then in the next couple of paragraphs you go on to talk
2 about any lessons that we should learn from your
3 experience. You say that:

4 "There should be someone in place to support girls,
5 someone for them to speak to. Not social work, someone
6 to trust and for them to have a say. It was like nobody
7 ever listened to me."

8 Can you explain a little more about your thoughts in
9 relation to this?

10 A. On retrospect I was quite a quiet child although I did
11 get into trouble, I was quiet, so I was always put at
12 the back of the school, in the class, back at school.

13 Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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22 But unfortunately that relationship didn't have long
23 either, so I just feel that -- I do believe that there's
24 great steps in social work and it's greatly changed, but
25 there's always maybe that quiet child who might be

1 silently defiant, who might be very unhappy in a foster
2 placement, who won't speak out because they're scared to
3 or because they don't want to cause trouble or be
4 awkward. To look out for them. And even if they're
5 defiant or -- just look out for them because --
6 I didn't -- well, I ended up being a support worker with
7 adults with learning difficulties for 30 years, so I did
8 amount to something. But that was because maybe I'm
9 a strong woman and I've been lucky, I have been.

10 And I don't have any anger or hatred of Ms FSG
11 in any way. I just feel very sorry that I slipped
12 through the net and I just don't want another child --
13 the same to happen to them. That's all.

14 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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20 MS INNES: Thank you very much for your evidence, 'Megan',
21 and I don't have any more questions for you.

22 A. Okay, thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
24 questions?

25 'Megan', I have no more questions for you either.

1 I just want to thank you very much for engaging with us
2 in the way you have done, both by giving a detailed and
3 valuable written statement that's got much more in it,
4 as you know, than we've covered with you today, but then
5 coming here today to make your evidence come alive and
6 really help me understand what it was like for you to be
7 taken into foster care when you were a young child.

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Of course I have your evidence about the other
10 forms of care you were in as well, but at the moment
11 you'll appreciate we're focusing on foster care.

12 But you've been so clear and articulate, I really
13 appreciate that, and your thoughts about what we need to
14 do for children today and children in the future.

15 A. (Witness nodded).

16 LADY SMITH: You'll probably be exhausted now that we've
17 finished with you.

18 A. I need a cigarette.

19 LADY SMITH: I hope you can have a restful afternoon ahead
20 and you'll be glad that I'm now going to say I can let
21 you go.

22 A. Thank you very much.

23 LADY SMITH: Please feel free.

24 A. Thank you.

25 (The witness withdrew)

1 LADY SMITH: So I think that's us until 2 o'clock then, is
2 it, Ms Innes?
3 MS INNES: It is, my Lady, and we have a witness who will be
4 giving evidence by WebEx at 2.00.
5 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. 2 o'clock then.
6 (12.46 pm)
7 (The luncheon adjournment)
8 (2.00 pm)
9 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. As promised, we have a WebEx
10 link ready, I think; is that right?
11 MS INNES: We do, my Lady. We have a witness using the
12 pseudonym 'Ann' ready to give evidence by WebEx link.
13 'Ann' was in the care of the Edinburgh Corporation, now
14 City of Edinburgh Council. She went into foster care in
15 I think [REDACTED] 1951 and was in four different placements
16 up until the time that she left care.
17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.
18 'Ann', good afternoon, can you hear me?
19 A. Yes, I can.
20 LADY SMITH: Can you see me? I'm Lady Smith at the Child
21 Abuse Inquiry. I think we need you a bit closer to the
22 microphone, if that's possible.
23 A. Is that better?
24 LADY SMITH: That's much, much better.
25

1 'Ann' (sworn)

2 LADY SMITH: 'Ann', I'm sorry to be a nuisance. I'm going
3 to need you closer to that microphone, please. Can you
4 say something, let me hear you?

5 A. Is that better? I'm sorry about that.

6 LADY SMITH: That's really clear, if you're that position in
7 relation to the microphone, but I don't want you to get
8 uncomfortable. Do you need to move your chair or move
9 the microphone?

10 A. I just did. I think that's better, thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: That's great, I'm really grateful to you for
12 that.

13 Now, I've explained who I am. I Chair the Child
14 Abuse Inquiry and I'm grateful to you for agreeing to
15 give your evidence to us over the WebEx link this
16 afternoon.

17 If you were here, I would be assuring you that
18 I want to do anything I can to make giving evidence as
19 comfortable as possible, knowing that it's not an easy
20 thing to do, particularly with our subject matter.
21 'Ann', it's exactly the same even although you're over
22 the WebEx link. It means I do want you to tell me if
23 you have any concerns or questions or if there's
24 anything that you would ask us to do to make it easier
25 for you. If you need a break, for example, that's

1 absolutely fine. You must just say, all right?

2 A. Thank you, yes, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and

4 she'll take it from there, okay?

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

7 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

8 Questions from Ms Innes

9 MS INNES: Good afternoon, 'Ann'.

10 A. Good afternoon.

11 Q. I understand that you were born in the year 1946; is

12 that correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And I think you have a copy of your witness statement

15 and it will come up on the screen as well,

16 WIT.001.001.862. If you could look, please, at the

17 final page of that statement, page 27.

18 A. All right.

19 Q. I think we can see --

20 A. I'm doing that.

21 Q. I think we can see there at paragraph 132 that it says:

22 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

23 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

25 true."

1 And then we see your signature and it was signed on
2 30 November 2021; is that correct?

3 A. Correct, yes.

4 Q. Thank you. If we can go back, please, to the beginning
5 of your statement you tell us a little bit about what
6 you remember about your life before going into care and
7 you tell us that you were born in Edinburgh.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You talk about your early life and I think you lived
10 together with your father and your mother and you had
11 a younger brother; is that right?

12 A. Yes, I did, yes.

13 Q. You also had an older half-brother?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You tell us I think at paragraph 6 of your statement on
16 page 2 --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- that your mother had your brother two years after
19 you. Around that time she contracted breast cancer and
20 then you tell us that she died in 1949; is that correct?

21 A. Yes. Yes, it is.

22 Q. What happened to your family after your mother died?

23 A. It disintegrated. My father -- this is something
24 I found out later. My father disappeared and my older
25 brother, [REDACTED] took over looking after the family, which

1 was the three of us.

2 Q. And then you tell us in your statement that your brother
3 I think it was found out that your brother was looking
4 after you, but without any money and the authorities
5 stepped in and you were put into Canaan Lodge in
6 Edinburgh?

7 A. Yes, but I remember very little about the Canaan Lodge.
8 Everything was in such flux that, you know, just sort of
9 bright memories, flashes, and I certainly don't remember
10 much about the children's home.

11 Q. Then I think you tell us at the bottom of page 2,
12 paragraph 9 of your statement, you talk about going into
13 foster care with a [REDACTED] in Rosyth.

14 A. Yes, that's right.

15 Q. Can you remember anything about going there to begin
16 with?

17 A. You mean actually getting there?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. I just remember -- the most vivid memory is simply
20 [REDACTED], who was a very, very young sort of baby, crying
21 on the doorstep and I was on the doorstep and [REDACTED]
22 were inside the house and someone was driving away in
23 a car, which I assume was the social worker.

24 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 10 of your statement that
25 you remember an occasion when a man and a boy turned up

1 and you remember looking at them from behind a chair.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you say:

4 "When I saw them, I thought to myself that's my dad
5 and my brother come to take us away."

6 But you were told that they were your uncle and
7 cousin?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that, please?

10 A. Extremely disturbing because I knew it was my father and
11 brother, but they insisted that they were an uncle and
12 a cousin, and it was very, very disturbing.

13 Q. Then you talk about EKA-EKB themselves, and we'll come
14 back to more about them and their behaviour towards you
15 later on. But can I ask you a little bit, first of all,
16 about what you remember about the house? What was the
17 house like?

18 A. So what, how big it was? The condition?

19 Q. Can you remember anything about it at all? Can you
20 remember what --

21 A. Yes, you came into a living room, there was a fire,
22 a stairwell, went upstairs, went upstairs. And the
23 kitchen at the back, I remember the kitchen because
24 I used to have to make morning tea there, so I certainly
25 remember that.

1 Q. And did you have a room of your own or did you share
2 a room with somebody?
3 A. I shared a room with [REDACTED].
4 Q. And did you have your own bed or did you have separate
5 beds?
6 A. We shared a bed.
7 Q. You shared a bed?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. You say in paragraph 12 of your statement that the house
10 was cold?
11 A. Yes. Not all the time, but the memory of it, yes.
12 Q. At paragraph 17 on page 4, you say that you went to
13 school when you were there, I think you started school
14 when you were living with EKA-EKB; is that right?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. How did you find school there?
17 A. It -- it was an escape. It was -- it wasn't EKA-EKB
18 house.
19 Q. Okay. If we go down to the paragraph 19 on the same
20 page, you talk about being made to do the housework and
21 get the shopping and you tell about an incident when
22 you'd lost the change on the way back from the shop.
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. What happened?
25 A. I was terrified of going home because I'd got the

1 shopping but the change, which was a sixpence, slipped
2 out of my grasp and rolled into a stream, I couldn't
3 find it, and I knew whatever I said when I got home, it
4 would be wrong. And when I got back I told Mrs EKB
5 what had happened and she just walloped me and said,
6 "You liar, you used the money yourself, you kept the
7 money yourself".

8 Q. At the top of the next page you go on to say that:

9 "This was the refrain that followed me in my
10 childhood, that I was a liar."

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were saying by reference to that incident you were
13 telling the truth and you were told that you were
14 a liar, but this is something that you say has followed
15 you throughout your childhood?

16 A. I think it applies to a lot of abused children as well,
17 is that they are expected to lie because the parents
18 tell them to lie in order to put off any social worker,
19 so this kind of multiplicity of lying follows a lot of
20 abused children.

21 Q. And it was your experience?

22 A. Very much. Being told to be quiet and not tell anyone
23 what was happening is lying.

24 Q. At the bottom of page 5 at paragraph 24 you talk there
25 about any visits or inspections that took place. Can

1 you remember any social workers coming to visit you when
2 you were at EKA-EKB ?

3 A. Yes. But I think that EKA-EKB always had a warning
4 because there was the same pattern of behaviour. They
5 had a stick that they would keep behind the chair and
6 they'd say, "If there are visitors, you keep your mouth
7 shut."

8 Q. Can you remember being in a room with the social
9 workers?

10 A. Alone or with -- I can remember the social workers being
11 in the room with EKA-EKB yes.

12 Q. You can't ever remember speaking to them on your own,
13 for example?

14 A. No. I don't think that was at all normal.

15 Q. You talk about some of the comments about you that
16 you've read in your records, I think, and you say that
17 there were comments that you were looking well but you
18 highlight --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- that at that time you started having problems with
21 asthma.

22 A. And psoriasis, yes.

23 Q. You talk about that over the top of the next page at
24 paragraph 26, where you say that that seemed to come
25 from nowhere. Have you been able to make any link

1 between your physical health conditions and your
2 experiences as a child?

3 A. Yes, it was stress-induced unquestionably. There may
4 have been a genetic component, I don't know, because
5 I don't know anybody else in the family who had this,
6 but certainly I would have thought that was the trigger
7 because it's continued to be a trigger mechanism.

8 Q. Okay. If we can go to the bottom of page 6, please, and
9 you talk there about the abuse that you suffered in the
10 placement. You mention in the first paragraph there
11 about having to go and make tea in the morning and
12 you've mentioned that a moment ago in your evidence.
13 Are you able to tell us what happened after that?

14 A. I will try, but the regular occurrence every morning was
15 that I would be first up and I would go down into the
16 kitchen, put the kettle on the gas stove and make tea
17 and take them up to Mr EKA in one room and Mrs EKB in
18 the other, but I think that's all I can say about that
19 at the moment.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Sorry, I just ...

22 Q. That's fine, 'Ann'. You tell us in your statement the
23 abuse that you suffered at the hands of Mr EKA at that
24 point, and you go on over the page to talk about further
25 abuse that you suffered, which I think was instigated by

1 Mr EKA

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If you'd prefer not to talk about that, that's fine. We
4 can see it in your statement.

5 A. If you don't mind, I'd rather not.

6 Q. That's fine. Then at paragraph 35, you talk about
7 Mr EKA having a bendy black stick behind a chair, and
8 I think you've mentioned that already in your evidence.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Would you be able to tell us a little bit about that?

11 A. A particular kind of torture that he would use on [REDACTED]
12 and me, he'd make one of us hold his army books at arm's
13 length and the other one would have to hit the first one
14 with that stick, that particular stick, and you couldn't
15 not do anything because he'd just take over using the
16 stick, if that makes sense.

17 Q. I think you describe this in paragraphs 35 and 36. So
18 you and [REDACTED] -- and I think we've seen that you were
19 between the ages of about four and six at the time that
20 you were with EKA-EKB and your brother was two years
21 younger than you, and he would make you hold out heavy
22 books --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and if you dropped them, you would be hit, but --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- he would also make you hit each other?

2 A. Yes. Yes, which was a worse torture.

3 Q. Then what about Mrs EKB ? I think you go on to deal
4 with this at the top of page 8, paragraph 37. How did
5 Mrs EKB behave towards you?

6 A. She was a -- she was indifferent most of the time. She
7 just -- I haven't got any real memories of her except
8 when she lashed out or, you know, made me do some work
9 around the house or ...

10 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 39 that there wasn't any
11 adult that you could trust to speak to about what was
12 happening.

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And the one person that you thought you could trust was
15 your father, but as you've already mentioned, you were
16 being told he was your uncle if he came to visit.

17 A. Yes. There wasn't anyone else. No teachers. There
18 were no relatives. There were -- there was no one else.
19 And anyway, I probably didn't have the -- the language
20 to ask for help.

21 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 40 about leaving EKA-EKB
22 and I think you perhaps talk about your own
23 recollection, first of all, before you tell us what's in
24 the records. What do you remember about leaving the
25 EKA-EKB

1 A. I just remember a lot of noise and lights and marching
2 around the -- there was a small green, a village green
3 outside, and wandering around at night, with everyone
4 crying, [REDACTED], Mrs EKB dragging us out. And then the
5 noise and lights I remember are probably police cars and
6 things like that, so -- and then the next day we were
7 off.

8 Q. I think at paragraph 41 you tell us what you've seen in
9 the records, which references a doctor and a police
10 officer checking and Mr EKA appeared to be being
11 examined by professionals under the Mental Health Act?

12 A. Yes. That was -- I didn't know that and didn't remember
13 that, I only saw that actually in the records for the
14 first time.

15 Q. You tell us there that a social worker came into your
16 school in Rosyth and you were taken out of the class by
17 the headmaster. What did the social worker say to you?

18 A. Same as I remember the refrain, "You're a problem child
19 now".

20 Q. Did she say that to you when she met you that day?

21 A. In the car. I remember in the car.

22 Q. You tell us that you were taken from EKA-EKB to stay
23 at a children's home, Redhall, in Edinburgh, but I don't
24 think you stayed there for very long? Is that right?

25 A. I don't remember it very much. I remember the crowds of

1 children running up and down the stairs. I don't really
2 remember anything about the home.

3 Q. How did you feel about leaving EKA-EKB ?

4 A. Oh, I'd dreamt about it every night that I'd be taken
5 away and I'd go to the Chalet School or something like
6 that, a boarding school, a dream come true.

7 Q. At page 9, paragraph 43, the next thing that you tell us
8 is that you say you were going to a place in Brechin?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Were you given any explanation, can you remember, about
11 going somewhere else and what was happening?

12 A. No. My memory is that children weren't involved in
13 these decisions. You would just be sort of part of the
14 end product. So my memories are only of ever being in
15 a car being taken somewhere, and that's where we're
16 going.

17 Q. So I think you and your brother went to this place in
18 Brechin; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you say that you were placed in the care of a woman
21 who had a teenage daughter?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And were they the only two people who were living in
24 that house?

25 A. I think so, yes. I'm sure. There certainly wasn't a --

1 I think her husband had died in the war.

2 Q. Can you remember what that home was like when you got
3 there?

4 A. That was just an ordinary home, but it was someone
5 else's. You know, it certainly wasn't set up for having
6 two quite probably disturbed children coming into it.

7 Q. Did you and your brother share a room in this house as
8 well?

9 A. Very little memory of that, the actual structure of the
10 house. I somehow don't think so, but ...

11 Q. Okay. At paragraph 48, please, if we can go on to
12 page 10, you say that you think that the foster mother
13 was overwhelmed when she took on both of you?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you explain your thoughts in relation to that?

16 A. I think that [REDACTED] and I were quite -- probably quite
17 difficult and we fought, I remember we fought all the
18 time, for whatever reason, and that really disturbed her
19 household, which I can understand.

20 Q. And you say at paragraph 50 that you think you were fed
21 adequately, but you were treated as second class and not
22 like a member of the household. Can you explain that,
23 please?

24 A. Well, it's just things that -- I think it was natural,
25 looking back, that she doted on her own daughter, which

1 makes sense, but I remember that when I went to school,
2 I had to walk behind the daughter because she wouldn't
3 let me walk with her.

4 Q. I don't think you stayed there for very long.

5 A. No.

6 Q. From your records. I think we know that -- sorry?

7 A. It must have -- no, no, I interrupted, sorry.

8 Q. I think from your records you stayed there
9 from [REDACTED] 1956 to [REDACTED] 1957.

10 A. Right.

11 Q. So it doesn't seem like a very long time.

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. What happened next? Where did you move to next?

14 A. I think there may have been another children's home
15 intermediate, but otherwise it was Inverness, to
16 [REDACTED] that I remember, yes.

17 Q. You tell us on page 11 that you went into care with
18 a Ms EKF [REDACTED] and Ms EKG [REDACTED] in Inverness?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And again can you remember anything about this move or
21 was it more again about being in a car and being taken
22 somewhere?

23 A. Just ended up there again, but without [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
24 was put somewhere else. In fact, he went up to [REDACTED].
25 It was just somewhere else at the end of a car ride.

1 LADY SMITH: So, 'Ann', the Inverness foster home was the
2 third foster home that you were taken to; is that right?
3 A. Yes.
4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
5 MS INNES: Can you remember how you felt about being
6 separated from your brother?
7 A. Very ambivalent because although we fought, he -- he was
8 all that I had, I was all that he really had, so it was
9 another break in -- in -- in our lives.
10 Q. And once you got to the next foster home, did you ever
11 see your brother from time to time? Did you meet up
12 with him?
13 A. Yes. I think that -- I think we met because he was on
14 a farm, on a croft, and I think he was -- we met in
15 Inverness under supervision or ... I have a vague -- it
16 didn't happen very often so the memory's not terribly
17 clear. And we probably fought as well.
18 TECHNICIAN: Sorry to interrupt. Would it be possible for
19 us to take a short break?
20 LADY SMITH: Absolutely. You just let us know when it's
21 okay for 'Ann' to resume.
22 (2.31 pm)
23 (A short break)
24 (2.37 pm)
25 LADY SMITH: 'Ann', welcome back. Are you ready for us to

1 carry on?

2 A. Yes, yes, thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: Good. I'll hand back to Ms Innes.

4 Ms Innes?

5 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

6 Now, 'Ann', we were looking at page 11 of your

7 statement. If we go to paragraph 55, which you tell us

8 there about the two ladies that you went to live with.

9 I think they were aunt and niece, is that correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you had to call them Ms **EKF** and Ms **EKG**, you

12 say?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What was it like living with them?

15 A. It was different. They ran a bed and breakfast and I --

16 one of my tasks was to take people, visitors, the

17 tourists, to other places if they couldn't stay with the

18 aunt and niece. It was a beautiful place to run around

19 in. It was near the river, with the Islands. It was

20 quite different to where I'd been before.

21 Q. How did you find them as people?

22 A. They were too old to be looking after someone --

23 a little reprobate like me. They should have -- you

24 know, it wasn't fair on them because I was probably very

25 opinionated and -- so it was a difficult situation.

1 None of us came out of it very well.

2 Q. Do you know roughly how old they were?

3 A. The niece was in her 60s and the other one must have
4 been 80. Really quite -- I mean, I've never checked on
5 that, but ...

6 Q. You say at paragraph 62 that you felt that they were
7 looking after you out of a sense of duty and you had to
8 be grateful to them. So paragraph 62, right at the end
9 of that paragraph.

10 A. Yes. I don't even know if it was duty, unless it was
11 a sort of post-war clean-up, tidy-up and doing their
12 duty that way. Because people were paid quite well for
13 looking after children, so it wasn't always a sense of
14 duty.

15 Q. But you say that you felt that you had to be grateful to
16 them or that was the impression --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- they gave?

19 A. Oh yes, yes. Very much.

20 Q. Then you talk about your education when you were there
21 and on page 13, you deal with this at paragraphs 63 and
22 64, you say that you failed the 11 Plus and there were
23 gaps in your education, I think, as a result of your
24 life up until that point, is that right?

25 A. Yes. It was also because I was in the wrong year there

1 when I was in Brechin, I'd been put into the -- my age
2 had been given wrongly so I was put in a year too high
3 at the school, so the education was very disrupted.

4 Q. If we go on from there, please, towards the end of your
5 time with them, at paragraph 73 on page 15 you talk
6 about something that you have seen in your records and
7 you say there:

8 "In my records I read that Ms EKF told the social
9 worker that I had walked home from school through
10 puddles deliberately to get muddy so I wouldn't have to
11 go to school."

12 And then you give some comments in relation to that.
13 When you read that in your records, what was your
14 reaction to that?

15 A. I think, well, disbelief because I would have -- was
16 quite happy being at school, but the idea that I'd
17 somehow scuffed my way through puddles just to annoy
18 them -- but the fact that this was put on my record, you
19 know, as a black mark, that's the most shocking thing,
20 I thought. That's followed me for decades, I scuffed my
21 shoes, so ...

22 Q. You then explain that you left that place, and again
23 I think from your records you were in care with
24 Ms EKF and Ms EKG from [REDACTED] 1957 up
25 until [REDACTED] 1960, so I think that's the period of

1 time that you were with them.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. How did it come about that you left them?

4 A. There just seemed to be a complete breakdown. They had
5 other relatives or family and they were very close, and
6 I wasn't. I was obviously a cuckoo, and again perhaps
7 they didn't have the support either, but there was just
8 a complete breakdown in what was expected of them and of
9 me. They couldn't look after me any more and I was
10 quite surprised how much they disliked me, so ...

11 Q. You say at paragraph 75 that you were again taken in
12 a big car to your next foster home at the croft.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you say this was when you were about 14 and you
15 weren't allowed to take your belongings and your books
16 with you?

17 A. No. I can remember taking -- well, you took some
18 clothes that you stood up in, but I remember my -- the
19 few personal things like books were left in the bookcase
20 and you couldn't ask for it because you -- you -- kids
21 didn't do that, or I didn't do that. So they got left
22 behind, yes. And when I said later to [REDACTED]
23 that I'd lost all my few things I had, she said, "Why
24 didn't you ask for it?" But that was totally out of
25 anything I could have done.

1 Q. And then as you've mentioned, I think, [REDACTED]
2 was the person that you went to live with next; is that
3 right?

4 A. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] it was brother and sister.

5 Q. And they lived on a croft at [REDACTED]?

6 A. Yes. [REDACTED] was the name of the croft.

7 Q. And that was near Inverness?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you mentioned earlier that you understood that
10 your brother [REDACTED] had lived at [REDACTED]?

11 A. Yes. And they couldn't cope with him.

12 Q. Right. So by the time you went to live with them, had
13 your brother gone?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: So this is your fourth foster home, have I got
16 that right?

17 A. Yes, that's right.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS INNES: You describe the croft and you say there was no
20 running water. There was a hosepipe running down from
21 the spring and there was an outside toilet.

22 A. That was the start, and it was absolutely fantastic and
23 I'd go back there any day.

24 Q. What were the brother and sister like when you lived
25 with them? How did you get on with them?

1 A. They were very strict. They were very fair. And they
2 were very religious. One thing I should say I'm very
3 grateful to the Social Services at the time was it
4 showed me all the different ways that family groups were
5 made out, so I had a widowed mother, I had care homes
6 and I had brother and sister. It was a real insight
7 into the structure of families and how different they
8 can be.

9 Q. Were there other children living with the [REDACTED] as
10 well when you were there?

11 A. Yes. [REDACTED] who was older -- there had been loads of
12 other children that had been involved with the
13 [REDACTED]. There was a very familiar habit of --
14 I mean, it was the sort of last rounds baby farming,
15 when children were fostered who weren't able to look
16 after themselves properly and they stayed in these
17 places all their lives. Very common.

18 Q. So I think you mention at paragraph 81 [REDACTED], the
19 person that you've just mentioned.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then you talk about other people that they looked
22 after or that seemed to be involved in family life.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Who lived nearby as well.

25 A. Yes. A lot of the farms, a lot of the crofts had

1 people, like, fostered with them who just stayed.

2 Q. At paragraph 83 on page 17 you note that -- I suppose
3 you're saying in common with other people, the
4 [REDACTED] didn't have the training for dealing with
5 children with additional needs.

6 A. They didn't have the training, but I suppose looking
7 back it was unfair because they had this experience and
8 they dealt with children reasonably well. It was just
9 this very chilly attitude which came more from the sort
10 of pre-Presbyterian ethos rather than any desire to harm
11 a kid.

12 Q. So you say, going on in that paragraph, that:

13 "They were from the Victorian era and had very
14 different attitudes. There was no sense of offering any
15 affection and reassurance to children and I longed for
16 that."

17 A. Yes, that was very trying but it was partly behavioural
18 then. They didn't go in for cuddles or even handshakes,
19 because women didn't shake hands for some reason, and it
20 was -- it was just a very religious, profoundly
21 religious set-up. We read the Bible -- and I was very
22 grateful for that because I read the Bible at a very
23 early age. It was beautiful.

24 So it's difficult to pass judgement. It was
25 an experience at the time which I felt was very cold

1 and ... but it was within their boundaries.

2 Q. And you go on to talk I think at paragraph 102 on
3 page 20 about visits from social work and you say there
4 would be a table set with scones and jam, your social
5 worker came up from Edinburgh, the social worker didn't
6 see you alone, you saw them on the croft and had to tell
7 them how happy you were, although you say, "Which I was
8 on the croft".

9 A. Yes. I didn't -- didn't -- it doesn't read terribly
10 grammatically accurate there, but I was very happy.
11 There were a lot of things wrong, but it was the most
12 fantastic place on earth with the mountains and rivers
13 and so on. It was fantastic. So it wasn't a stretch to
14 tell anybody that I was very happy there. It was
15 just ... probably difficult to say it wasn't -- it
16 wasn't a family. It wasn't my family.

17 Q. Then at the bottom of the page at paragraph 103 you say
18 that you ran away and you were aged about 17 or 18 when
19 you left the croft.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You've obviously explained how you were happy, certainly
22 in the environment there. Are you able to explain how
23 it came about that you ran away and I think you left the
24 croft?

25 A. I just couldn't fit in. I just felt so different to

1 anybody else. I didn't know anybody like me, and,
2 fortunately, I suppose, I needed to -- I knew that
3 I didn't belong there. I just had to try to get out and
4 find out where I did belong.

5 Q. Then you tell us about some of your life afterwards. At
6 paragraph 107 you tell us that you travelled to various
7 countries in the world and then when you came back from
8 that, at paragraph 108, you say that you found yourself
9 in London and you started studying then?

10 A. Yes, I did, yes. Fabulous evening classes at the
11 Workers Education Association and things like that,
12 phenomenal.

13 Q. Then at paragraph 109 you say that you took
14 a scholarship exam for Oxford and then I think you went
15 on to study there; is that right?

16 A. Yes, I did, yes. I was very lucky.

17 Q. Just going further down that page, so you say at
18 paragraph 110 that you went back to [REDACTED] to visit and
19 tell them about that you were going to study.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What was their reaction?

22 A. Well, I shouldn't have gone back because the -- the
23 reaction was that I still had knobby knees, which
24 I never did, mind, but it was always a bone of
25 contention, they just weren't bothered about whether it

1 Somerville College or anything. So I was pleased but it
2 didn't make any difference to them.

3 Q. Then you talk about trying to get your social work
4 records and I think you were told initially that they
5 had been destroyed in a fire; is that right?

6 A. Yes. Yes.

7 Q. I think later in your statement you actually tell us
8 that you went to the social work department perhaps at
9 an earlier stage when you were --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- maybe 17 or 18?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you tell us about what happened that time?

14 A. I went in specifically to try to get information about
15 my family because my father -- I hadn't seen my father,
16 uncle or -- or ██████ for a long time, and when I asked
17 for information, they just started to get all dark and
18 mysterious and said, "There are some things that are
19 better off not knowing", and they just absolutely
20 refused to give me any information. And I think it was,
21 like, the age of majority then was 21, so I think that's
22 what they sheltered behind.

23 Q. So just looking again at paragraph 111 here, you say
24 that -- I think this was later on after you'd been
25 accepted to Oxford, I think, you asked for details of

1 your family and you were told they had no idea where
2 your younger brother was, but --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- a letter somehow made it to [REDACTED]?

5 A. Yes. It did.

6 Q. Did he then make contact with you?

7 A. Yes, he rang the college, but I had no idea who he was.
8 I didn't know I had a half-brother [REDACTED]. I had so
9 effectively repressed that memory, which was of him
10 looking after us that I couldn't -- I couldn't remember.
11 He was horrified.

12 Q. And were you able to re-establish a relationship with
13 him?

14 A. No, because there was just too much water under the
15 bridge. It's just -- it was too much for both of us.
16 Our experiences had been so different.

17 Q. And what about your brother [REDACTED]? Were you ever able
18 to make contact with him again?

19 A. No. It was very difficult to -- the letter I'd sent to
20 Social Services, clearly they had no address for him or
21 details or she would have passed on the letter to him,
22 so that has been a dead end.

23 [REDACTED] suffered rather more than I did, because
24 being two years younger, he didn't have any kind of ...
25 kind of memories or mental strength that I'd had with

1 those couple of years with my family. If that makes
2 sense.

3 Q. Yes. If we go on to page 24, you talk there a bit about
4 the impact that your experiences have had on you, the
5 impact on your education and your health. Are you able
6 to say something about the impact that your experiences
7 have had on you?

8 A. About growing up in care?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. I think that some things were irreplaceable, like the
11 experience of living on the croft was quite -- was so
12 valuable I can't hardly put it in words, but the problem
13 was the disconnection all the time meant that through
14 the most important part of your life, childhood, when
15 you need continuity, it was missing. So I think
16 that's -- that was one of the worst things for me. For
17 others, probably different things.

18 Q. Okay. If we move on page 26 and you talk there about
19 ultimately getting your records at paragraph 129, you
20 say that you got records in 2020, all handwritten and in
21 very small script, and what else did you feel when you
22 got the records?

23 A. I felt relief and vindication that I'd managed to get
24 something of -- which actually showed proof that I was
25 alive, that I was living in those places and that

1 certain things had happened that I -- like being in
2 children's homes and so on. I just had a memory, no
3 names or anything. So I did feel vindicated when the
4 records finally arrived, but they were very, very
5 painful and still are. I can't read them straight
6 through. They just have to be done one little page at
7 a time.

8 Q. And is that because of what they say about you?

9 A. Partly, but, you know, partly -- it is quite funny to
10 look back and see a totally different perspective. But
11 no, it's just the sheer pain of looking back. You want
12 to go back and say to the child, "It's going to get
13 better, don't worry, it's going to get better". It's
14 that sort of thing.

15 Q. Then at paragraph 131 you talk about lessons that we
16 should learn from your experience. Could you outline,
17 please, what lessons do you think that we can learn from
18 the experiences that you went through and you've shared
19 with us?

20 A. One thing that -- there are loads of lessons or things
21 to say but one thing that comes out from just talking
22 about this is that children have to be believed a bit
23 more. And it's very difficult, you keep hearing about
24 young children being damaged because -- even though
25 social workers and police and so on are looking out for

1 them and that's because they don't actually listen to
2 the children. And when they do, when they are listened
3 to, they're very often called liars, so ... I can't talk
4 about other people's experience, but from mine, I would
5 have said listen more.

6 Q. Thank you. You also say here that you think that there
7 needs to be more resources and better training for
8 social workers.

9 A. Yes. Yes.

10 Q. Why do you say that?

11 A. I think it's shown that the more information and
12 publicity there's been over the years have shown that
13 it -- it has to be approached from different directions
14 so that social workers aren't operating on their own and
15 they need support as well. Yeah.

16 Q. You talk at the bottom of this paragraph about there
17 needs to be better and more interaction between the
18 child and the social worker alone --

19 A. Yes, yes.

20 Q. -- who becomes a familiar adult that the child can trust
21 to report to.

22 A. That's right, yes. I don't know if this is -- I don't
23 know if this actually happens now, but if it doesn't, it
24 should. Maybe there are people like key workers now
25 that there weren't when I was a child, so ...

1 Q. So you're talking there about the child being able to
2 build up a relationship with a social worker or another
3 worker, I think --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- so that they can trust them?

6 A. So -- yes, so that there is a monitoring, but it's
7 looking at the child's situation.

8 Q. Is there anything else that you think that we should
9 learn from your experience, 'Ann', or are these the main
10 points that you think you wanted to highlight?

11 A. Yes, I think that's the main points. I'm very grateful
12 to have had this opportunity and I'm sorry to talk so
13 much, but thank you.

14 MS INNES: That's fine. Thank you, 'Ann', I don't have any
15 more questions for you.

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
17 questions?

18 'Ann', I don't have any other questions for you.
19 Can I just thank you for engaging with us as you have
20 done, both in providing your written statement, which
21 has so many other details in it in addition to the ones
22 that we've touched on this afternoon, and for engaging
23 with us over the WebEx link as you have done today. You
24 have a remarkable ability to make this sound very
25 straightforward and matter of fact and yet I know

1 and hear from what you say that that was far from the
2 case and it's a difficult part of your past that still
3 lives on with you, although I congratulate you for being
4 able to focus on what you can see was good about it in
5 addition to what was bad about it and the fairness
6 inherent in you doing that is certainly not lost on me.

7 This has no doubt been a very tiring experience and
8 I hope you have plans to be able to relax for the rest
9 of the day, but please leave us knowing how grateful
10 I am to you for doing as you have done. Thank you.

11 A. Thank you very much.

12 LADY SMITH: We'll switch off the link now, 'Ann'.

13 (The witness withdrew)

14 LADY SMITH: Just before I finish for the day, we've had

15 other names that I probably ought to list: FNZ-SPO

16 'Megan''s brother [REDACTED] we've had EKA-EKB

17 and brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and Ms EKF and

18 Ms EKG and the [REDACTED] names all mentioned.

19 They're all protected by my general restriction order
20 and they can't be repeated outside this room.

21 But otherwise, on a happier note, we have a Jubilee
22 to help the Queen to celebrate. Her 70 years is quite
23 remarkable, and I hope you all have plans to spend the
24 next four days in some way that is good and happy and
25 positive and takes you away from some of the sad stories

1 we've been hearing this week.

2 Ms Innes.

3 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady. We'll commence again on
4 Tuesday with further evidence from applicants.

5 LADY SMITH: At 10 o'clock on Tuesday.

6 MS INNES: Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Until then, I wish you all well. Thank you.

8 (3.05 pm)

9 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
10 on Tuesday, 7 June 2022)

11	Robert Marchmont (read)	1
12	'Wayne' (read)	39
13	'Megan' (affirmed)	59
14	Questions from Ms Innes	60
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16	Questions from Ms Innes	97

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