

1 Wednesday, 8 June 2022

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return to carry on with
4 witness evidence in relation to our foster care hearings
5 and I'm told there's a witness here ready to come
6 through; is that right?

7 MS INNES: There is, my Lady. The first witness today is
8 'Ruby'.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS INNES: No records have been recovered for 'Ruby'. We
11 did serve section 21 notices on Glasgow, South
12 Lanarkshire and all of the Ayrshire authorities.
13 However, from 'Ruby's' statement, she refers to
14 a Mr Brough, who we understand from the evidence of
15 Professor Abrams was the first children's officer in
16 Glasgow Corporation. For reference, that is at
17 INQ.000000256, which is Professor Abrams's report at
18 page 45.

19 Your Ladyship may recall Professor Abrams giving
20 evidence about the appointment of the first children's
21 officer and that he had a background in the Civil
22 Service as a higher executive officer at the National
23 Assistance Board rather than having a background in
24 childcare and there were some difficulties in appointing
25 the first children's officer.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, yes.

2 MS INNES: We have heard about Mr Brough before.

3 She also refers to a Mr Meldrum and other applicants
4 giving evidence on Friday of this week who we know were
5 in the care of Glasgow Corporation also refer to
6 Mr Meldrum as having been the children's officer that
7 visited them.

8 Therefore, taking these matters together and the
9 applicant's own evidence, it would seem that Glasgow
10 Corporation were responsible for her care, now Glasgow
11 City Council.

12 We also understand from 'Ruby's' statement that she
13 was in foster care from about 1955 to 1960.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 'Ruby' (affirmed)

16 LADY SMITH: I should probably have said as comfortable as
17 you can, because I see you arrive here injured. I'm
18 sorry to see that and I hope it's not too painful for
19 you.

20 A. Mm.

21 LADY SMITH: Before you start giving your evidence, let me
22 just explain: the red folder in front of you has your
23 written statement in it. You might want to use that and
24 I think you might be referred to it briefly by Ms Innes.
25 You'll also see your statement coming up on screen and

1 it will go to particular bits of it as we refer to them,
2 so you might also find that helpful.

3 But most importantly, 'Ruby', I want to do
4 everything I can to make the experience of giving
5 evidence as comfortable and unstressful for you as
6 I can. I know it's not easy doing this, particularly
7 when you're being asked to talk about your own life,
8 when you were a child, a long time ago and the
9 experiences that no doubt bring back all sorts of
10 emotions as you think about them.

11 Please be assured I do understand that, and if, for
12 example, you want a break or you have any concerns or
13 queries, do speak up.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 LADY SMITH: I know there may have been times when you were
16 a child that it wasn't easy to speak up, but you can do
17 that here and I want to know if there's anything we can
18 do to help.

19 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
20 she'll take it from there. Is that all right?

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 Ms Innes.

24 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

25 Questions from Ms Innes

1 MS INNES: Now, 'Ruby', we understand that you were born in
2 1944. Is that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. We have a copy of your statement, which will come up on
5 the screen. Our reference is WIT-1-000000527. I wonder
6 if we can just look at the final page of that, please,
7 page 19. There we see at paragraph 83 that you say that
8 you have no objection to your witness statement being
9 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. You
10 believe the facts stated in the witness statement are
11 true. You signed it on 14 November 2020; is that right?

12 A. True.

13 Q. Okay.

14 Can I take you back to the beginning of your
15 statement, please?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And your life before going into care. I think we
18 understand from that that you were essentially taken
19 away from your mother at birth; is that right?

20 A. Yes, yes.

21 Q. You explain that your mother had met an American soldier
22 during the war.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And your mother was 19 at the time?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think was it your grandmother that was perhaps
2 instrumental in you being taken away from --
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. -- your mother?
5 A. Uh-huh.
6 Q. Okay. You say that you understand, if we go over the
7 page, to page 2 and paragraph 4, you went to a couple of
8 children's homes?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. First of all, Dunclutha in Dunoon and then to Gryffe
11 Castle. Is that right?
12 A. Gryffe Castle, yes.
13 Q. And you were there until you were 11?
14 A. 11.
15 Q. If we can move past the time that you were in the homes
16 and if we move on to page 8, please, and paragraph 31,
17 how did you find out or did you find out that you were
18 going into foster care?
19 A. No, they didn't tell you anything. They just sent you
20 there, you know. They just put you in a car and went,
21 you know, yeah.
22 Q. Okay. You talk there about a Mr Brough and
23 a Mr Meldrum.
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. And you remember seeing them a couple of days before?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Who was Mr Brough?

3 A. Mr Brough was one of the welfare people, yeah?

4 Mr Meldrum came twice a year to give you new clothes.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Summer and winter. To check if you were okay and what

7 have you.

8 Q. Did they come together or --

9 A. Yes, they always came together. They came together.

10 Q. Can you remember what they were like? What was

11 Mr Brough like?

12 A. Yes, he was a big, tall, stocky man with a bowler hat

13 and, you know, the Columbo coats, you know? The two of

14 them were more or less dressed the same.

15 Q. Okay. Can you remember ever speaking to them yourself?

16 A. No. We were just sat down and they never asked -- they

17 just asked if we were okay, we said, "Yes, sir", because

18 Mrs EER was there all the time so we had nothing to

19 say, you know?

20 Q. Right. So you went to a foster home in Ayrshire with

21 a EER-SPO; is that right?

22 A. Stevenson, Ayrshire, uh-huh.

23 Q. You say at paragraph 32 that you'd never met them

24 before.

25 A. Sorry?

1 Q. You'd never met them before you went to the house?

2 A. No, no, never saw them in other homes, no, no.

3 Q. You tell us a little bit about the house to begin with.

4 What was the house like?

5 A. I can't remember -- we had -- there was three of us in

6 one room. Single beds. And then there was Mr and

7 Mrs EER-SPO in another room. And then her son that was

8 in the army was in the other room, so -- that was her

9 foster son.

10 Q. You mention that there were three girls first of all?

11 A. Yes, yes, uh-huh.

12 Q. You tell us about them in this part of your statement.

13 You say that you arrived at the house with another girl?

14 A. When I left the home?

15 Q. Mm-hmm.

16 A. No, I came -- they sent me on my own, I was on my own.

17 Q. Okay. So were the two girls already there?

18 A. One was there and then another one, [REDACTED], she asked

19 to come through the home.

20 Q. She came after --

21 A. They brought her as well.

22 Q. Did you know either of the girls before you were in the

23 house in Stevenson?

24 A. No. I knew one of them just to play with, you know,

25 when you were at home, you know, but she was three years

1 younger than me, so -- I didn't know the other one.

2 Q. So the one who was already there --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- you didn't know?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Was she older than you or the same age as you or --

7 A. I would say she was maybe a bit older because she left

8 before I left, yeah.

9 Q. Okay. And then there was you and then there was the

10 girl I think [REDACTED], who you say was about three years

11 younger, and she'd come from the home as well?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 Q. Then you mentioned that there was a son there who was in

14 the army. Had he been fostered or was he the son of one

15 of EER-SPO [REDACTED]?

16 A. He was the son of the father, of her husband. Married

17 twice, you know?

18 Q. Okay. And when you went there, was he already away in

19 the army or did he live in the house?

20 A. Yes, he came back and forth from the army, yeah.

21 Q. You explain at paragraph 32 that you had this room that

22 you were sharing with the other girls.

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. There were three single beds in the room.

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. You had a little cupboard each and you had a big
2 wardrobe to share between you.

3 A. (Witness nodded)

4 Q. Okay. What were your first impressions of Mr and
5 Mrs EER-SPO

6 A. I can't really say because we were only young then and
7 we didn't know what was going on, you know, what was ...
8 we just took it for granted more or less. You just had
9 to behave yourself and see what happened, you know?

10 Q. Okay. If we go over the page to page 9 and
11 paragraph 35, you describe having to go outside and muck
12 out animals.

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Was this house in a village or was it sort of remote?

15 A. This was all the time, I used to go out and clean the
16 aviaries and the guinea pigs and hamsters and then do
17 the coal as well, you know.

18 Q. Was the house in the middle of the countryside or was it
19 in a --

20 A. Oh no, it was like an estate.

21 Q. It was an estate?

22 A. Yes, uh-huh.

23 Q. You say that Mrs EER had hens, hamsters, guinea pigs
24 and birds in a big aviary?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. One of your jobs was to clean out their various cages?

2 A. Mine was, before I went to school, to clean all the

3 animals out, yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: That was before you went to school in the

5 morning?

6 A. Yes, every morning, uh-huh.

7 MS INNES: You also had to bring in the coal, you said?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Where were you bringing in the coal from? Was it --

10 A. Just from outside the backyard to the bunker in the back

11 door, near the back door, yeah.

12 Q. Did you have to do that every morning --

13 A. Every morning, yes.

14 Q. You say that the other girls had to clean the rooms, the

15 stairs and the kitchen?

16 A. Yes, they did all the cleaning.

17 Q. Was that first thing in the morning as well?

18 A. Yes. Everything had to be done in the morning before we

19 went to school.

20 Q. What was Mrs EER doing when you were all doing these

21 things?

22 A. Sorry?

23 Q. What was Mrs EER doing when you were doing the

24 cleaning and bringing in the coal?

25 A. I think she'd just be looking around, you know, what ...

1 she didn't do much, if you understand.

2 Q. Okay. You say that she did the washing, but you had to

3 hang it out?

4 A. We put the washing out, yes, uh-huh.

5 Q. And she did the cooking?

6 A. She did the cooking. Nothing but tripe, tripe, tripe.

7 Q. Okay, we'll come back to that a little bit more in

8 a moment.

9 You say at paragraph 36 that the foster father was

10 a nice guy.

11 A. Mr [REDACTED] was lovely. He was just easy-going, you know,

12 he just didn't bother, you know.

13 Q. If we move on to paragraph 37, you say there, I think,

14 that you would get yourselves up in the morning,

15 Mrs EER [REDACTED] would come downstairs when all the cleaning

16 was done, and then talking about bedtime, you say that

17 your memory was that essentially you went to bed once

18 you'd done your homework. Is that right?

19 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah.

20 Q. Did you have any chores to do when you came back from

21 school, do you remember?

22 A. We'd wash the dishes after we ate and what have you,

23 yeah.

24 Q. If we can move on, please, to the next page, page 10,

25 and paragraph 40, you say there:

1 "We didn't get to sit for meals, we stood round the
2 table in the kitchen."
3 A. All the time, yes. We never sat down.
4 Q. Were there no chairs at the table?
5 A. No, no, there was just a square table and we had
6 marmalade and a bit of butter and your own little -- and
7 you had to put it in the cupboard out the way. You had
8 that for the week, you kept that for the week, you know.
9 Q. You say there that she would give you Stork margarine --
10 A. Stork margarine, yeah.
11 Q. -- a little bag of sugar and a loaf of bread each.
12 A. Yeah, that lasted you.
13 Q. Okay, so you each had this sort of supply --
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. -- that would you then go and access. Was that for your
16 breakfast --
17 A. That was any time you had anything to eat, you just
18 brought it out.
19 Q. You say that the family ate their meals in the living
20 room?
21 A. Yes, they never ate in the kitchen. The kitchen wasn't
22 that big anyway, if you understand, you know.
23 Q. Was there a table in the --
24 A. Table in the living room, yes. A square one in the
25 kitchen.

1 Q. So it was just you and the two other girls that were
2 standing at the kitchen table?

3 A. Yeah, we always stood at the table, we never sat down
4 for meals.

5 Q. Then you talk about meal times and you say at
6 paragraph 41 that there were -- she made soup, so there
7 was --

8 A. She made homemade soup.

9 Q. Then, as you've mentioned, evening meals were tripe,
10 tripe and more tripe.

11 A. Tripe all the time. They had a couple of dogs and we
12 used to feed the dogs under the table.

13 Q. You then say at paragraph 42 that you can't ever
14 remember a nice Christmas dinner.

15 A. No.

16 Q. You can't remember ever having a sort of meal together
17 at Christmas?

18 A. No. Just stood at the table all the time. It was just
19 the tradition.

20 Q. Then you talk a little bit about school. How did you
21 get on at school?

22 A. I enjoyed school, you know. You'd get the -- the odd
23 one would call you names, you know, because of your
24 colour and what have you, but I think you got that all
25 the time, didn't you, it didn't matter where you were,

1 you know, you had to just try and stick up for yourself.

2 Q. You talk about one of the teachers, Ms Clark, at

3 paragraph 44, you say she was a very nice teacher?

4 A. Yeah, I think she knew there was something -- there was

5 something wrong, you know, and she would send me out for

6 the milk and different things, you know, instead of

7 doing work, you know.

8 Q. Because you think that -- well, you say they found out

9 that you were dyslexic?

10 A. Yes, dyslexic.

11 Q. Then if we move on to the next section at paragraph 47,

12 you talk about clothing. This seems to be connected to

13 Mr Brough and Mr Meldrum's visits.

14 A. (Witness nodded)

15 Q. You say:

16 "They brought lovely clothes, we would try them on

17 and they gave us the clothes that fitted us."

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did they come with a selection of --

20 A. Yes, boxes of brand new clothes, yeah, summer and

21 winter.

22 Q. Okay. Then you would try them on and if they fitted

23 you, they would be kept?

24 A. (Witness nodded)

25 Q. Then what happened to them?

1 A. She was giving them to her relations, her daughter, for
2 her children. She would keep some for us if we were
3 going anywhere special, you know, maybe Sunday school or
4 something. Or a day out, you know.

5 Q. You say that she had a daughter and she also had
6 grandchildren at the time?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh.

8 Q. Did you have any sense of how old Mrs EER was when
9 you went to --

10 A. When we were there? I guess she was about maybe 65,
11 maybe 65, round about that.

12 Q. Did you know if she had foster children before?

13 A. Seemingly she had foster children a lot.

14 Q. Then in this paragraph when you're talking about
15 clothing, you say:

16 "People saw this [as in saw that you were, I think,
17 dressed in rags as you say] and knew what was happening
18 but [they] didn't say anything."

19 A. No, no, no one ever mentioned anything. I don't know if
20 they were frightened or what.

21 Q. Then in terms of chores, you've already mentioned what
22 you were doing. In terms of the coal, you say:

23 "I've always said that it didn't help my asthma."
24 I think and you had asthma as a child?

25 A. Yes. Because we had to walk up and back from school, we

1 had a good walk, to both come home for our dinner, come
2 back. I still swear it was the animals that caused my
3 asthma.

4 Q. If we go on over the page again, please, at
5 paragraph 49, what sort of things did you do in any
6 spare time that you had or school holidays?

7 A. If we weren't doing anything in the house, we could go
8 out and play. We had to stay at the front, you know,
9 where she could see us, you know.

10 Q. Were you able to play with other children that lived in
11 the estate as well, for example?

12 A. Yes. We were allowed to play, uh-huh.

13 Q. You say in this paragraph there was a TV, but you
14 couldn't watch it?

15 A. Never saw the television, never. They would sit and
16 watch television, but, no, I never watched television.

17 Q. Where was the television in the house?

18 A. In the living room, yes, uh-huh.

19 Q. Were you ever able to go and sit in the living room?

20 A. No. No, we were either in the dining hall -- in the
21 kitchen, upstairs or outside.

22 Q. You say that you didn't ever get anything for you to
23 have personal possessions?

24 A. No, I can't -- we weren't given anything, no.

25 Q. Then you say she would bring in sweets but you didn't

1 get any pocket money?

2 A. No. She would just bring sweets in.

3 Q. Then at paragraph 50 you talk about a trip to

4 Helensburgh.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Where I think you went with the other girls and

7 Mrs EER, her daughter and her granddaughter?

8 A. (Witness nodded)

9 Q. So you all went together to Helensburgh?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you tell us what happened there?

12 A. I will always remember a waitress coming up and asking

13 if we were okay. We were stood outside, waited outside,

14 we were on the ferry, they were having dinner, high tea.

15 And she said, "Are yous okay?" and I said, "Yes, thank

16 you". She must have recognised something was wrong so

17 she came out and gave us drinks and cakes for us.

18 Q. So Mrs EER, her daughter and her granddaughter --

19 A. And the granddaughter sat inside, having high tea, so

20 they call it, yeah.

21 Q. You were left outside --

22 A. Yeah, we were outside just waiting.

23 Q. Then you say sometimes you went with Mr to

24 Ardrossan in the summer holidays, I think; is that

25 right?

1 A. (Witness nodded)

2 Q. Okay. If we move on, please, to Christmas, at
3 paragraph 53 you talk about what happened then. Can you
4 remember what you got at Christmas and what happened to
5 it?

6 A. We always got a box of -- a tin of sweets, toffees,
7 Christmas toffees, an orange and a pair of navy blue
8 knickers.

9 Q. Were you able to keep those and eat them?

10 A. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

11 Q. You say she was given a lot of presents for you but she
12 gave them away?

13 A. Yeah, we never got any presents, I can't remember not
14 even a doll or a teddy bear in my life, you know.

15 LADY SMITH: Sorry, how did you know that she had been given
16 presents for you?

17 A. Because -- excuse me, Lady Smith, they came to the house
18 and gave the presents again. Like they did with the
19 clothes.

20 LADY SMITH: Mr Brough and his colleague?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS INNES: You say:

24 "We didn't think anything of it. We just thought
25 that's how life was."

1 A. Yes, you just went on with it.

2 Q. Over the page on page 13 at paragraph 54 you say you
3 can't remember having a birthday.

4 A. No, we never had -- she didn't celebrate birthdays or
5 anything.

6 Q. No cards or presents?

7 A. No, nothing, nothing at all.

8 Q. You say that you remember being invited to friends'
9 houses for their birthdays.

10 A. Sorry?

11 Q. You say you remember being invited to friends' houses
12 for their birthdays?

13 A. Oh yes, uh-huh. We'd go to friends' houses because this
14 one, her father worked in Greggs and they would bring
15 cakes and breads and what have you. Try and go down
16 there and have something to eat, you know.

17 Q. Were you able to stay at any friends' parties --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- or not?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Why not? Why weren't you able to stay for the whole
22 party?

23 A. No, you weren't allowed to. You just had to -- you
24 didn't go to anyone's parties.

25 Q. If we move on from there again, please, if we go on to

1 the next page, page 14, paragraph 58, you talk about the
2 visits of Mr Brough and Mr Meldrum. As I think you've
3 already mentioned, they brought new clothes for you --
4 A. Yes, uh-huh.
5 Q. -- and then they'd bring a present at Christmas time?
6 A. Presents, yeah.
7 Q. When they came, did you know in advance that they would
8 be coming?
9 A. Yes, because they'd tell us to go upstairs and get
10 dressed nicely and what have you, so ... (Witness
11 nodded)
12 Q. You say they would sit in the living room. Would you be
13 taken into the living room then to see them?
14 A. We sat in the living room, but we never said anything.
15 Nothing at all.
16 Q. I think you said that they would ask you, as in
17 Mr Brough and Mr Meldrum would ask you how you were.
18 A. Yes, we'd just say, "Fine, thank you, sir".
19 Q. You say it was about every six months or it was twice
20 a year?
21 A. Yeah, they came every summer -- summer and winter, they
22 came.
23 Q. Throughout this time, did you have any contact with your
24 mother or your birth family?
25 A. No, nothing at all till I left school.

1 Q. At paragraph 60 you say that you thought about running
2 away but you didn't do that?

3 A. No, because I don't think it was sensible, you'd have
4 nowhere to go, things like that, you know?

5 Q. Why were you thinking about running away?

6 A. Many a time when you were in there, at Stevenson, you
7 know.

8 Q. You say that you didn't want to get into trouble with
9 the welfare. You were told that if you behaved
10 yourself, you would be able to leave when you were 16.

11 A. Yes. As long as you behaved yourself.

12 Q. Who was saying that? Was that Mr Brough and Mr Meldrum?

13 A. Mr Brough -- yeah.

14 Q. Was that from -- you used to see them when you were at
15 the homes as well; is that right?

16 A. Sorry?

17 Q. You used to see Mr Brough and Mr Meldrum when you were
18 at the homes?

19 A. No, no, no. Do you mean in the other homes?

20 Q. At Gryffe Castle.

21 A. No, I can't remember seeing them, no.

22 Q. It was just at the foster home?

23 A. Just Stevenson, Ayrshire, yeah.

24 Q. You then have a section where you talk about abuse that
25 you suffered at this home. You say at paragraph 61 that

1 Mrs EER would slap you and you wondered why.

2 A. No reason at all. She did it at the beginning actually,
3 a couple weeks after we moved in. You come in from
4 school, bop. You didn't know what it was for, you know,
5 "Your room's a mess upstairs". We knew it wasn't a mess
6 because we always made sure it was immaculate before we
7 went to school. We were up early enough. I think it
8 was just an excuse to lash out at you.

9 Q. Okay. Was that the same for all three of you? Did she
10 hit --

11 A. Three -- oh no, she would do the three. I was her
12 favourite one, I don't know why. I think I was a bit of
13 tomboy.

14 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 62 about an incident with her
15 niece where you say that she came to collect something
16 from the house and as she was walking away, she said,
17 "Thank you very much", and Mrs EER said, "What did
18 you say?" and she slapped her --

19 A. Oh, she would slap her own family, oh yeah. Her
20 daughter, her granddaughter, you know. She was ...

21 Q. Okay. Did she always hit you with her hand or did she
22 ever use an implement --

23 A. She tried to use a belt, but we sort of -- you know,
24 I think we got older and stopped her, you know, from
25 using a belt. Because we knew she was wrong.

1 Q. Was that a belt that you'd put around clothes --

2 A. You know, just an ordinary belt, yes.

3 Q. Then at paragraph 63 you say:

4 "Anything you did, whether it was wrong or not, she

5 would hit you. She would try to throw you in the bath."

6 A. Yeah, try and put you in the bath, uh-huh, and tell you

7 you were filthy, your neck was black and what have you.

8 You know in the summer when your skin gets darker,

9 doesn't it?

10 Q. You talk there about the foster father's son and you

11 say:

12 "He was good and when he came home she changed

13 because he wouldn't stand for it."

14 A. No, he used to stop her, yeah. Say he would report her,

15 you know. When he was in, nothing happened. I think it

16 was just the way she was. She couldn't help herself.

17 She was just that kind of person, you know.

18 Q. So did he try and -- you said he said to her that he

19 would report her? Do you remember him saying that?

20 A. Oh yes, he'd say, "I'll definitely report you if you

21 keep hitting them like that", because he didn't see

22 a lot, you know, he was in the army, you know.

23 Q. Do you know if he ever did anything about it?

24 A. No, he didn't, no.

25 Q. Then at paragraph 64 you talk about nobody visiting and

1 she was called "EER [REDACTED]", everyone called her "EER [REDACTED]
2 EER [REDACTED]"?
3 A. In Stevenson Ayrshire, the whole community, they called
4 her EER [REDACTED]
5 Q. Was that adults and children?
6 A. Adults and -- mothers and parents.
7 Q. Would you hear that from some of your friends or
8 friends' parents?
9 A. No, this is what they used to call her behind her back,
10 you know how people go behind your back and they called
11 her "EER [REDACTED]".
12 Q. Then at paragraph 65 you say that you always had to come
13 in the back door. Presumably you never used the front
14 door?
15 A. Always used the back door, never used the front.
16 Q. You say you never knew what mood she would be in?
17 A. No, you didn't know where she was going to be, you know.
18 Q. Then you say that I think it was [REDACTED] walked in the
19 door in front of you one time and you think that
20 Mrs EER [REDACTED] thought it was you.
21 "She just smacked her across the face with a belt
22 and it marked her face."
23 A. She really did, yes. I always remember that, yeah.
24 Q. Was she injured or bleeding?
25 A. Just -- she was marked, and of course upstairs crying

1 her heart out, you know.

2 Q. You say at paragraph 66:

3 "You never knew what you had done, she was just

4 evil."

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Then you say you wouldn't understand why she was doing

7 it. You didn't know when you would get it, sometimes it

8 was just whoever was first in the house.

9 A. Yeah, you were frightened to go in. It was a shame,

10 really, you were frightened to go in. Just the way she

11 was, you know.

12 Q. You say:

13 "I would admit if I deserved it."

14 A. Oh, definitely, because we did behave ourselves because

15 you had to, you know. We had respect in these days as

16 well, you know, so.

17 Q. Then you say:

18 "She would give you one crack, she was at it all the

19 time. It was always a slap on the face."

20 A. Yeah, she was shocking, you know, just ...

21 Q. Then at paragraph 67 you talk about I think going up to

22 a friend's house where the mum had bought a glass door

23 and the Virgin Mary was depicted on it?

24 A. Yes, it was, you know, the glass door, it was like

25 a statue of Mary, you know, and everyone was up looking

1 at it. I think it was just the way the glass was. She
2 came up and she was ready to -- and someone stopped her,
3 you know. She was ready to hit, "Get down the stairs,
4 get down the road", you know.

5 LADY SMITH: I think were you explaining that it was quite
6 curious, the way your statement reads --

7 A. Sorry?

8 LADY SMITH: It's quite curious because the glass wasn't
9 engraved with the Virgin Mary.

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: But when the sun shone, you got the impression
12 of an image of the Virgin Mary on the glass?

13 A. Yeah. You could see it so clearly as well, I always
14 remember. The newspapers were there and ...

15 LADY SMITH: No doubt many of the people in the community
16 were fascinated by it; is that right?

17 A. That was it, yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS INNES: You say that in fact her niece saw it and spoke
20 to you about it a few years ago, so spoke to you about
21 this incident more recently. Is that right?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. So had she noticed that Mrs EER had gone to hit you?

24 A. Oh yeah. There's quite a few people actually who
25 noticed because -- especially neighbours, you know. If

1 you were outside putting the washing out and things like
2 that. You know.

3 Q. Then at paragraph 68 you say that you can't believe your
4 foster father didn't bother. So did he not intervene at
5 all?

6 A. He never bothered. He was a big, tall man, laid-back.
7 He never bothered, you know. He was kind enough to us,
8 you know.

9 Q. He didn't try to --

10 A. But it was like, you know, it was like she wasn't there.
11 I don't know.

12 Q. He didn't try to stop her at all?

13 A. No, he didn't. He never interfered.

14 Q. You say his son would go mad and say, "Why don't you
15 stop her?" and he would say, "Oh, I don't want to
16 interfere"?

17 A. Yeah, you just kept yourself to yourself. It sounds
18 a bit silly, but there you go.

19 Q. Over the top of the next page at paragraph 69 you say
20 that you think that the teachers knew what was
21 happening?

22 A. Yeah, I'm sure they did, yeah.

23 Q. Why do you think that?

24 A. Well, because they were so kind to you and they come
25 over and sit -- instead of doing homework, they would

1 send me to go for milk or messages, you know, things
2 like that. That's why I think -- I might be wrong, but
3 I'm sure they knew there was something going on.
4 Q. Are you aware if any of them did anything about it?
5 A. No.
6 Q. Can you remember if they ever asked if things were okay
7 at home or not?
8 A. No, they just asked if you were okay, yes.
9 Q. Did you ever feel able to tell anyone that Mrs EER
10 was hitting you all the time?
11 A. Not really. It was just more or less your friends that
12 you went out with, you know, that you played with.
13 Q. So you would tell them what was happening?
14 A. And then their mothers would find out. I think that's
15 why they called her EER because it travels,
16 doesn't it, news travels quite fast.
17 Q. You then left foster care, you tell us at paragraph 70.
18 I think -- did you leave when you turned 16?
19 A. Yeah, 16 coming up more or less 17, yeah, 16/17, uh-huh.
20 Q. You say at that point she was waiting on another two
21 children coming?
22 A. Yes, there was two more coming up, mm-hmm. She had them
23 all the time, actually.
24 Q. You say that you told her that you were going to
25 Blackpool to work.

1 A. Mm.

2 Q. What was her reaction to that?

3 A. "Why Blackpool? You'll end up as a prostitute or
4 something."

5 I said, "Well, I don't know, there will be plenty of
6 work there". I always fancied a seaside resort.
7 I would have stayed in Scotland if it wasn't for her,
8 because I loved Scotland and I loved the Scottish
9 people, but she put me off. So I just came to Blackpool
10 on my own, yeah.

11 Q. I think you tell us in the next part of your statement
12 that I think you've remained in the Blackpool area and
13 you worked in Blackpool?

14 A. Yes, I came down to Blackpool on my own and just got
15 a live-in job. It used to say, "No blacks, no Irish, no
16 dogs", but I got a job.

17 Q. You talk at paragraph 75, if we go over the page to
18 page 17, you talk about your grandchildren and your
19 family all stay around Blackpool now.

20 A. Mm.

21 Q. You say that you traced your mother in 1990?

22 A. Yes, I traced my mother in 1991/1992, something like
23 that.

24 Q. How did you go about finding her?

25 A. I went to the library in Glasgow.

1 Q. The Mitchell Library?

2 A. The big one. What is the name of it, Mitchell?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Yeah. I went there and I found the [REDACTED], and then

5 I went home and rang this number up and it was

6 a [REDACTED] and there was only five [REDACTED] in the

7 book. So, I rang a [REDACTED] and I said, "Do you have

8 a sister called [REDACTED]?" He says why do you

9 want to know? I says I'm her daughter. He just put the

10 phone down. And then a couple of days after he came

11 back to me and says "yes". But he didn't know my mother

12 had a child.

13 Q. Then you tell us that you were able to make contact with

14 your mother and --

15 A. Yes, I contacted my mother, yes.

16 Q. If we move on to the next page, please, page 18,

17 paragraph 78, you talk there about impact. You say:

18 "In a way the abuse has bothered me but I put it to

19 the back of my mind as I think I would have been

20 a horrible person. I've put it behind me. I was asked

21 if I was angry, but I would be angry if I thought about

22 it."

23 Then you go on to say that you've never spoken to

24 your daughters about it.

25 A. Never ever spoken about the homes or anything. I think

1 if I kept on thinking about it, I'd have been a horrible
2 person, you know?

3 Q. Then you say under "Reporting of abuse" at paragraph 80
4 that you never reported the abuse that you suffered to
5 the police.

6 A. No, we didn't. I didn't even think of it, actually.
7 I just wanted to get away and that was it, you know, on
8 with life.

9 Q. Then you talk about your friend, I think, having
10 encouraged you to go to the National Confidential Forum
11 and then perhaps contact the Inquiry as well?

12 A. (Witness nodded)

13 Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Then over the page, at the top of page 19, paragraph 81,
15 you talk about trying to get your records.

16 A. Yes. Still haven't found them.

17 Q. You say that you tried to get help from, I think, Future
18 Pathways to --

19 A. Yes, uh-huh. I have letters actually, I forgot to show
20 you them. They can't seem to find out.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Well, excuse me, I did get a phone call maybe after
23 I tried this, a lady did tell me that I was in Dunclutha
24 and in Gryffe Castle. The point then was ... she took
25 a name and found out what was -- but I never took her

1 name, I didn't think. But they did say I was in, you
2 know, so ...

3 Q. Then under "Lessons to be learned", in terms of your
4 experience in the foster care placement with the
5 EER-SPO, what things do you think that we should learn
6 from your experience?

7 A. I wouldn't like my children to have gone through it, you
8 know, which I know they wouldn't have anyway. You know,
9 I think when you're young, you just go with it, you
10 know, you don't understand. You think that's the way of
11 life, until you're older.

12 Q. You say in this paragraph:
13 "People should be more aware and tell the
14 appropriate people if someone is getting abused."

15 A. They're definitely more aware nowadays, aren't they?
16 Years ago they were -- everyone was frightened to say
17 anything, you know.

18 Q. Because you've told us about, for example, parents of
19 friends perhaps knew what was going on or maybe
20 teachers?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And the son in the foster home.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. As far as you're aware, none of them --

25 A. Nobody bothered to ... yeah.

1 Q. If you had been able to speak to Mr Brough and
2 Mr Meldrum on your own, do you think that you would have
3 felt able to tell them what was going on?
4 A. Definitely, definitely, yes. It's just that you
5 couldn't. Probably that's the reason why you couldn't
6 talk to them, because she was there, she was there, you
7 know.
8 MS INNES: Right, 'Ruby', I don't have any more questions
9 for you and no applications for questions have been
10 made, my Lady.
11 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Can I check whether there are any
12 outstanding applications for questions?
13 'Ruby', I don't have any other questions for you
14 either. It just remains for me to thank you very much
15 for engaging with us as you have done, both in providing
16 your detailed written statement, which is obviously part
17 of your evidence before us, but by bringing the parts of
18 it that we've talked about today alive by coming here to
19 give oral evidence. It's really valuable to me that
20 you've done so. You make light, in a way, of what was
21 probably a really tough five years of your young life,
22 and that's worthy of enormous respect and that will
23 certainly live with me after you've left this room.
24 A. Okay.
25 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that. I hope the rest of the day

1 is more relaxing for you than this first part of it.

2 A. It's nice to be listened to, because it's never

3 happened, you see.

4 LADY SMITH: Well, it's very important to me that people are

5 prepared to come and have me listen to them. It's

6 a two-way thing, you know.

7 A. It is, yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you, and I'm able to let you go.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

11 MS INNES: My Lady, Ms Rattray has, I think, two read-ins

12 ready to deal with just now. Again, if I might be

13 excused briefly and I'll return.

14 LADY SMITH: Certainly. Thank you.

15 Just while Ms Rattray is getting organised, I should

16 mention that there were some names given in that

17 evidence, the EER-SPO the foster parents in Ayrshire,

18 and at least one of the first names of the other foster

19 children in the home and I think the name of one of the

20 children of the EER-SPO These names are all covered by

21 my general restriction order and can't be repeated

22 outside this room.

23 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

24 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

25

1 'John' (read)

2 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
3 who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the
4 pseudonym 'John'. His statement is at WIT-1-000000839.
5 'John' tells us that he was boarded out on three
6 occasions in the 1950s, to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and
7 [REDACTED]. The only records we've recovered in relation
8 to foster care are school admission records from Moray
9 Council, which suggests that he moved from Buckie to
10 live with a guardian, Mrs EEW [REDACTED], in [REDACTED],
11 starting his new school placement on [REDACTED] 1957.
12 As 'John' was living in Banff at the time of being
13 taken into care, it's likely that the responsible
14 authority was a predecessor of Aberdeenshire Council.
15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
16 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'John'. I was born in 1950. My
17 contact details are known to the Inquiry.
18 Up until I was three months old, I was brought up by
19 my gran as my mother was unable to look after us. My
20 mother suffered from mental health issues most of her
21 life and throughout my time in care I did not see much
22 of her. My gran brought up my sister and me. I have
23 two much older siblings, a sister and a brother. We
24 lived with gran in Banff.
25 My father was from the Wick area. He was from the

1 travelling community. Although in some of the homes
2 I stayed in, they may have been aware of my background,
3 it was never raised. I never met him or any of my
4 genetic family.

5 My mother was married to another man and they lived
6 with other members of his family. When the marriage
7 broke down, my mother took my older sister with her when
8 she moved to England. My elder brother continued to
9 stay with gran and was working by that time. Eventually
10 gran was unable to look after us as age and health
11 issues were taking effect.

12 The social work were involved and the decision was
13 that it was better for all concerned if my younger
14 sister and I were placed in care. FPS [REDACTED] was the
15 child officer who covered the area and who looked after
16 our family. We were then moved to Clydeville Children's
17 Centre, Queen Street, Buckie".

18 From paragraphs 6 to 17, 'John' speaks of his time
19 in Clydeville Children's Centre, Buckie. Moving now to
20 paragraph 18 on page 4:

21 "I was about three when we moved from Clydeville.
22 I don't remember who transferred us to Mrs [REDACTED]'s
23 place in [REDACTED].

24 Mrs [REDACTED]'s house was the old Church of Scotland
25 [REDACTED] house. It was a three-bedroomed house and

1 I can remember there being an open fire in the living
2 room. Mrs [REDACTED] occupied one room, I was in another,
3 and my sister shared her room with two older girls.
4 I don't remember their names but they were in their
5 teens.

6 Mrs [REDACTED] was a lovely but older lady who was
7 very motherly. I think I was at [REDACTED] for about
8 a year. I remember being woken by her one morning and
9 she gave me a present. It was a small toy motorbike
10 worked by friction.

11 We all ate together, but I don't remember much about
12 the food, except I was not hungry. One thing I do
13 recall was that we were given Christmas cake on some
14 mornings throughout the year, even in the summer.

15 I don't remember there being much of a play area
16 outside the house. We used to play near the River Avon
17 and sometimes when we were walking there, the fishermen
18 would give us some of their biscuits. Our only other
19 play area was the local graveyard.

20 Although I was only three, I was still sent with the
21 others to primary school. This was a county-style
22 school where all the children were taught together.
23 I was not taught anything, being so young, and I just
24 played with some toy bricks. I can remember Mrs Whitson
25 was the headteacher and Jean Carruthers was the

1 assistant headteacher. My wife's parents had also
2 attended that school when they were children.

3 Christmas and birthdays were always celebrated.
4 From the little memory I have, we were well clothed and
5 never hungry.

6 I think the main reason we had to leave
7 Mrs [REDACTED]'s was because she was getting older and was
8 not feeling as fit any more. I think she was around 55
9 and she passed away in 1965. There were never any
10 problems there, it was a really happy atmosphere there.

11 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]

15 After a few months, we were moved to the [REDACTED]
16 family at [REDACTED]. I was around five years
17 old when I went there but I was only there on
18 a temporary basis.

19 When we were moved, we found that [REDACTED] was at the
20 bottom of a Glen. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] ran a farm. The
21 [REDACTED] had a daughter and fostered another girl.

22 Mr [REDACTED] was a solemn fellow and I had the
23 impression he didn't want us staying with them. On the
24 other hand, Mrs [REDACTED] was a much warmer person and
25 always made us feel welcome and wanted.

1 Sometimes we would be taken to the local county farm
2 show in [REDACTED]. I can remember the local band playing at
3 the show.

4 While I stayed with the [REDACTED], I attended [REDACTED]
5 Primary School. The headteacher at school was
6 Mrs Pratt. I was five then and was in Primary 1. We
7 were not at home for long and I can't remember much
8 about the school, other than there were no issues.

9 The [REDACTED] let us help out with some of the work on
10 the farm. I can remember feeding some of the animals
11 and sometimes I sat on the tractor/binder.

12 My mum did come to visit us while we were at the
13 farm. She was brought to the farm by the social work.
14 She was introduced to us as aunt and it was only later
15 that I realised it was my mum. She was not there long,
16 gave me a cuddle and was away again.

17 I don't know why our time there finished, but it we
18 were taken back to Clydeville."

19 From paragraphs 34 to 38, 'John' speaks of his
20 experiences at Clydeville Children's Centre. Moving now
21 to paragraph 39 on page 8:

22 "After a few months at Clydeville, we were moved to
23 stay with Mrs EEW [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. I was still five,
24 nearly six when we went there.

25 EEW [REDACTED] was the woman who fostered us at

1 her home at [REDACTED]. She lived in a semi-detached
2 three-bedroomed house. Her teenage daughter also lived
3 with her. Her son stayed a couple of houses down in the
4 same street.

5 I spelt in the same room, initially in the same bed,
6 with my sister. Mrs EEW [REDACTED]'s daughter shared her
7 mother's room and the remaining bedroom was kept for any
8 other foster children arriving. Later another family
9 arrived. There were two boys and a girl and they were
10 fostered for quite a bit of the period that we stayed.
11 I became friends with one of the boys. I was later
12 given a separate bed in the spare room, which was before
13 they arrived. When they moved in, I shared the room
14 with them.

15 At the front door of the house was a small porch.
16 As you entered the hallway there was a staircase to the
17 left. On the ground floor to the left was a toilet,
18 kitchen and living room. To the right of the hallway
19 was another toilet and the family bedroom. Upstairs
20 were the other two bedrooms. At the front of the house
21 a small garden area and not much at the rear.

22 The first day we arrived, Mrs EEW [REDACTED] offered us
23 some food. My sister said she did not want anything so
24 I followed her lead and said likewise. We were taken to
25 the local grocers by Mrs EEW [REDACTED] and she later gave us

1 some sweets.

2 We were won't in the morning about 7 o'clock. I was
3 given the cold bath and then got dressed and went for
4 breakfast. It was then on to school which was only
5 a short distance away. We were home to the EEW for
6 lunch and then back to school in the afternoon. After
7 our tea, we were allowed out to play. We had to be in
8 when we saw the 7 o'clock bus from pass the
9 street. In the winter when we were back in the house we
10 might be allowed to listen to Radio Luxembourg. We were
11 sent to bed around 8 o'clock. Listening to the radio is
12 probably the only positive memory I have from my time
13 there.

14 The breakfast we were given was usually porridge and
15 it was not usually enough to sustain us. I was always
16 hungry as we were never given enough food.

17 Mrs EEW's daughter would help Mrs EEW with the
18 cooking.

19 Other than the cold baths if I wet the bed, the main
20 bath times were once a week, probably Saturday.

21 I was always feeling stressed when I stayed at the
22 EEW house. I then began to have issues with
23 sleepwalking and started wetting the bed. If I wet the
24 bed, Mrs EEW would run a cold bath and made me go to
25 the bathroom. She would then grab me by my ankles and

1 drag me into the cold water until my head was under the
2 water. I was absolutely terrified.

3 I remember waking up one night and finding I had wet
4 the bed. I tried to dry my pyjamas by opening the
5 bedroom window and letting the wind blow them to try and
6 dry them. I was too young to realise the bed would be
7 soaking anyway. Eventually Mrs EEW made me a pair
8 of rubber pants to help protect the mattress. She would
9 change the sheets each day I wet them.

10 The bed-wetting continued each night until I moved
11 to Abelour.

12 The clothes we were given by the EEW were
13 always shabby. I am not sure where she got the clothes
14 she gave us. It had to have been donated or were
15 hand-me-downs.

16 Part of the leisure time we might have had,
17 Mrs EEW tried to teach us some knitting. On
18 a Sunday we were allowed to get an ice cream from the
19 local van.

20 If I was playing hide and seek with some of the kids
21 at school, I tried to let them all go and hide. I would
22 then go into their school bags to see if they had any
23 biscuits. I was always so hungry.

24 I was not given any pocket money while I stayed
25 there. I do remember there were some new houses being

1 built and I would go to the shops for some of the
2 workers. They would give me a few pennies for this.
3 I wanted to save the money they gave me, but Mrs EEW
4 found out and she took the money. After that happened,
5 I learned to just go to the shops and spend it before
6 going home.

7 We were sent to [REDACTED] Primary School, which was
8 only a few minutes' walk from the house. The school was
9 split into three separate groups, primary 1 and 2,
10 primaries 3, 4 and 5, and the last group was primary 6
11 and 7. I am not certain about the dates I arrived but
12 it was either primary 2 or 3. I stayed at the school
13 until I was about seven years old. I enjoyed my time at
14 the school.

15 During my time with the EEW [REDACTED] I did see a couple
16 of nurses from the county health department. They would
17 see us at the school. I did go to the hospital once, to
18 get my tonsils and adenoids out. I think the only other
19 treatment I received was penicillin for an infected cut
20 on my knee after a fall. I never saw a dentist during
21 this period.

22 Mrs EEW [REDACTED] suffered from epilepsy. I remember she
23 took a seizure on a bus. Some of the parents helped and
24 some gave us some sweets. I was so scared when this was
25 happening to her. If it happened in the house,

1 Mrs EEW 's daughter, who was used to it, would
2 sometimes help and get her mother to lie down on the
3 settee while she recovered. She had seizures on
4 a regular basis.

5 At Christmas, I think I was given an apple,
6 a lollipop and a tiny toy. The standard of the presents
7 given and the celebrations were much less than the
8 places I had previously stayed. There was no special
9 dinner for Christmas. There was no celebration when it
10 came to birthdays, to Mrs EEW it was just another
11 day.

12 We did get visits from our social worker,
13 FPS . He visited a couple of times and he was
14 trying to find out why I was wetting the bed. I was too
15 scared to tell him what was happening. Our relationship
16 with FPS was always in an official manner.
17 I never felt comfortable enough with him to tell him
18 anything.

19 Sometimes FPS would arrive at the house along with
20 the social worker from Kilmarnock who was looking after
21 the other foster children. Sometimes they would have
22 discussions which ended up occasionally in an argument.
23 It was usually a result of the differences in each of
24 their opinions on how to treat the children in their
25 care.

1 I never received any visits from my mum or any other
2 family member. There was no contact by letter either.
3 I just thought this was normal.

4 I never ran away when I stayed there, but I did
5 think about it a lot. When I stayed with the EEW
6 I was generally unhappy, which was the opposite of the
7 other places I had stayed at. The happiest time was
8 when I was leaving.

9 There was one morning when Mrs EEW daughter came
10 into our bedroom and woke me up. She then told me to
11 lie on top of my sister. I knew this was wrong and
12 refused.

13 There was another time I had been in the kitchen and
14 was feeling a bit hungry. If I felt like this, I would
15 usually go to the cupboard and take a spoonful of sugar
16 or some jam out of the jar. On this occasion,
17 Mrs EEW's daughter caught me and gave me a clip
18 around the ear.

19 When the other foster children had been there for
20 a while, my friend was getting into trouble and was
21 stealing from shops. He had been sent to Abelour as
22 a result. As I grew more and more unhappy I found I was
23 going down the same path because I was always hungry.
24 Eventually, after a about a year after my friend left,
25 a decision was made that I should leave and arrangements

1 were made for me to be sent to Abelour. My sister
2 stayed on with the EEW family."

3 From paragraph 65 to 127, 'John' tells of his
4 experiences at Abelour Orphanage. He left the orphanage
5 and joined the Navy. From paragraphs 128 to 137, 'John'
6 speaks of his life after care. After leaving the Navy
7 he worked in a fish factory, in landscaping and as
8 a spinner in a woollen mill, woollen factory. He
9 married and had two children.

10 Moving now to paragraph 138 on page 26 where 'John'
11 speaks about impact:

12 "I have a lack of trust with people and that is
13 something that relates to my time in care, where
14 different people looking after me have abused me when
15 they were supposed to be looking after me.

16 As far as the kids are concerned, I have always let
17 them away with anything. Abelour was so regimented and
18 I did not want to bring the kids up that way. From my
19 time at Abelour, being very regimented, I went to the
20 Navy, again regimented. This is how I have lived a big
21 part of my life. Everything I do has to be in a certain
22 manner.

23 Other than making a claim to the redress scheme,
24 I have not reported anything to the police or to any
25 other authority.

1 I was able to visit Abelour and view some of my
2 records. When the lady showed them to me, she made
3 mention that I had been in Abelour on other dates.
4 I have no recollection of this and I am not sure where
5 that would have fitted in. There is a note I have put
6 into one of my letters showing 14 September 1959, but
7 I am not sure if this was the date she was referring to.
8 I can only recollect being about seven, maybe eight
9 years old when I arrived there.

10 I have some of the records from my time in care.
11 The ones I do have, I have read and I think I understand
12 much of what was in there, but there are many entries
13 giving a one-sided opinion from their adult point of
14 view but nothing taking into account that I was a child.

15 I think people looking after children in care should
16 be more closely monitored. I can only remember a couple
17 of times in my life when the social workers visited me
18 to check on my welfare or the state of the homes. My
19 social worker, Mr FPS, was not someone you could
20 approach to tell him about issues. I did meet him when
21 I was in my 20s and he hadn't changed much. He still
22 had the attitude that he was the carer and I was just
23 someone needing care.

24 There was no preparation for kids going back to
25 families or going out into the outside world. There

1 were times when some of the kids were having breakfast
2 in the homes and then being taken out of the home and
3 returned to their families. No help or notice was given
4 to those kids. Quite often those same kids were back in
5 the care system. That never helps anyone and the social
6 work need to help before, during and after the
7 transition.

8 I have applied for the redress scheme and was given
9 £10,000 by the Government. I have not made contact with
10 anyone else at this time. I have some of the money
11 I received to help my children.

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

16 The statement was signed by 'John' on
17 28 October 2021.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

19 'Alison' (read)

20 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we can now move on to another read-in.

21 This is in relation to 'Alison' and this is the
22 statement of an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous
23 and has chosen the pseudonym 'Alison'.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS RATTRAY: Her statement is at WIT.001.001.2272.

1 The records indicate that 'Alison' was boarded out
2 by Glasgow to a placement in Glasgow from [REDACTED] 1963
3 to [REDACTED] 1963. With the exception of the
4 paragraphs on boarding out, 'Alison's' statement was
5 read in in full during the Daughters of Charity case
6 study on 6 December 2017, and accordingly I will only
7 read those paragraphs which set the scene and background
8 and are relevant to foster care.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Alison'. I was born in 1950. My
11 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

12 I am a widow and I have two children, who are away
13 from home but stay locally.

14 My mother and father are both deceased. Our family
15 home was in Paisley.

16 It was not until I was 15 that I discovered my
17 father was my mother's brother in law. I was one of
18 eight children, I was the fourth child. Three of my
19 siblings are dead now.

20 My parents liked to drink and were always fighting.
21 We were all in and out of care. I was in Smyllum Park
22 twice."

23 From paragraphs 7 to 92, 'Alison' tells us of her
24 experiences in Smyllum. Moving now to paragraph 93 on
25 page 12, where 'Alison' tells of her experiences when

1 she and her two brothers and two sisters were boarded
2 out:

3 "We all went to foster care when I was about 12 or
4 13. The woman, Mrs EMZ [REDACTED], wasn't very nice. She got
5 on to my brother all the time.

6 One day she was hitting my brother and I told her
7 I was going to phone the welfare. She said to phone
8 them, so I did.

9 She picked on my brother because he had a stutter.
10 He was always laughing though, his nerves made him
11 laugh, so he couldn't hold a conversation and did
12 everything through jokes.

13 Mrs EMZ [REDACTED] was always shouting at him. She would
14 slap him about the face and head for carrying on and
15 laughing and joking. It was just my brother she picked
16 on, none of the rest of us.

17 Mrs EMZ [REDACTED] had a husband but he was always out
18 working. She would have been about 60 or 70 years old.
19 She stayed in Glasgow.

20 When I phoned the welfare, I spoke to Mrs Fraser,
21 who was the head of the social work department. The
22 other welfare people involved were Christine McCaig and
23 Mrs McFarlane.

24 I told Mrs Fraser what Mrs EMZ [REDACTED] was doing to my
25 brother. They didn't listen to you. None of the social

1 workers did. The welfare did come after about two days
2 and took my two brothers and me back to Smyllum. They
3 left my two sisters. I was glad to get away from
4 Mrs EMZ .

5 After about six months, my sisters were also brought
6 back to Smyllum. They told me they didn't like her, but
7 I don't know what happened.

8 I was then at Smyllum until I was 15, when you had
9 to leave. My brothers had been sent to Falkland in Fife
10 by then, but my sister was still there. I did go back
11 to Smyllum and visit my sisters after I left."

12 Moving now to paragraph 135 on page 17:

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

17 And 'Alison' signed her statement on 11 September
18 2017.

19 My Lady, since then, 'Alison' has provided the
20 Inquiry with an additional statement with further
21 memories of her time when boarded out. That is at
22 WIT-3-000001101.

23 "My name is 'Alison' and I would like to share with
24 the Scottish Inquiry the abuse I witnessed against my
25 younger brother and my sisters at the hands of our

1 foster carers.

2 Five of us, myself, my two brothers and two sisters,
3 were taken from Smyllum Park Orphanage and fostered to
4 a battleaxe named Mrs EMZ who also had a married
5 daughter who was involved in our care. My brother was
6 a very nervous child who had a bad stutter. He tried to
7 overcome his embarrassment through humour and singing.
8 Mrs EMZ and her daughter used to shout at him to
9 speak right. She would make him strip to his underwear.
10 The daughter stood at the top of the stairs and
11 Mrs EMZ at the bottom. They both had wooden coat
12 hangers. They would make him run up and down the stairs
13 and beat him with the hangers as if playing with bats
14 and my brother was the ball. He would get extremely
15 distressed as he was a gentle boy that I was very close
16 to.

17 This made me feel powerless to help him so I told
18 Mrs EMZ and the daughter that I was going to tell
19 the social worker. They laughed and said, "Do it, they
20 won't believe you", so I did. Mrs Fraser came to the
21 house and told my brothers and myself to get our things.
22 I was said to have had a vivid imagination and we were
23 taken back to Smyllum.

24 My sisters were to remain with the EMZ-SPO My
25 sister then disclosed to me that they were punished in

1 this manner, stripped down to their vest and pants and
2 again hit with the wooden hangers up and down the
3 stairs.

4 This has left me with a sense of guilt and anger.
5 Guilt as I couldn't help my sisters, who were left with
6 these barbaric individuals, and anger at the social
7 worker who did not believe me about the abuse my brother
8 received. This has always preyed heavily on my mind at
9 the cruelty inflicted on my brother and sisters and the
10 feeling of helplessness at not being able to protect
11 them.

12 This is a true and accurate description of the abuse
13 I witnessed."

14 The additional statement was signed by 'Alison' on
15 26 November 2021.

16 My Lady, as time allows, I do have another read-in,
17 which is another short one, from a witness --

18 LADY SMITH: Let's do that, thank you.

19 MS RATTRAY: -- who has already given evidence.

20 Veronica Altham (read)

21 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant,
22 Veronica Altham, who does not wish to remain anonymous.
23 As we heard oral evidence from Veronica during the case
24 study into Quarriers, Aberlour and Barnardo's I will
25 only read-in those paragraphs of her statement on foster

1 care.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS RATTRAY: Veronica was boarded out by Barnardo's from one
4 of their branch homes to a foster placement in Perth
5 from 25 March 1959 to 28 July 1959.

6 "My name is Veronica Altham. I was born in 1952.
7 My contact details are known to the Inquiry."

8 Veronica was placed in the care of Barnardo's by her
9 father when she was 18 months old. She was first in
10 Haldane House and then moved to Balcary House in Hawick.
11 Moving now to paragraph 15 on page 4 of her statement.

12 "I had a period out of home. I was fostered, but
13 I don't like to talk about it. I was away from Balcary
14 for about a year to 18 months. I hated the foster
15 carers. I didn't have any say about foster care. I was
16 five. It was Barnardo's decision.

17 My foster carers were Mr and Mrs BKD/SPO They
18 stayed in Perth. They were Salvation Army people. They
19 were as false as can be. I was sort of hurt, maybe not
20 physically, but I was hurt enough. I wasn't allowed to
21 eat with them. I ate in the kitchen and they ate in the
22 dining room. When I returned to Balcary, I was suddenly
23 wetting the bed and wetting my pants. I wouldn't let
24 anyone near me, but it went over their heads and it was
25 put down to me just being a naughty child.

1 The BKD/SPO lived in a prefab. They had a daughter
2 who was the same age as me, you came in the back door
3 and there was a kitchen, then the living room, then the
4 daughter's bedroom, my bedroom and then theirs.
5 Mr BKD had a thing about the Bible. I had to read it
6 for hours. I couldn't read a word.

7 Mr BKD was handy with his belt. The worst thing
8 he did was he used to put his penis just inside my bum
9 cheeks. Nobody picked up on it. Anyone who had half
10 a brain who worked in social work nowadays would pick up
11 on it. Why would I come back and start wetting my bed
12 twice a night?

13 I have no idea how old the BKD/SPO were. He was
14 a big man to me. He's bound to be dead by now. The
15 abuse happened when I read the Bible at the dining room
16 table. His wife and daughter were in their rooms.
17 I have no idea if she was aware.

18 I left the BKD/SPO because I decided to run away.
19 There was a shop on the top of the hill and I went there
20 and stole a box of Cornish mivvies. I sat on the road
21 eating them thinking how I was going to get to Hawick.
22 Mr BKD must have called the police and they picked me
23 up. I've hated him all my life.

24 Gladys Fraser, my welfare officer, took me away from
25 them. I remember I came home from school and she told

1 me to get changed and pack my things. I was taken to
2 Douglas House at the Sick Children's Hospital in
3 Edinburgh. A psychiatric unit. It had a big walled
4 garden.

5 I was in Douglas House for about nine months. We
6 stayed in huts at the back. There was a wonderful lady
7 there called Sister Meechan and she put me next to her
8 office because I kicked off as they only had a cot for
9 me. There was no way I was sleeping in a cot, trapped.
10 She got me a bed. I saw a psychiatrist while I was
11 there.

12 I specifically remember going back to the home from
13 Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital. I went to Glasclune
14 children's home in North Berwick. Once a year, Balcary
15 swapped with Glasclune for a couple of weeks as a summer
16 holiday so every year we were at the seaside. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED] I was interested in seeing
18 if my friends were still there. They were.

19 Once a week I had to see a psychiatrist. I didn't
20 speak to him. He used to try to wind me up. I'm just
21 angry about it. I can't believe nobody could see there
22 was something wrong. I started playing up but was told
23 I was naughty. After a while I settled back in again.
24 I was so happy to be back with my friends. I didn't
25 tell anyone. I couldn't trust anyone to tell them."

1 My Lady, we've heard oral evidence on the remaining
2 parts of her statement, but turning now to paragraph 67
3 on page 14:

4 "The only person that seriously abused me was
5 Mr **BKD**. I was so terrified that he was going to push
6 his penis harder. I think subconsciously I started
7 peeing the bed because I thought if I was so dirty,
8 nobody would touch me down there."

9 Now to paragraph 80 on page 16:

10 "Barnardo's inability at the time to see a child who
11 was damaged and just telling me I was a naughty child
12 makes me angry. I found it very difficult to have
13 relationships with my first husband."

14 Now to paragraph 86 on page 17:

15 "I have never reported the abuse I suffered to the
16 police or anyone. I told my psychiatrist in Canada.
17 Some professional adults were positive influences on me
18 but I didn't discuss my abuse with any of them."

19 Now to paragraph 88 on page 18:

20 "The only thing where I was concerned was that they
21 should have known there was something wrong with me when
22 I came back from foster care. I was always arguing,
23 I was wetting the bed, wetting my knickers. These
24 things should be picked up on in a child.

25 I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

2 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
3 true."

4 Veronica signed her statement on 30 August 2018.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes read-ins for this
7 morning, so perhaps this would be an appropriate time to
8 take the break.

9 LADY SMITH: We can take the morning break now, but before
10 I rise I should draw attention again to names that we've
11 used within the hearing room that can't be used outside
12 here because of my general restriction order. It was
13 the foster parents, Mrs [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] family,
14 Mrs EEW [REDACTED], Mrs EMZ [REDACTED] and Mr and Mrs BKD/SPO [REDACTED]

15 Thank you very much.

16 (11.23 am)

17 (A short break)

18 (11.45 am)

19 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

20 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness is 'Mike'. 'Mike' was
21 boarded out by Banff County Council on [REDACTED] 1957 and
22 he remained with that foster parent until he turned 18.

23 As I've said, he was in the care of Banff County
24 Council. That, following reorganisation, falls to be
25 guided between Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

1 However, 'Mike' was in care in an area now covered by
2 Moray Council and his mother also lived in an area which
3 was covered by Moray County Council -- by Moray Council
4 now -- and we also recovered records from that council,
5 so I think we can be confident that Moray Council are
6 the responsible authority.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you, that's very helpful.

8 'Mike' (sworn)

9 LADY SMITH: We were moving the microphone there to make
10 sure that you speak into it.

11 A. Okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, you don't have to be very, very close, but
13 we do need it to pick up your voice, 'Mike'.

14 You'll see there's a red folder, it has a hard copy
15 of your statement in it, the statement you signed, and
16 your statement will also be brought up on screen at the
17 various parts that we'll take you to as we go through
18 your evidence.

19 Can I say at the outset, 'Mike', that I know it's
20 not easy giving evidence and it's particularly not easy
21 when you're being asked to talk about yourself and your
22 life as a child. Please be assured I understand that
23 and I want to be able to do anything I can to make it
24 more comfortable for you than otherwise --

25 A. I have waited years for this day.

1 LADY SMITH: You'll get the day over quite soon. But do let
2 me know if you want a break or if you have any queries
3 or concerns. No question is a daft question if it's one
4 that's in your head and hasn't been answered, all right?
5 A. Thank you.

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

8 A. I'm fine, yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 Questions from Ms Innes

11 MS INNES: 'Mike', we understand that you were born in 1949.
12 Is that right?

13 A. That's right, yeah.

14 Q. You've provided a statement to the Inquiry and it will
15 come up on the screen and it's in the folder in front of
16 you. If I can ask you, first of all, just to look at
17 the last page of that, please, page 14. In the final
18 paragraph there we see that it says:
19 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
20 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
21 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
22 true."
23 You signed it on 23 October 2017.

24 A. That's correct, yeah.

25 Q. Okay, thank you.

1 If I can take you back to the start of the your
2 statement, please, you tell us there a little bit of
3 your early life, what you know of it. You explain that
4 when you were born, at paragraph 2, you stayed with your
5 mother, who was a farm servant.

6 A. Yeah, that's correct.

7 Q. I think you say at the bottom of page 1, you talk about
8 going to live with your aunt for a while. I think your
9 mother passed you over to your aunt; is that right?

10 A. Well, I thought that she was an aunt of my mother's, but
11 I was told she was an aunt of mine, so.

12 Q. You were told she was an aunt of yours?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Then you say that this aunt was an alcoholic and
15 the Local Authority, at paragraph 5, took you and put
16 you back with your mother --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- again?

19 A. They found where I come from and they contacted my
20 mother and put me back to there.

21 Q. Thank you. Then you say at paragraph 6 over the page
22 that when you were six or seven years old, you went to
23 the Clydeville Orphanage in Buckie.

24 A. That's, yeah, correct, yeah.

25 Q. You stayed there, I think, for quite a while, up until

1 you were eight. Is that right?

2 A. That's correct, yeah, spot on.

3 Q. If we move on, please, to page 3, and paragraph 13 you

4 tell us that you were moved to foster care but you've

5 got no idea why you were moved?

6 A. Not a clue, no. Never told nothing. Just bundled into

7 the back of a car and taken off.

8 Q. Put in a black car and taken off?

9 A. Just bundled into the back of a car, bundled.

10 Q. Bundled into the back of a car.

11 A. By Mr FPS .

12 Q. By Mr FPS . Who was Mr FPS ?

13 A. He was the children's officer at the time for the area.

14 Q. You tell us at paragraph 14 that you were put into

15 a foster placement, and I think that was with

16 a Mrs ESU ?

17 A. That's correct, yeah.

18 Q. You stayed there from the time that you were eight until

19 you got married when you were 24?

20 A. That's right, yeah, correct.

21 Q. You say that Mrs ESU had about nine children of her

22 own?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You say three of them were left in the house?

25 A. Yes, there were three, yeah. The others were married

1 before I got -- but there were three at the house when
2 I arrived there.

3 Q. Three at the house when you arrived and the others had
4 grown up and left home and some of them were married?

5 A. Yeah, yeah, that's right.

6 Q. You say there, I think, that there were two boys and
7 a girl still in the house?

8 A. Yeah. Two men and a woman, but yeah, two boys and
9 a girl.

10 Q. You say [REDACTED] was the youngest and he was 16 or 17
11 years old?

12 A. Roughly, I think he was, yeah, yeah.

13 Q. Then there was --

14 A. [REDACTED].

15 Q. He was the oldest, was he?

16 A. He was oldest in the house, yeah.

17 Q. The oldest in the house?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Then there was JCW [REDACTED]?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Who was maybe about ten years older than you, would that
22 be right?

23 A. I'd probably think so. I hate the thought ... but will
24 go for it.

25 Q. Sorry?

1 A. I hate the thought of her name.

2 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 15 that it was
3 a three-bedroomed council house you were living in?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. Can you remember what you thought of it when you first
6 arrived there?

7 A. I don't know what I actually thought. It was -- I don't
8 know how to explain that. It was just a house and I was
9 put there just to -- get a month, but I didn't see them
10 as my mother or my family, but I was supposed to treat
11 them as such, as my mum and my sister. But I can't
12 explain, sorry, I just don't know what I thought.

13 LADY SMITH: Had you ever been to [REDACTED] before?

14 A. No, no.

15 LADY SMITH: So it's a new village, a new house --

16 A. Just a wee village [REDACTED] yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: New village, new house, and you didn't know
18 where --

19 A. No, I hadn't a clue until this car bundled me away into
20 a house. I was tied down the back of a car with a belt
21 and ropes when I left by Mr FPS [REDACTED], took me to this
22 house, well house in [REDACTED] and that was me left there.

23 LADY SMITH: Did you just say you were tied down in the back
24 of the car?

25 A. Yes, Lady Smith, tied me down with belt and ropes.

1 I don't know what type of car it was, but I did say it
2 was a blue car, but what type I didn't have a clue at
3 this time, I can still see this blue car. It was my
4 mother, as I say, a wooden house, he took me away from
5 there, and I was screaming to get back to my mother's
6 arms, as I probably would at that age, and he just put
7 me down in the back of the car and strapped me down with
8 whatever was available, strap, belt and ropes, and tied
9 me down like a animal to went to this house and then
10 I was released into the wilds. That's a way to explain
11 it.

12 MS INNES: That was when you were taken away from your
13 mother and put to the orphanage?

14 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

15 Q. Is that right?

16 A. Yeah. As an animal, sorry.

17 Q. You say that this person, that when you'd gone to stay
18 with Mrs ESU -- I think there was no Mr [REDACTED]?

19 A. No. I don't know, I never heard, I never asked
20 questions about him. I assumed he must have died during
21 the war or before I got there anyway.

22 Q. You said, I think, that you were being told essentially
23 that this woman was to be called mother?

24 A. Mum.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. I found it difficult, but anyway.

2 Q. You found it difficult?

3 A. Yeah, to call her that, I had various mums.

4 Q. In this house, you tell us at paragraph 15 that you

5 shared a room with the two older boys, men --

6 A. Okay, I know what you're saying, yeah. It was

7 a three-bedroom house. You know this type of life,

8 I come from an abusive house with my mother and her

9 partner abusing me. So I went to foster care, just more

10 or less repeated yourself. Because [REDACTED] and

11 [REDACTED], the two men, had a single bed. Where my bed

12 was off with one of them, I'd assume, so it was. So

13 whatever night one of these two had to sleep with me or

14 me sleep with them, had to do it. They were both

15 working in farms or whatever. So if they got cold, "Oh,

16 'Mike' sleep with me tonight", so they'd cuddle into me.

17 I was scared, because what had happened I knew I'd been

18 abused and I thought if I do this another man I was

19 scared because they might abuse me. So I lived that

20 life this way, scared, petrified of going to bed,

21 because they would be beside me. I have got to say they

22 didn't abuse me, but the thought of cuddling me so to me

23 it was still abuse, they touched me, and I come from

24 an abusive background to be put into there, the fire

25 again. And Mr [REDACTED] FPS knew what was happening, right.

1 I actually complained to him, but as my statement says,
2 he turned his back with a shake, "the little devil that
3 you are".
4 Q. Okay, we'll come onto that.
5 A. Yes, thank you.
6 Q. No, it's okay. We'll come onto that in a moment.
7 You've explained as you say in your statement that
8 you were abused by your mother's partner.
9 A. Mm-hmm.
10 Q. And Mr FPS was aware of that, I think?
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. Then in this house, you had to share a bed with one of
13 the sons?
14 A. Yeah, yeah.
15 Q. Although they didn't in fact abuse you in the way that
16 your stepfather --
17 A. One tried to hit me, but I was a big boy and I hit him
18 back, so he gave up. A temper.
19 Q. They would still come into the bed in the night and
20 cuddle into you?
21 A. Oh, yeah. It was their room, not mine. I was
22 a stranger in their room.
23 Q. You say that you were scared and frightened?
24 A. Of course I was.
25 Q. Then --

1 A. Scared and trust, I didn't trust men as much as scared,
2 trust, so it's a big thing. But, well, I have been
3 through it.

4 Q. I think you're asking yourself the question why you were
5 put into those --

6 A. Aye, I still don't know to this day why I was put in.
7 I can only assume because my mother's partner was
8 abusive towards me, I can only assume that must be the
9 answer, because she put me into care for protection, but
10 then again I say I stayed with two men, so where's the
11 protection?

12 Q. Right. If we go on a little in your statement, you talk
13 about Mrs ESU and you say that you think she was
14 about 50 to 60 at the time?

15 A. I would think so, yeah.

16 Q. You say she was the mother figure, she looked after you?

17 A. Well, yes.

18 Q. What do you mean by she looked after you?

19 A. Well, sort of as a mother would do, I suppose, but when
20 JCW got involved, which we probably come onto
21 eventually, she stood and watched her. So no mother
22 watches her kid being bullied or slapped, but she
23 watched her. In fact some days she encouraged her,
24 providing weapons, et cetera.

25 Q. Okay. You say that if you needed any clothing, for

1 example, she would contact Mr FPS --

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. -- to get that.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. Then you talk at paragraph 17 about what you'd

6 been saying about calling Mrs ESU mother and you

7 say you were so confused with the word because you went

8 from your mother to your aunt back to your mother?

9 A. Mother, mother, mother. Who is my mother?

10 Q. Okay. You say to you the mother was the person running

11 the house, the mother figure.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. That was your impression, okay.

14 You say at paragraph 18:

15 "Mrs ESU was good to me because to be honest

16 she put up with a lot as I was a very naughty little

17 boy."

18 A. I was to be honest, I had to say that, I had to say

19 that. I must be honest there. I was a wee devil. As

20 I say, I think in my opinion now today when I think back

21 I was attention-seeking. It was attention. If I got

22 a slap, wow, I got attention, somebody noticed me being

23 bad. Slap, slap, slap. Yes, 'Mike', I have got

24 attention today. So I come out (unclear) come later

25 times, I used to play on that to get attention. If

1 I was being ignored as a kid, as you can be, I would do
2 something bad or naughty, as I says, to get attention.
3 So the attention moved from that to me, wow.

4 LADY SMITH: What sort of things would you do, 'Mike', to
5 get attention?

6 A. Well, I'd maybe play up or just refuse to do things.
7 Like I was told to hack sticks, fill the coal pail or
8 hoover or dust and I'd say, "I'm not doing it today",
9 because I knew I'd get a response from them. So that
10 was the kind of things I would refuse to do, that type
11 of things, and even naughtier things, but the simple
12 thing but ...

13 MS INNES: If we move over the page now, please, to the top
14 of page 4, and you talk about morning time and you'd get
15 up and go off to school and you'd come home for your
16 lunch.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. How did you get on at school?

19 A. Oh, not very good there either. Again attention
20 seeking. I was the only guy, it's probably in my
21 statement but you've asked me the question. Well, it
22 says here I was called "the bastard", because I had no
23 mum and dad -- I was a wee shy -- honestly, you wouldn't
24 believe it today but I was a wee shy boy once upon
25 a time and very frail, I was scared, because the boys,

1 boys' school. So I was scared of getting -- a boy,
2 because they could hit me. I know what men are capable
3 of doing to me. So I'd toe the line and I'd froze at
4 times, if they said 'Mike' do this, I would do it. End
5 of the day I was a wee naughty boy, I'd be brought to
6 the headmaster for doing mischief. But the stronger
7 guys, so I wouldn't have disobeyed them because they'd
8 hurt me, as I'd been used to. So I just did things.

9 Q. You talk in your statement about being called names at
10 school, as you've said, and that you were scared to talk
11 back to anyone because --

12 A. Oh, scared wasn't the word, but anyway, yeah.

13 Q. You say that you told Mrs ESU about this, did you
14 tell her that you were being called names and that you
15 were frightened?

16 A. Oh, it didn't bother her. No. I was a wee devil.
17 I deserved what I got. What I got, I deserved it, I was
18 told, "Well, it's what you deserve", so ...

19 Q. Then you talk about the headmaster sending notes home to
20 Mrs ESU about your behaviour?

21 A. Yes, oh yes, aye. I don't -- sorry.

22 Q. Your impression was that this happened every day,
23 I think?

24 A. Well, not every day but a regular thing, yeah.

25 Q. Right, okay.

1 A. I don't know if it was arranged by him, by Mr FPS ,
2 I don't know, but it was a habit, he did send me back
3 home letters. And obviously --
4 Q. You say that you didn't think other children were
5 getting notes sent home?
6 A. No, just me. I was always different.
7 Q. You were given the note and you had to show it to
8 Mrs ESU ?
9 A. Oh yes, aye. It was passed on to JCW and that
10 was -- we'll go there later on.
11 Q. Yes.
12 A. Everything Mrs ESU got from me, the reports from
13 Mr FPS 's school, was always passed on to JCW and
14 she took it into her hands to -- as you said, we'll find
15 out after.
16 Q. If we go on to the next page you talk about holidays and
17 Christmas. Can I ask you about Christmas. You say that
18 you got presents, you don't know who they were from.
19 A. No, no, no.
20 Q. You think it was probably Mrs ESU and her family?
21 A. Well, I don't know. I did accept it from her, so
22 I don't know until this day, but I assume it is from
23 her, so I can't answer that one probably.
24 Q. You say that you found out that your mother had been
25 sending you Christmas and birthday gifts?

1 A. Yes. Regular.

2 Q. Were you aware of getting them when --

3 A. No, I never knew until 2017 when Moray Council came
4 clean with me and gave me my paperwork about my life.
5 All that years of my life was unknown, I was a nothing
6 when it comes to the story of my life. And today
7 through my wife's help I'm starting to find my life now,
8 ie family. For 70-odd years for a life, because they
9 stole it from me.

10 Q. We'll come just in a moment I think to some of the
11 information in your records about your mum and her
12 attempts to contact you.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. If I can ask you, first of all, if we go over the
15 page to page 6 and paragraph 29 --

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. -- you talk about Mr FPS visiting for a report every
18 six months.

19 A. Yeah. Unless she called him earlier if I'd misbehave,
20 but six months.

21 Q. He'd sometimes come on other occasions?

22 A. Oh aye. If he was called by Mrs ESU, if I'd
23 misbehaved, or, as I told Lady Smith, if I refused to do
24 my housework, and I had a tantrum, Mrs ESU would
25 phone Mr FPS and he might come up the next week and

1 then the rest is history.

2 Q. When Mr FPS came to visit, were you able to speak to
3 him on your own or was Mrs ESU always there?

4 A. No, no, no, never one to one. He was always there with
5 Mrs ESU, two of them.

6 Q. Was JCW ever there when Mr FPS --

7 A. No, she was working. But she knew everything that went
8 on, because once she came back from her work,
9 Mrs ESU would tell her and, oh, a slap and a kick
10 and a punch.

11 Q. Okay. You say there at paragraph 31, we'll come back to
12 Mr FPS again in a moment --

13 A. Okay, thank you.

14 Q. At paragraph 31 you say that you saw your birth mother
15 once and you remember her coming to the door.

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. What was your reaction to her turning up?

18 A. Well, I was notified that was my mother, so my head was
19 sort of like my mother, so my mother as I say appeared
20 and it didn't seem right, because as I said before I've
21 have had various mothers and fathers so who was my
22 mother? I had an aunt I was supposed to call mother.
23 I had a sister my mother's and as a mother and I had
24 Ms , another mother. Mrs ESU was another
25 mother, but a real mother so I had four or five

1 different mothers and my head at the time just couldn't
2 get round that, to say: who is my mother? So I don't
3 know I actually accepted that part, but I remember
4 seeing her, but it just was another mother to me.

5 Q. You say that you got upset by seeing her?

6 A. Yeah, I did, aye, because they said that my mother hated
7 me, abandoned me, so how dare this woman walk in my life
8 and say, "I'm your mother", when I was told by the
9 council that she hated me. So I felt that towards her.
10 Okay, I said well, you bitch, you hated me.

11 Q. You say that you were told by the council --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- that your mother had abandoned you --

14 A. Yes, yes, yes.

15 Q. -- and hated you?

16 A. Yes. Mr FPS told me that all that time. Every time
17 Mrs ESU would back him, "Yes, your mum hated you.
18 Don't go back to your mum, your mum disowned you, your
19 mum abandoned you", and for years. If I saw my own
20 mother, I couldn't meet with her because I was, "You
21 devil, you abandoned me, how dare you say I'm your
22 mother", I'm supposed to love you now and make up
23 amends. I couldn't make it. So my head was
24 brainwashed.

25 Q. Just staying with that issue at the moment then, please,

1 you deal with it at paragraph 47 of your statement on
2 page 9. You talk again there about Mr FPS and
3 Mrs ESU making you think that your mother had
4 abandoned you.

5 A. Oh aye. Very common. Very common. I think every day
6 he visited me I was told the same thing repeated over
7 again. So it was always in my mind. So it had dropped,
8 in my mind it was there again.

9 Q. And --

10 A. I just hate that man.

11 Q. I think you know from your records that you recovered,
12 I think, in 2017 --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- that your mother had written to you, I think?

15 A. Yeah, yeah.

16 Q. Can we look, please, at MOC-000000023.

17 A. Oh yes, I got, aye.

18 Q. This is a letter that you've seen before?

19 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. It has blanks to protect --

21 A. I saw this in 2017 --

22 Q. You saw this in --

23 A. -- and it's 1958.

24 Q. Here I think we see that she says:

25 "Sorry for being late, but anyway, I do hope that

1 you had a very nice birthday. I enclose here a very
2 little of ..."

3 A. "Nothing".

4 Q. "... nothing, but hoping that your sandals will fit"?

5 A. Sandals. That's a standing joke, by the way, sorry.

6 Q. I think she refers to somebody else having white ones?

7 A. My sister [REDACTED] got white sandals.

8 Q. Was that a sister --

9 A. My sister [REDACTED]. She's deceased now, but ...

10 Q. Then she says:

11 "How are you always getting on. Just you ask at
12 [I think this would be Mrs ^{ESU} [REDACTED]] if I can write to
13 you more oftener, also if I could see you any time, at
14 least any Saturday, as I am working at [REDACTED] ..."

15 A. I think that must be a farmer, area, I think you call
16 it.

17 Q. ... where your uncle is. Everybody sends their love."

18 Then she says somebody:

19 " ... is outside blowing bubbles along with
20 [somebody else]. How are you getting on at school?"

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. "You used to be a clever little lad. You don't have any
23 photographs you could send mam on. I would be more than
24 delighted. Have you been at any picnics or parties.
25 I do wish you all the very best. Be a good boy and mam

1 is dying to see you again. God bless."

2 A. God bless, aye.

3 Q. She says:

4 "[Somebody] is going to Aberdeen next week for her

5 holidays [overspeaking else] from New Byth is staying

6 here for a week or two ..."

7 A. My granny and grandad stayed at New Byth, I believe.

8 That's a wee village outside Turriff, where I was born.

9 Q. Right, okay.

10 Then she says:

11 "I don't know what kind of holiday weather you are

12 having but it really hasn't been too good here, now do

13 drop me a line darling, it will be so good to hear from

14 you, just ask Mrs ESU if she can do so and let me

15 know how you are getting on. Here's wishing you all the

16 very, very best. Lots of love from Mam [and I think

17 your sister]."

18 A. I never got it.

19 Q. And you never --

20 A. No, I ...

21 LADY SMITH: That would have been your ninth birthday,

22 I think?

23 A. Oh yes, probably, aye.

24 MS INNES: Then if we can look on to a couple of things,

25 sorry, MOC-000000024.

1 A. Oh yes.

2 Q. This is a letter I think again from 1958 from the
3 children's officer. If we just scroll down a little,
4 I think we can see it's from the children's officer.

5 A. Aye, yes.

6 Q. To your mother.

7 A. I have this also, yes, I have, aye.

8 Q. This from Mr FPS, he says:

9 "Dear madam, I was visiting your son recently and
10 was shown a letter dated 26 July which you wrote to him
11 requesting him to write you often and to ask
12 Mrs ESU for her consent to allow you to visit him
13 from time to time.

14 "Mrs ESU is rather perturbed about this as it
15 has an upsetting influence on the boy. I would
16 appreciate it very much if in future you would address
17 your queries to me so that I can deal with the matter.

18 "In regard to visits to your son, I am prepared to
19 deal with these on a limited scale. Of course your
20 request for a visit should be forwarded to me."

21 A. What a man. What a man, hey? Denied me my own mother.
22 The children's officer denied me any contact with my own
23 mother. How dare he? Hope he rots in hell. Sorry.

24 Q. This is another letter that you only discovered in 2017
25 when you obtained the records; is that right?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. I think that -- again just staying with this issue of
3 not seeing your mother, we can see what happened there
4 with the letter and we know about the time that she
5 turned up to the house?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Other than that, when were you able to see your mother
8 again?

9 A. Never. I never got to see her until I was a big boy.

10 Q. Sorry?

11 A. I never got to see my mother during my childhood until
12 I was a big boy and I met her by chance. I must have
13 been 26 or 25 and I got a bus down to Fraserburgh where
14 she stayed and I met this woman in a shop and
15 I recognised her face and she recognised me, so that's
16 when I first met my mother after all these years. So
17 even when I first met my mother I still couldn't
18 comprehend that's my mum, because that's what I'd been
19 told.

20 Q. Were you able to form any kind of relationship with your
21 mother after --

22 A. No, no, no, no. Well, I (unclear) I did try, but see
23 I couldn't have got my -- every time I got my mother, my
24 statement says, I had kids myself, my mother would
25 cuddle my kids, her grandchildren, and I thought you

1 bitch, you could have cuddled me, because they told me
2 my mother hated me. Oh, that hurt me.

3 Q. So all the time --

4 A. It wasn't her blame.

5 Q. Sorry?

6 A. It wasn't her blame.

7 Q. All the time that you knew your mother as an adult, you
8 hadn't seen your records and you didn't know that she'd
9 tried to contact you?

10 A. No, no, not until 2017.

11 Q. And I think your mother had died by that time; is that
12 right?

13 A. That very -- it was not very long afterwards when she
14 died, aye, that's right.

15 Q. I think you feel angry, I think, that the council didn't
16 share -- not only were you not allowed contact at the
17 time --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- but you didn't get access to your records?

20 A. No, no, no, they stole it, and stole my life, stole my
21 life. Even my father, I was told my father's name in
22 2017. Well, he died in 1992.

23 Q. So you lost the opportunity to see him?

24 A. Of course.

25 Q. Or find him?

1 A. Ever, yeah.

2 Q. I'd like to move to asking you a little bit more about
3 the abuse that you suffered in the ESU home, if
4 that's okay.

5 A. Yeah, yeah, no bother, yeah.

6 Q. If we look, please, at page 6 of your statement, and
7 paragraph 32?

8 A. Okay, yeah.

9 Q. You talk there about abuse and you go on to speak about
10 abuse that you suffered at the hands of Mrs ESU's
11 daughter JCW?

12 A. This is where, thank you.

13 Q. You tell us, I think, that she hit you and battered you
14 on a regular basis?

15 A. Aye. Well, "hit" was a soft words, maybe I was
16 "battered" every day, to get the words correct.

17 Q. You say that at paragraph 34 and you say that she would
18 hit you essentially with anything that came to hand?

19 A. Oh aye. Many times I'd take a brush over my back or
20 a poker by the fireside, or a lump of coal under the
21 table, and kick my bare feet and pull my hair and throw
22 me against the wall, and then I'd run under the table to
23 get protection and then she'd kick me to a lump of coal,
24 and effing and blinding all the time and I was screaming
25 as I would, but hey ho, that was my life.

1 Q. You say that I think you already said in your evidence
2 that Mrs ESU would sometimes watch when this was --
3 A. Oh, she watched -- every time JCW beat me up, which
4 was almost every night, Mrs ESU was always there
5 watching her. There was one time my mother ESU in
6 the doors the kind of door the council house, so a cloak
7 where we came the coats and wherever and jackets, my
8 mother had a belt in there, a thick leather belt and
9 JCW was kicking me and punching me, she would say,
10 "Mum, go for a belt", so Mrs ESU would go for the
11 belt and then go, "There you go, JCW get into him".
12 She was producing ammunition and JCW was just firing
13 it, firing it. But she herself never touched me, but
14 JCW made sure she did.
15 LADY SMITH: Just to be clear, JCW was an adult?
16 A. Oh aye.
17 LADY SMITH: As you've told us the youngest child of
18 Mrs ESU was about 16/17 --
19 A. I was --
20 LADY SMITH: -- years older than you; is that right?
21 A. Well, I'd be eight year old when I first went there, so
22 assuming that was age.
23 LADY SMITH: So she could have been late 20s, 30 odd?
24 A. Must have been, must have been, must have been.
25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS INNES: So she was doing this, I think you say it was on
2 a regular basis. And you've talked about these reports
3 that you got home from school.
4 A. Oh aye.
5 Q. You said you would give them to Mrs ESU
6 Mrs ESU would give them to her daughter --
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. -- and then what would happen?
9 A. Oh, I knew what happened. There was a battering.
10 There's no question. She would be slapping your
11 backside and slapping your -- it was a battering. A big
12 time battering. Major thump, oh.
13 Q. You tell us at paragraph 36 that one of the older
14 daughters who was married sometimes -- or you say, "...
15 pulled her off me many a time"?
16 A. Yeah, I would say Mrs ESU's other daughter, older
17 than JCW, she was brilliant to me, she's dead,
18 now, also her husband, they were brilliant to me.
19 Because they knew JCW beat me up, so they come down
20 sometimes to visit their mum, I'm getting battered. So
21 said to JCW, "Come on, leave 'Mike' alone",
22 "How dare you interfere, you don't stay here, any
23 longer". So it was a family squabble because of me.
24 Then would take me out to a football match on
25 a Saturday and her husband, got me into football

1 by going with them, so I'd get my break from JCW .
2 I'd get my break. So I'd look forward to Saturday going
3 to a football match so I'd break away, one day I didn't
4 get a hiding, one day I didn't get beaten up. Wow, what
5 a bonus that was.
6 Q. They took you away on a Saturday to football?
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. And you also said that they would say to JCW to stop
9 it.
10 A. Oh aye. They were brilliant.
11 Q. Did they also tried to physically intervene and stop
12 her?
13 A. I think did, yeah, but ... JCW was evil.
14 Q. Do you know if beyond that did they tell Mr FPS what
15 was going on or not?
16 A. I wouldn't have think so, because they would be back
17 home by the time -- I think my mother was fly, because
18 she would ask Mr FPS to appear when nobody else was
19 in the house but JCW and me or even just me because
20 JCW was working, so no other people in the house, so
21 it was maybe a fly move to make sure there were no
22 witnesses to back me as today. That's the only thing
23 I can think about.
24 Q. Okay.
25 You also talk about a time about -- because JCW

1 got married while you were living there?

2 A. Yes, yes, yes.

3 Q. You say, I think, on at least one occasion that JCW

4 asked her husband to give you a thrashing?

5 A. Aye, no, he didn't thrash me. Just slapped me. He

6 didn't thrash me, gave me a slap because -- he's

7 protecting his wife, isn't he? Against me who's

8 a nothing. I mean just a wee boy.

9 Q. You talk about this at paragraph 37 where you say that

10 he did it once, but the second time the older sister

11 stopped him?

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 38 that this would happen

14 for anything at all.

15 A. Oh aye, anything at all. I'd say the word no and refuse

16 to do something, that was good enough for JCW to get

17 struck into me, "'Mike', go and fill the coal pail".

18 "No". Wham, that was it. I was actually scared to say

19 no, to do the consequences. She was one bitch. Sorry.

20 Q. You say that you were too scared to tell the social work

21 department, too scared to tell Mr FPS about what

22 was --

23 A. No, she just -- like everyone you're everyone else in my

24 day. We were just young kids. What are you about?

25 (unclear) you're only 16 years old. My mother, believe

1 her, didn't believe me. I'm a kid. We were nothing at
2 the time. Nothing. But we're here today. We are
3 something. I'm a man today. I'm not a wee boy to get
4 bullied any longer.

5 Q. You tell us in your statement about some of the things
6 that Mr FPS did.

7 A. Oh.

8 Q. You've already told us about being taken away from your
9 mother and how he behaved then. If we look at
10 paragraph 45, please, page 8.

11 A. Okay, yeah.

12 Q. You say he used to push you about.

13 "He threatened me and took hold of me and shook me
14 saying 'You'll go back into an orphanage if you
15 misbehave'."

16 A. Oh aye, another home worse than this one. Always
17 afraid. He could choose his words. Go back to
18 an orphanage or a home worse than this. He could choose
19 his words (unclear) you know exactly what's coming out
20 of his mouth the minute he walked in the door. Always
21 a threat. And he manhandled me and gave me a slap and
22 pushed me about.

23 Q. Okay, just bear with me a moment, 'Mike'. (Pause)

24 Did Mrs ESU also sometimes get the local police
25 officer to speak to you?

1 A. Yes, a Mr Grant, the police officer, across the road.
2 Lady Smith, there was a village [REDACTED] and we stayed
3 in -- [REDACTED] as I said in my statement and the police
4 station was across the road, just like here to there, so
5 when I did misbehave, now that JCW [REDACTED] had beaten me,
6 she's got PC Grant to come across to talk to me.
7 Q. I think we see some of that in your records, 'Mike'. If
8 we can look, please, at MOC-000000063, and at page 10,
9 please, we see an entry here which I think is from 1963?
10 A. Officer Taylor, yes, the police officer, that was
11 Bob Taylor, yeah.
12 Q. It says there, I think this is Mr FPS [REDACTED] speaking, or as
13 the writer:
14 "I took him to task for saying to mum that she was
15 well paid for keeping him. Mr Taylor, the local
16 constable, lives over the street and has spoken to [you]
17 on a number of occasions but he turns a deaf ear ..."
18 This is speaking about you?
19 A. Yeah, yeah.
20 Q. "... and it would appear that he has paid little or no
21 attention to warnings given by myself from time to
22 time."
23 So Mr FPS [REDACTED]'s referring to his own warnings?
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. Then he talks about being convinced that you're beyond

1 the control of Mrs ESU "and shall indeed require
2 extra firm handling", that's what he says.

3 A. Oh aye.

4 Q. Then there's talk about institutional training "... that
5 might do him a world of good". Then there's reference
6 to Mrs ESU bringing out your good points:
7 "You're strictly honest about the house and is very
8 kind to children and animals."

9 A. I didn't change. I still -- I still haven't changed.

10 Q. I think we see elsewhere in your records reference to
11 Mr FPS saying that he would give you a severe talking
12 to?

13 A. Oh aye.

14 Q. Or threatening you to go back to a home?

15 A. Oh aye.

16 Q. If we go back to your --

17 A. That was many a time. It wasn't just a one off. It was
18 many a time he threatened me with it. Threatened me.

19 Q. Okay, just give me a moment.

20 A. I can't emphasise enough: That man was an evil
21 so-and-so.

22 Q. We'll leave the records, please, and go back to your
23 statement.

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, just for the notes, can you give us

1 the date of Mr FPS's narrative that you just read
2 from?

3 MS INNES: Yes, I can.
4 6 May 1963.

5 A. 1963, okay.

6 LADY SMITH: You'd have been about 14 then, is that --

7 A. About, yeah. Good. You're a good counter, better than
8 I am. Thank you.

9 MS INNES: I'd like to move on now, 'Mike', from talking
10 about the abuse that you suffered at the time, if that's
11 okay?

12 A. Yes, go for it, yeah, ask me any question. I'll do my
13 best to answer.

14 Q. If we can go on, please, to page 10 and paragraph 53.

15 A. Oh 50 -- oh, yeah.

16 Q. You say there that you reported the abuse, and I think
17 this is by JCW, to the police?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. When did you do that?

20 A. It would have been a while ago, maybe two years? More
21 than that, okay, I can't remember. A couple of years,
22 anyway.

23 Q. This statement was signed in 2017, so --

24 A. Maybe it was --

25 Q. It must have been before then.

1 A. Okay, well, I can't -- I don't want to tell lies,
2 I don't know exactly when I reported it, but I did.
3 Q. It was recently, as opposed to back --
4 A. Because in Angus when I first got my papers from Moray
5 Council in 2017, records of abuse they admitted
6 I contacted Angus Police, CID, "Yes, 'Mike', good case
7 here, get a lawyer, but phone in Aberdeenshire CID",
8 because I was born in Turriff, so I know up there, so
9 I contact them, their CID says again, "Yes, a good case,
10 forward it to Moray Council, Moray CID". I contacted
11 them. Well, JCW brother [REDACTED] was alive at the time,
12 he's dead now, in the last couple of months, but JCW
13 and [REDACTED], a woman phoned me, "We've questioned two
14 people in mind and they've told me ..." Told lies,
15 never laid a finger on me. And the CID, that woman said
16 to me if I was ever to phone JCW and call her
17 a liar, they would come and arrest me. I said, "How
18 dare you? Arrest me?" I said she's a liar. But I had
19 to live with it and I still am today. Until now, this
20 is my day.
21 Q. From what you say there and what you tell us in your
22 statement, I think before you went to the police, you
23 had spoken to JCW directly about the --
24 A. Aye.
25 Q. -- abuse that you'd suffered?

1 A. Uh-huh uh-huh uh-huh. I was wrong, but I just couldn't
2 help myself.

3 Q. How did you contact her?

4 A. I just phoned, I just phoned.

5 Q. What did you say when you phoned her?

6 A. Oh, (unclear) don't want to tell lies, I just said, "You
7 remember the day you beat me up" type of thing and
8 again, "Oh, I never touched you". God, how dare she.
9 She walks the streets like, well, look at me.

10 Q. So you phoned her and you asked her about it?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And she denied it?

13 A. Oh.

14 Q. Did you ever speak to her on any other occasion about
15 what she'd done?

16 A. No, no, no, no, no, no, I left it, because I know
17 this -- my time would come.

18 Q. Then you say that you went to the police, you gave
19 a statement to the police, and the police told you that
20 they had spoken to JCW .

21 A. Yeah, that was over the phone, yeah.

22 Q. They told you that she had denied the allegations that
23 you'd made?

24 A. Yeah, as she would. As she would.

25 Q. Then I think they said to you on the phone that you

1 weren't to contact her --

2 A. Aye, or call her a liar was the words they used, "Don't

3 you dare phone JCW, 'Mike', or call her a liar. If

4 you do, we'll come and arrest you". And I says you --

5 don't want to make a swear. Thank you.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 A. How dare they.

8 Q. That was what the police told you at the time?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Since then, have you ever had any contact with the

11 police about --

12 A. I did try to phone back, after I let things live for

13 a minute, but I couldn't remember that lady's name, so

14 I did try and phone, once we got this ball rolling,

15 I phoned the CID in Elgin and I got a man and he told me

16 the woman's name, I still forget it, but anyway.

17 Q. Beyond that, you've never heard anything?

18 A. Oh no, no, no, no, no, no.

19 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 54 that certainly at the

20 time you didn't report the abuse that you were suffering

21 to the social work department?

22 A. No, no, no.

23 Q. And you say that you were too scared?

24 A. Of course, aye.

25 Q. Now you --

1 A. Because I knew the council were prepared to do it.
2 I know that -- if Mr FPS moved, I knew what the
3 council would do to me. So I was scared to speak to me.
4 Oh, we'll beat you up again, pal. So I was scared.
5 I was under their control. They were in control of my
6 head. I hate being controlled.

7 Q. You speak in the bottom half of this page, so paragraph
8 55 to begin with, you say there that you did have some
9 contact with JCW, so presumably up until the time
10 that you got married when you were still living with
11 Mrs ESU, and then -- so you carried on having some
12 contact with JCW after that?

13 A. Oh yes, I always had -- I had daily contact with her.
14 I had daily contact.

15 Q. You say that you asked her for advice on decisions that
16 you wanted to make?

17 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

18 Q. Given the way that she behaved towards you when you were
19 a child, why --

20 A. Yes, that's --

21 Q. -- did you continue to contact her?

22 A. I don't know, but you'll probably see in my witness
23 statement Paula Hamilton, and she's just like you and me
24 and Lady Smith, asking me questions, and she says that
25 is normally what a child would do, to go to that abuser

1 for approval. Because I knew if I did something wrong,
2 like I refused do anything, JCW would beat me. So
3 I said, "JCW I have met such-and-such, I'm going
4 (unclear) is that okay with you?" She would say "yes"
5 or "no", and if she said no I still did it, but I still
6 asked her advice. The psychiatrist said people who are
7 abused do, so I don't know if that's an answer.

8 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 57 that we can see,
9 so you'd -- the Paula Hamilton that you mentioned there
10 is a psychiatrist?

11 A. Yes. She's brilliant, brilliant. It says here that's
12 what -- aye.

13 Q. You then say at the bottom of this page:
14 "I spoke to her in the street and asked her why she
15 used to beat me all the time."

16 A. Oh aye.

17 Q. And she said "Beat you, I could have killed you,
18 FEP, many a time".

19 A. Many a time. Many a time she told me the same story,
20 I was trying to get into her, let her know I was hurting
21 but I didn't want to get too much, didn't want to get
22 involved with police because other things, so I didn't
23 trust the police after they tell don't phone them. But
24 JCW always said, "Hit you? I could have killed you many
25 a time". And that was her actual words.

1 Q. So this is a --
2 A. And my God she could have killed me, she could have
3 killed me if [REDACTED] had not taken her off of me, if I'm
4 honest, she could have killed me, no problem, and she
5 loved it. Loved it. Like a wee rag doll.
6 Q. Sorry?
7 A. I was a wee rag doll to her. She loved beating me up.
8 Q. I think that -- so what I wanted to ask you about
9 here --
10 A. Sorry.
11 Q. -- was that you spoke to her on the street. This is
12 a conversation that you had on the street?
13 A. Uh-huh.
14 Q. And I just want to understand, you've talked about
15 phoning her up when you've contacted the police?
16 A. Uh-huh, uh-huh ...
17 Q. When was this time when you've spoken to her on the
18 street? Was it years ago or was it more recently?
19 A. No, it was years ago. (Unclear) seven or eight years,
20 maybe more. It (unclear) time I phoned her, no.
21 Q. On that occasion that she met you on the street, you say
22 that her exact words were that she could have killed
23 you?
24 A. Oh aye. She was honest. She would have killed me.
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Many a night she was beating me up I was screaming, as
2 you would at that age. But she loved it, loved the
3 feeling of it.

4 Q. If we can just deal with a couple of things in relation
5 to JCW's response or potential response to --

6 A. Oh aye, aye, I know what's coming. She's an angel.

7 Q. We might hear evidence from JCW during the course of
8 this case study.

9 A. Okay, fine.

10 Q. I'd just like to put some things to you that we might
11 hear evidence about, okay?

12 A. This has made my day, yeah, this has made my day. To
13 contact her. This is what I'm here for. I want her.

14 Q. Okay, well, if I can just ask you a couple of things
15 about what we might hear from her. We might hear
16 evidence from her that you had a good relationship.
17 I take it you would disagree with that?

18 A. Oh, I do. I was scared, I was scared of her. Scared of
19 her. Good relation? Scared of her. Even -- if she
20 walked in the door now I'd still be scared of her,
21 because I know what she's capable of doing. I know
22 she's an old woman, but I knew what she could do

23 Q. She might give evidence that, for example, you kept in
24 touch and that your husband --

25 A. Her husband.

1 Q. Her husband helped you get a job on the oil rigs.
2 A. Yeah, because he worked the rigs also.
3 Q. Is that right?
4 A. That's correct, yeah.
5 Q. We might hear her evidence that you were treated the
6 same as she and her siblings were?
7 A. Aye, okay.
8 Q. Is that something you'd agree with or disagree with?
9 A. Well I won't say yes to that one, I'd say a big no. No
10 way. She's a chancer.
11 Q. Then she might deny that abuse took place.
12 A. Of course she will, of course she will. She's evil.
13 I can't emphasise that enough.
14 Q. Right. So I'd just like to move on to a couple of final
15 things.
16 At paragraph 70 of your statement at page 13, you
17 talk there I think in a bit more detail about trying to
18 get your records --
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. -- and the difficulties that you had?
21 A. Paragraph 71 you're at? Paragraph 71?
22 Q. Paragraph 71.
23 A. Yeah, I've got you.
24 Q. You talk there about a Susan McLaren. Did she work for
25 Moray Council?

1 A. Yeah, she was the children's officer, head of that
2 department. I can't remember her proper title, but ...
3 Q. And then you said -- I think you say over the page that
4 ultimately somebody called Kathy Henwood assisted you?
5 A. Yeah, that was -- yeah. Between that and Susan McLaren,
6 my records, they say we don't know anything about you,
7 FEP, all we knew you were a foster, hadn't got
8 a clue about you. So me, I'm persistent, I'll phone
9 again. So I phoned the next day, and this is not here,
10 the this name. I phoned the next day and I got her
11 second in command I believe which was a guy called
12 Lawrence Findlay, he said, oh, I believe you phoned
13 yesterday, spoke to Susan. I said yes. I'll tell you
14 the same thing, don't know a thing about you. Put down
15 the phone. So persistent as I am, following day I tried
16 again and I got a Kathy Henwood, in the third line of
17 the chain. So she said 'Mike', come up to Elgin, so
18 I drove from Moray, I drove up to Elgin, went into
19 a room, the three of us, "'Mike', there's your records".
20 That was 2017, I knew my father. I knew my sisters.
21 They admitted they abused me. They admitted I was this
22 and that. Oh. You know the rest.
23 Q. Okay.
24 Then just finally, 'Mike', I'd like to ask you if
25 you think that there are things that we can learn from

1 the experience that you went through, maybe about --
2 I don't know whether you have any thoughts about foster
3 carers or you've talked a bit about the accommodation,
4 for example --
5 A. Yeah, aye.
6 Q. -- and that wasn't appropriate?
7 A. Well (unclear) through.
8 Q. That might be something that we might be able to learn?
9 A. Yeah, yeah, aye.
10 Q. You've talked again about your relationship or lack of
11 relationship --
12 A. Yeah, right.
13 Q. -- with Mr FPS, the social worker.
14 A. Oh, I think there's maybe people, foster people maybe
15 check out before you put a kid with them. Check their
16 background. I can't find the words I'm trying to use,
17 but you know what I'm saying. Check their background
18 before kids are putting in. These were children's
19 officers, I assume they're (unclear) these days, but by
20 God was Mr FPS an animal, an animal, sorry, that's
21 the only word I can describe him. Simply one animal,
22 bleep, bleep, bleep.
23 Q. It's not just foster carers and their accommodation and
24 suchlike that needs checking --
25 A. Aye.

1 Q. -- but the people that are social workers, they need to
2 be properly checked is what you're saying?
3 A. Aye, aye, I think so.
4 Q. Is there anything else that you've thought about that
5 might be something that we should learn from your
6 experience?
7 A. No, no, no. Actually, to be honest with you, I didn't
8 come here to do that to you, to think how you should run
9 your business. I'm only hear to answer your questions
10 about mine. So I can't -- I can't tell you what to do
11 and I don't know what the future could be, but this is
12 my part. This is my future now. I'm that size now.
13 I'm not a wee boy. As (unclear) says, I'm the father of
14 that wee boy. I'll look after him. Come on, son. I'll
15 look after him.
16 Q. I think that's --
17 A. I want the best for that wee boy and I'm that wee boy.
18 I'm getting angry, Lady Smith, I'm getting angry now.
19 Q. I think that's why you found it important to come
20 forward --
21 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
22 Q. -- and share your experience with us.
23 A. Yeah.
24 MS INNES: Okay, thank you, 'Mike'. I don't have any more
25 questions for you.

1 A. Okay, thank you.

2 MS INNES: There's no outstanding applications, as far as

3 I am aware, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: Can I check whether there are any outstanding

5 applications for questions?

6 'Mike', I have no further questions for you. I just

7 want to thank you very much for engaging --

8 A. You're welcome, you're welcome, you're welcome, you're

9 welcome.

10 LADY SMITH: -- with us the way you have done with your

11 written statement and now you have really made your

12 evidence come alive by --

13 A. Cheers thank you, I have waited long enough for this

14 day. Thank you for giving me the chance to be here

15 today, Lady Smith, and all you guys here. Thank you.

16 LADY SMITH: Well, you've helped me, you've helped me learn

17 and I'm really grateful for that.

18 A. I'm honoured, honoured, I am. I'm touched. I'll be

19 crying, but anyway, I'm getting emotional now. This has

20 made my day.

21 LADY SMITH: I can let you go.

22 A. Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: We take the lunch break now?

25 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady, we have another witness at

1 2 o'clock.

2 LADY SMITH: Very well.

3 We'll do that and before I rise, just to flag up
4 that 'Mike' mentioned some names that are covered by my
5 general restriction order, his foster mother,
6 Mrs ESU, her three children, JCW and
7, and also his own sister I think was mentioned at
8 one point as well, so they can't be repeated
9 outside this room.

10 Thank you all very much and I'll sit again at

11 2 o'clock.

12 (12.46 pm)

13 (The luncheon adjournment)

14 (2.00 pm)

15 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. We have another witness ready,
16 have we?

17 (Pause for technical reasons)

18 LADY SMITH: All good, thank you very much indeed.

19 As we were, Ms Innes, let's try again.

20 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness is 'Linda'. We have
21 not been able to recover any records which would confirm
22 who was responsible for 'Linda's' care. However, her
23 own understanding is that it would be South Lanarkshire
24 Council. I understand that she, through her solicitors,
25 has recovered some redacted records. She certainly

1 speaks in her statement about going to see
2 a Ms McKendrick in an office in Hamilton and we served
3 section 21 notices on South Lanarkshire Council and
4 Glasgow City Council, because they hold archives for the
5 earlier period, but without success to date.

6 However, it does appear that the responsible
7 authority is likely to be South Lanarkshire.

8 'Linda' was first in Smyllum and part of her
9 statement was read in previously under the pseudonym
10 'Alison' on Day 30.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

12 'Linda' (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: 'Linda', before I hand over to Ms Innes, just
14 let me explain a couple of things. You have a red
15 folder there that has your written statement in it, the
16 one you signed, but we'll also show you parts of your
17 statement up on the screen in front of you as we go
18 through your evidence.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Can I just assure you, I know that doing what
21 you're about to do isn't easy, and giving evidence about
22 anything in this sort of setting is hard, and it's
23 particularly hard where what we need to ask you about is
24 your own life, your past, and particularly your
25 childhood. I do understand that that can be tough, and

1 indeed sometimes people's emotions can take them by
2 surprise. That's perfectly all right.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 LADY SMITH: What I would ask is you let me do anything
5 I can do to help. If you have, for example, any
6 questions, or if you want a break or just a pause,
7 that's all right.

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: You let me know what will work for you. If it
10 works for you, it'll work for me.

11 A. Okay.

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

14 A. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

16 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

17 Questions from Ms Innes

18 MS INNES: Now, 'Linda', we understand that you were born in
19 1949. Is that right?

20 A. Yes, that's right.

21 Q. We have a copy of your statement. We give it the
22 reference WIT.001.001.2132 and it's coming up on the
23 screen in front of you.

24 If I can go to the final page, page 34, you say
25 there that you have no objection to your statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. You
2 believe the facts stated in the witness statement are
3 true, and you signed it on 21 August 2017. Is that
4 right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. I think you've had a look over your statement again
7 before giving evidence today?

8 A. Yes, I did. Just last night.

9 Q. Okay. Can I take you back to the start of your
10 statement, please, and you tell us a little bit about
11 what you understand of your early life. I think you
12 were taken into care about the age of two and a half; is
13 that right?

14 A. That's right, yes.

15 Q. If we go over the page to page 2 and paragraph 8, you
16 talk there about your aunt having spoken to the welfare
17 officer, Ms McKendrick.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So I think that you'd been in the care of your mother,
20 but then your mother had perhaps given you to her
21 sisters to see if they could look after you; is that
22 right?

23 A. Well, they wanted to take me on, but my mother didn't
24 want them to --

25 Q. Right.

1 A. -- as far as I know.

2 Q. And the welfare officer --

3 A. Ms McKendrick.

4 Q. -- Ms McKendrick said that your aunt couldn't take you

5 on either because she had two children of her own?

6 A. Yes, that was my aunt [REDACTED], but also my aunt [REDACTED], who

7 lived down in Nottingham. She actually came up to see,

8 try and talk to my mother about taking me on. This is

9 what I'm led to believe, yeah.

10 Q. You then went into Smyllum Park Orphanage, we

11 understand?

12 A. Yes. That was when I was -- two and a half, I was two

13 or something. My mother had actually left me in

14 a hospital in London --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- and came back without me.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. Seemingly there was a bit of a hullabaloo and I got

19 transferred from London to Coventry --

20 Q. Right.

21 A. -- to somewhere there. And I think after a while

22 Ms McKendrick, my welfare officer, she actually came and

23 got me and brought me back to Scotland.

24 Q. Okay. You know that part of your statement has already

25 been read out --

1 A. Yeah, I realise that, yeah.

2 Q. -- in relation to Smyllum, but I do want to ask you
3 about something that you tell us that happened at
4 Smyllum in relation to your first meeting with the
5 EHL-EHM who went on to foster you.

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. If we go on to page 8 and starting at paragraph 40.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. There's a section there where you talk about meeting
10 prospective foster carers. Can you tell us what
11 happened?

12 A. Yes. What happened that day in the orphanage, mother
13 superior came and got me and took me to my dormitory and
14 she changed me from my wee black dress and pinafore, my
15 uniform, and put me into this blue little scratchy
16 dress, which was so annoying.

17 But anyway, she took me from there to parts of the
18 orphanage that I'd never seen before and then we arrived
19 at this double doors, wooden doors. I can still see it
20 in my mind today. And before we entered mother superior
21 went right into my face and said to me not to speak
22 unless I was spoken to.

23 So then we went in there. The doors opened and
24 there was all these children I'd never seen before, with
25 pretty little dresses and ribbons in their hair, and

1 I knew they weren't from the orphanage, I'd never seen
2 them before. Besides, we all looked the same, we wore
3 black and white pinafores and a bowl haircut.

4 But anyway, what happened then, I was put in the
5 middle of them all and then just after that, when they
6 got us all sorted, the doors opened again and all these
7 people came flooding in. It was prospective parents.
8 And they came up and I saw them looking at all the
9 children that was lined up.

10 They came to me -- I mean, I didn't know what was
11 happening. Nobody explained anything to me. I was just
12 so unaware of what was going on. And when they got to
13 me, they were looking through my hair, in my ears, in my
14 teeth, asked me to open my mouth. It just -- I called
15 it a cattle market. I still do call it that. It was
16 just awful.

17 So all the wee pretty ones with their pretty dresses
18 with ribbons in their hair got taken away and I was left
19 standing. And then was my foster parents, who became my
20 foster parents, came and took me and said, "Come with
21 me, darling", and took me out to the front door to where
22 was the first time I met Ms McKendrick and she was
23 standing there waiting for us with a chauffeur limousine
24 and taking us away in that to go for a holiday weekend
25 with them, just a kind of tryout.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Sorry, I know I'm sorry I went on there.

3 Q. That's fine.

4 LADY SMITH: Don't apologise. I do understand, as

5 I explained earlier, this isn't easy. All right?

6 A. Okay, then. Right.

7 MS INNES: So they were taking you for a trial weekend?

8 A. A trial weekend. They took me to where they lived

9 and -- still not knowing why this was all going on.

10 Nobody ever explained anything.

11 So I remember getting there and right away my mum --

12 I called them my mum and dad because I was brought up

13 with them -- gave me a bag of sweets. I'd never

14 experienced that in my life, a bag of sweets all to me.

15 Because in the orphanage you got one sweet a day and

16 that was it, you know, and I couldn't believe this.

17 So anyway, then at that point I asked if I could see

18 my dormitory, I didn't know what a bedroom was, so

19 a dormitory, so they took me to see my room and that was

20 that. I had a really pleasant weekend. I'll always

21 remember it. Because the very next day my mum left me

22 with my dad and went out and bought me a new dress

23 because the blue scratchy dress was irritating my skin

24 and brought me a doll back to play with, which was

25 lovely because we weren't allowed to play with toys in

1 the orphanage. They just didn't allow it.

2 And I always remember my mum gave me a ring,
3 a little signet ring from when she was a wee girl and it
4 fitted me perfectly. I was so proud of this and I wore
5 this all the time I was there. So -- I mean that was
6 always in my mind, that, how nice it was.

7 And then when we went back, I was taken back in the
8 big chauffeur-driven car with Ms McKendrick. When
9 I went back, they took the dress off me and the ring off
10 me, the doll off me, and it was never to be seen ever
11 again. So that was the weekend.

12 Q. That was the weekend when you first met the EHL-EHM ?

13 A. The EHL-EHM .

14 Q. You say, I think, that there was then a time between
15 that and then you going to live with them.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I don't think you know how long that was?

18 A. No, I've no idea how long it was in between. No sense
19 of time in there.

20 Q. Do you know roughly how old you were when you first
21 met --

22 A. I was maybe about six, six and a half. I'm not too
23 sure.

24 Q. Had you started school when you were at the orphanage?

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 14, paragraph 69,
2 this is where you tell us about then going to live with
3 the EHL-EHM and I think you were taken there again by
4 Ms McKendrick, were you?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. If we maybe go back to paragraph 68 on the preceding
7 page?

8 A. About 69 is that.

9 LADY SMITH: 68's coming. There it is.

10 A. Thank you.

11 MS INNES: You talk there about the things that -- you say
12 you remember the day that you left Smyllum for good.
13 You were taken by a nun and you were put in the blue
14 scratchy dress again.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You mention that you didn't get the doll, the dress and
17 the ring that she had given you before.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And you said you remember that you were crying when you
20 realised --

21 A. Yeah, it was just the fact that my mum had brought it
22 up, because she'd saw me with this blue dress again, and
23 she asked where the dress was that I'd come back with,
24 and they said, "We don't know where it is".

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And then she asked about the ring and the doll, and it
2 was just dismissed. They didn't know where it was. My
3 mum was quite angry with that.

4 Q. Then you say that you were taken home in Ms McKendrick's
5 chauffeur-driven car?

6 A. Again, yeah, and that was for good.

7 Q. If we go on to the top of the next page, please,
8 paragraph 69, you talk about how old they were.

9 A. How old they were, yeah.

10 Q. So you know that your mum was born in 1923.

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. And your dad in 1913.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you say you were in their care for around 14 years.
15 I think you -- from the time that you arrived, you
16 stayed with them until you were maybe 19?

17 A. Yes, that's right, that's when I got married.

18 Q. So after the time you'd left care?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You say at paragraph 70 you were well aware that they
21 weren't your parents?

22 A. Yeah. I mean they told me right from the start that --
23 well, I knew I was aware of coming out of the home and
24 I knew they weren't my -- my proper mum and dad. And
25 they did speak about things like that, you know, about

1 me being in there.

2 Q. You say that you remember your mum telling you how
3 disgusted she was at the cattle market day at Smyllum?

4 A. Yes, she did tell me about that, and it just refreshed
5 my memory. I've never forgot that anyway, you know.

6 Q. Okay. You go on at the bottom of this page, so
7 paragraph 72, you start telling us about various houses
8 that I think you lived in. Initially you stayed in
9 a council house outside Larkhall; is that right?

10 A. Yes, that was in a place called [REDACTED]. Right next
11 to that was a village called [REDACTED] which my foster
12 father came from. He was born and bred there.

13 Q. And then you -- sorry.

14 A. Yeah, we were in there until I was about nine. I was in
15 [REDACTED] right up until I was about nine, because
16 I remember when I was ten we had moved to a place in
17 Hamilton called [REDACTED] and the reason I know it
18 was -- I was ten was the time when Prince Andrew was
19 born and it was on the television. That's how I know
20 I was ten when I lived there. That was a farm that we
21 lived in there. It was very isolated and I had to walk
22 three miles to school every morning myself. My dad
23 couldn't take me because -- or my mum, because it was
24 too far. I used to set out really early in the morning
25 to get to school.

1 Q. Then you say that after you lived in [REDACTED], you
2 then can't remember all the moves in order, because --
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. -- you moved to some different farms?
5 A. Yeah. I think when we left there, that was in -- we
6 went to ... it was a place outside Strathaven. It
7 wasn't Chapelton, it was another place like that,
8 a little village. Again we lived on a farm that and it
9 was quite isolated and I had to walk to school there as
10 well.
11 I took -- I had no sense of timing how long we were
12 there, but I remember when we left there, we went to --
13 oh, [REDACTED] in -- outside Glasgow, [REDACTED], and
14 my dad got a job in the pits. He was a miner. And we
15 were there for a wee while as well.
16 Yeah. I don't think it was that long either.
17 Q. Okay.
18 A. I don't know. He was always moving job from place to
19 place. You know, he never seemed to settle in one
20 place.
21 Q. Okay.
22 A. One of the things that I missed telling you that
23 I should have told you was when we lived in [REDACTED]
24 before we moved, I started noticing my dad hitting my
25 mum, beating her up. That wasn't the first time I got

1 up and there was blood on the -- you know, the
2 paintwork, you know, the doors and things like that.
3 And it was then I started -- not long after that, he
4 started hitting me.

5 It was only when he had a drink in him, he was quite
6 fond of the drink. And thinking about it, I don't know
7 if that was why they kept moving jobs from place to
8 place. I don't know if the drink had anything to do
9 with that.

10 Q. Okay. You mentioned there that you became aware and you
11 say in your statement at a later point that you became
12 aware that your father was violent towards your mother?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And he was also hitting you as well at that time,
15 I think?

16 A. Yeah. That started when I was in -- I was in
17 [REDACTED], I must have been eight was the very first
18 time.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. It's okay, I'll be fine. What happened was I remember
21 this night, my dad came in drunk -- and, by the way, my
22 mum suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, so she had to
23 sleep in a bed on her own because she was in a lot of
24 pain with her knees and hands and her ankles, walking.
25 So she used to sleep in what was supposed to be my

1 bedroom and I slept with my dad. You know, I didn't
2 know any better than that.

3 And it was one night that it happened with my dad.
4 I just ... felt this ... burning pain and I was
5 screaming, I remember screaming, and my dad said to me,
6 "Don't you say anything, I'll sort this out, don't say
7 anything. If you say anything to your mum, you'll be
8 going back to the home".

9 My mum came running through because of the screaming
10 and asked what was wrong and he said, "She's just having
11 a bad dream". It was terrible. The pain was terrible.

12 It happened a few times after that as well. It was
13 in [REDACTED], that was the first. But then it
14 continued. It continued right up to ... I remember 14
15 or 15. And then ... I remember just shouting out one
16 day -- I think I started going off the rails a wee bit.
17 It was just all this.

18 I knew within myself, not so much when I was a kid
19 for the first time, but I knew by that age this wasn't
20 right, this was wrong. And I was always very shy as
21 a child as well. I think all this was all going on in
22 my head.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Linda', you said a moment ago that you knew by
24 that age this wasn't right, and then you said something
25 else.

1 A. Yes, when I was 14 --

2 LADY SMITH: Two questions. What sort of age were you?

3 A. 14 or 15.

4 LADY SMITH: 14. And you said something after telling me

5 that this wasn't right. Can you remember what it was

6 you were trying to explain?

7 A. The fact that my dad was raping me.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS INNES: You've explained, 'Linda', that right from the

10 very first house that you lived in at [REDACTED],

11 although the impression -- I think although maybe you

12 had the impression that you might have your own room, in

13 fact when you went to live with them it turned out that

14 your mum and dad slept in separate rooms.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. You say that -- and tell us in the statement, I think --

17 you had to share a bed with your father?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. For the whole time throughout all of these moves up

20 until I think you say that you moved into a house in

21 Blantyre?

22 A. Blantyre.

23 Q. Which you tell us at about paragraph 78.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Then I think you shared with bed with your mum; is that

1 right?

2 A. When -- when -- when we moved to the [REDACTED] house we
3 called it, that was, they let a lot of the rooms out and
4 we were the only one in there as a family. And when we
5 moved in there, it was such a tiny, tiny room, so tiny
6 you could hardly move in it, to be honest with you,
7 never mind three of us.

8 So when Ms McKendrick used to come out on her
9 visits, she was under the impression that small little
10 room was my bedroom, but it wasn't. It was all of our
11 bedrooms. I never had a bedroom or a bed to myself,
12 ever. It was awful.

13 But -- oh, I have lost track.

14 Q. Would it be okay if I ask you a little bit more about
15 the [REDACTED] house, just now, 'Linda'?

16 A. Yes, that's what I was meaning to tell you.

17 So what happened from there was that eventually we
18 got another room, which was much bigger, with a big bay
19 window in it. I mean it was an old-fashioned Victorian
20 house and it was really quite roomy, but we actually
21 started off in the smallest room in the house, but then
22 we got this big room. And where the big bay window was,
23 my mum put curtains across there and she had a bed in
24 there, and then we had a couch, a settee, that came down
25 and it went into a bed at night-time, and I still slept

1 with my dad then. I was in secondary school by then.

2 I think we moved there when I was about 12 or 13,

3 I'm not quite sure, but it was near enough that. And

4 things still went on.

5 Q. And your mum, you're saying that --

6 A. She knew.

7 Q. -- she was in the same room?

8 A. Well, I'm surmising. I think she must have heard things

9 and knew stuff was going on. She was only a curtain

10 away from where I was. Excuse me.

11 Q. That's okay.

12 A. My throat's dry.

13 Q. That's okay.

14 If I can just go back a little and ask about the

15 first house with the [REDACTED] where you had the wee

16 room. I think you tell us that the [REDACTED] had, at

17 paragraph 76, they had more than one house in the

18 avenue?

19 A. Yeah, that's right. There was one at the beginning of

20 the avenue and then you went up into an L shape and up

21 at the top of the avenue was where we lived. It was --

22 it was lovely. I think it had been like a big mansion

23 at one time. A really lovely house.

24 Q. You say that the other house was one where there were

25 families.

1 A. It was all families in there. Small children that lived
2 in it. But --
3 Q. And -- sorry.
4 A. None of the [REDACTED] family lived in that one, just the
5 one at the top of the avenue.
6 Q. Okay. So you lived in this other house, in which you
7 initially had a small room and then did you get another
8 room in the same house?
9 A. Yeah.
10 Q. Yes.
11 A. But we were all just in the one bedroom again.
12 Q. Yes. You tell us that it wasn't other families that
13 were lodging in this house?
14 A. No, it was lodgers, proper lodgers. Single men.
15 Q. Okay.
16 A. And again, like, the bedroom that we were in, the room
17 above was the same size, so it got about four beds in it
18 for lodgers, and Mrs [REDACTED], she used to make meals
19 for them, things like that.
20 Q. Right.
21 A. Yeah. Are you going to ask me -- I know.
22 Q. Well, do you --
23 A. There was a time when I used to go shopping for them all
24 and asked them if they wanted anything from the shops,
25 some groceries and that, and I got to know everybody.

1 One of the lodgers ... tried to make a pass with me when
2 I was very young, I was about 14 as well. But I just
3 screamed and ran. I remember that nothing happened.

4 But also, Mrs [REDACTED] had a younger son. He was in
5 his late 20s, EHP [REDACTED]. He actually -- he actually
6 took epileptic fits, do you know?

7 Q. Mm-hmm.

8 A. I always remember seeing him in one, one day. But
9 anyway, my mum and dad went out this evening and -- with
10 Mrs [REDACTED] to the local pub, and I was left in there,
11 but I had went to the shops to get a comic and some
12 sweets and came back to watch the television. But on
13 the way up the avenue to go home, I knew somebody was
14 following me behind me and I looked around and it was
15 Mrs [REDACTED]'s younger son, EHP [REDACTED]. I knew he
16 seen me, but I was always wary of him, you know, just
17 never got a good feeling about him.

18 So anyway, I ran on up, went into the -- where we
19 lived, locked the door, and then I could hear the front
20 door closing and then he tapped my door and I think he
21 knew I was in there myself, and I says, "Mum and dad's
22 not in just now, but they'll be home soon", and he goes,
23 "Let me in to just speak to you, I need to speak to
24 you", and silly, I opened the door and he threw me down
25 on the ground in the room and I just screamed and

1 screamed and screamed. I knew what he was trying to do.
2 And I ran out the room. He ran out the room, because of
3 the noise of the screaming and what not, and he told me
4 never to tell my mum and dad, and if I told them, he
5 would kill me.

6 I was so frightened, I never did tell them. I never
7 did tell anybody about anything like that.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Excuse me.

10 Q. It's okay.

11 A. Yeah. And also a while -- there was a man in there
12 called Mr **EHQ**, I think it was **EHQ**, I'm not too
13 sure, one of the lodgers. He was a very well-educated
14 man. He had a very good job and I liked him, he was
15 a lovely man. He was -- he always smelt nice, do you
16 know what I mean, and things like that, and I would get
17 the odd piece of shopping for him, because I would
18 always get threepence for going to buy sweets.

19 But anyway, he used to come down and see my mum and
20 dad and I always remember he was right into the crystal
21 radio, you know the ones where you set it up, he sets it
22 up and gets in touch with people from all over the
23 world, do you know, and they would send cards back to
24 see -- they'd call -- you know, they picked him up on
25 his -- what is it, crystals, a crystal radio? I know it

1 was an old thing, but anyway, I got right interested in
2 that with him.

3 So then one of the times I went up to get some
4 shopping for him, to see if he needed shopping, he was
5 just all over me. It was terrible. That place was
6 horrible. And I was beginning to mature by then, do you
7 know what I mean?

8 Q. Did you feel that you were able or did you tell your mum
9 or Ms McKendrick?

10 A. I never told anybody.

11 Q. Okay. About what had --

12 A. I was too frightened. I was always so frightened. In
13 fact, I used to come out with my head down so I didn't
14 need to look at people, you know. That was it.

15 Q. You said that Ms McKendrick visited you. Did she visit
16 you at all the houses that you lived in?

17 A. Yes, she did. And she'd been to every one of them and
18 she used to come on a monthly visit and we always knew
19 when she was coming, always knew.

20 Q. How did you know?

21 A. They sent letters and my mum would tell me, "Oh,
22 Ms McKendrick's coming such-and-such, you'll be on your
23 best behaviour", and things like that. I was as quiet
24 as wee mouse, you'd never have known I was there. So we
25 always knew when she was there.

1 But I never ever remember speaking to Ms McKendrick
2 on my own. My mum was always there or someone was
3 always there. Do you know? I think one of the times
4 I wanted to tell her what was going on, and then
5 I thought no, no, I'll go back to the home. You know.
6 I was too frightened.

7 Q. You tell us in your statement at paragraph 83 on page 16
8 that you used to be sent to the welfare office to ask
9 for things.

10 A. Oh, that, that's a joke. Whenever I needed clothes,
11 whenever I needed new shoes or clothes or anything like
12 that, they would never buy me anything. There was
13 nothing, not even a pair of socks. So they would send
14 me in the bus away to Hamilton, even at a young age, you
15 know, and ask Ms McKendrick that I needed this and
16 I needed that. They would give a letter with me.
17 I needed this or I needed that.

18 And this particular time when I went in, it was
19 coming up for the first Sunday of May and in them days,
20 everybody always got dressed up for the first Sunday
21 in May. So I asked Ms McKendrick if I could have a new
22 coat and a hat to match, because when you went church,
23 when you went to chapel, you always had to wear
24 something on your head. So I got a new coat and a new
25 hat. And Ms McKendrick gave me a wee present of a wee

1 Mickey Mouse watch, so proud of this I was.

2 But when I got home with all the things, my dad took
3 it -- my dad's saying was, "I'm taking this to my
4 uncle's, we'll get it back before the first Sunday
5 in May". My uncle's, and my uncle's, he was referring
6 to the pawned ...

7 Q. The pawn shop?

8 A. That he pawned my clothes, my watch. Anything I ever
9 got that he didn't think I needed, whatever, he would
10 take it off me and take it into Hamilton and get money
11 for it for drink. And that happened a lot, a lot of the
12 times. I used to feel like a ragamuffin going to
13 school.

14 And there was times as well -- I don't know if you
15 want me to mention this, but I remember getting sent
16 home from school because I had nits in my hair, and
17 lice, and I had to stay off school because it was quite
18 bad.

19 I remember going home and I remember my mum laying
20 out a newspaper on the table and do you know the fine
21 bone combs, a silver, my mother and I used to, you know,
22 comb our hairs with it and it was terrible. The sheet
23 was covered. Covered.

24 LADY SMITH: Did she not explain to you that it's very
25 common for children to pick up nits in their hair at

1 school?

2 A. Yeah, I know, I had them all the time since I was --

3 since I was at my first school in [REDACTED] at Larkhall

4 to right through when I was a teenager, always had them.

5 MS INNES: You speak about this, 'Linda', at paragraphs 95

6 and 96 of your statement, and you say that the occasion

7 that you spoke about, I think, you were off school for

8 three or four weeks --

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. -- because of this. And you were in secondary school at

11 the time?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. So you talk about essentially being neglected --

14 A. Oh yeah. I know what you mean. My mum would never buy

15 me toothpaste. I always remember my mum and dad didn't

16 have their own teeth, they had false teeth. In fact,

17 half the times they never wore them. But they wouldn't

18 buy me toothpaste, so I had to clean my teeth with my

19 brush and soap. So I brushed my teeth with soap. And

20 I got so used to doing that, but it seemed to rot my

21 teeth. I always remember going to the school dentist,

22 the school had a dentist in it, and they kind of cared

23 for me quite well as far as my teeth went, and put

24 a gold filling in my teeth. That seemed to be the thing

25 of the time, a gold filling.

1 But that gold filling rotted my teeth and I think
2 that's why a lot of people stopped getting gold fillings
3 in their teeth. It was right at the front. And it
4 eventually rotted my teeth and by the time I was 20,
5 I lost all my teeth.

6 I don't tell anybody this, but I've got false teeth
7 myself now. At 20 years of age.

8 Q. As you said, you weren't given toothpaste at all.

9 A. No. I used to think when I was a teenager, I used to
10 think: do you know, if they could keep daylight off me,
11 I'm sure they would. They're so mean, so mean to me.
12 And yet -- oh, sorry, am I going on?

13 Q. No, it's okay. So we've covered the issue with the
14 nits, you were kept off school, and there was also the
15 issue with your teeth that you mention.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you think that anybody at school would have noticed?

18 A. Oh, they did.

19 Q. Did anybody speak to you about how things were at home?

20 A. Yeah, I remember she was my cookery teacher and I loved
21 her cookery classes. There was one day she had said to
22 me in front of the whole classroom, "'Linda', do you
23 never wash your neck?" And I -- I used to blush, I used
24 to go like that right away, and I said, "What do you
25 mean?" She said, "Your neck's filthy, do you never wash

1 yourself?"

2 Oh, it was so degrading. I remember running out the

3 classroom and I ran from there to the toilets and

4 I think it was paper towels we had and carbolic soap was

5 always there and I scrubbed my neck with these paper

6 towels. I always remember that. And I was crying

7 because I was so embarrassed because everyone in the

8 class heard. I was about -- I don't know, maybe 14

9 then. I was in secondary school.

10 And -- excuse me. And I never went back to the

11 classroom, I just ran home and I didn't tell the teacher

12 where I was going, I just ran. I was so embarrassed.

13 And then the next day when I came into the school

14 and she called for me and I told her what had happened.

15 She asked me what happened, where did I go. I said,

16 well, I was so embarrassed, I says, "And I was in such

17 a state I just went home, told my mum", and she said,

18 "I'm sorry I done that", because I remember her

19 apologising for that.

20 That's just one of the things. I mean, they should

21 have done that -- but to be perfectly honest with you

22 that was when we lived in [REDACTED] house. You

23 couldn't get hot water and I would have a bath in cold

24 water whenever I was going to have a bath. Cold water.

25 There was never any hot water. It was just it never ran

1 it, I don't know if it was immersion heater or -- it
2 just never ran hot water.

3 Q. So there was never hot water --

4 A. Oh, that was another thing. I don't ever remember my
5 mum washing my clothes as I got older. I used to maybe
6 forget to wash my ankle socks for going to school the
7 next day, so when I went up the stairs I would look
8 about for bits of soap that some of the lodgers had left
9 and I'd wash my socks at the basin in the toilet and
10 wring them out and put them on my feet and by the time
11 I went to school they were dry. It was things like
12 that. I used to wash my own shirt for school.

13 There was just never a routine or a normality. And,
14 you know, my boundaries, what I should be doing. If you
15 know what I mean.

16 Q. So your mum wasn't doing your washing or anything?

17 A. No, no, I done it myself. And even to this day I still
18 do hand washes.

19 Q. Just going back to the school, through all the schools
20 that you went to, you mentioned the issue with the
21 cookery teacher but nobody picked up or tried to ask you
22 if everything was okay at home?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Is that right?

25 A. My music teacher, because I loved music at school, and

1 she used to take me aside and say to me, "What's wrong
2 with you? Why are you so quiet? Why are you always --
3 you've always got your head down?" And of course
4 I couldn't tell her. I couldn't tell anybody what was
5 going on.

6 But I know -- I knew what was going on was bugging
7 me, it was getting to me. And she -- she kind of put
8 her wing around me, that teacher, Ms O'Neill. She was
9 lovely. It was nice to get some comfort sometimes and
10 somebody being nice to you and being able to talk to.
11 I was always, always a loner.

12 Q. You say that you were always a loner. Were you able to
13 make any friends during your childhood or --

14 A. No, no.

15 Q. Was that affected by the fact that you moved school
16 a lot?

17 A. I was so quiet. I don't think the kids wanted anything
18 to do with me because I was so quiet and I just used to
19 walk around the playground myself. It was awful. But
20 it was just I was so shy. Nobody taught me anything,
21 really. Nobody told me midnight stories or gave me
22 a hug or a kiss. Things like that never happened in
23 them days.

24 Q. I think you've told us about the various things that
25 happened to you and you mentioned earlier that your --

1 if we go on to page 23 and paragraph 127, you talk there
2 about having discovered you'd heard your mum and dad
3 arguing?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You've mentioned earlier that you saw paintwork covered
6 in blood.

7 A. Yeah, yeah. That was right.

8 Q. You mention that that's when he started hitting you.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you say that he used his hands but sometimes he used
11 a belt?

12 A. Yeah. It was mainly always his hand, but I remember
13 this night he hit me with his belt and he didn't realise
14 when he hit me with his belt, he hit me with the buckle.
15 And I've still got the mark on my head to this day. It
16 never ever went away. It's still there. But I mean
17 there wasn't any doctor or anything like that called,
18 but I remember it was bleeding forever so it kind of
19 healed itself. But the mark's still there when he hit
20 me with his belt. He just used to rip it off and just
21 hit me with it. Oh, it was awful. But this time when
22 he ripped it off, he hit me with the buckle and that was
23 where I got that.

24 But I got many a beating. His hands were like
25 leather. I always remember that. My mum used to hit me

1 with the EHL-EHM until you were 19, but you stopped
2 being under the care of the welfare office when you
3 turned --
4 A. 16.
5 Q. -- 16, you say.
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. You tell us about going to the office in Hamilton to see
8 Ms McKendrick before she signed you off?
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. Can you tell us about that meeting with Ms McKendrick,
11 please?
12 A. Yeah. I remember my mum told me that she had received
13 a letter from Ms McKendrick and that I had to go into
14 the office and speak with her as I was going to be out
15 of her care more or less.
16 I remember going in, she took me into her wee office
17 and sat me down and asked me was I happy with the
18 EHL-EHM and I said yes, I was fine, but I couldn't --
19 I couldn't -- I was even so shy even then to tell her
20 anything. But I remember her saying to me, "I'm
21 supposed to send you off with a wee bank book with some
22 money in it for you before you left our care", and she
23 says, "But there's nothing in your bank book", she says,
24 "because you were always sent in to get some clothes",
25 she says ... and they asked me at that point, "Did your

1 mum never buy things for you, clothes wise and things?"
2 I says, "No, they never, they were always strapped for
3 money and what have you".

4 So I remember her saying to me, "Well, we always
5 wondered about that", she says, "because it was quite
6 excessive" me coming in, but I just came in when my
7 parents told me to go in and get whatever it was
8 I needed.

9 But half the time I never seen the clothes after
10 that. And, you know, it was -- it was awful because
11 I used to always feel like a ragamuffin, do you know.
12 I never really had a lot. Never got much treats or
13 anything like that either.

14 But Ms McKendrick, I think she knew there was
15 something, but she never really asked me if anything --
16 was anything wrong in the household or anything like
17 that.

18 Q. Yes. So this was at the end of your time in care?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So prior to that, she hadn't questioned you about why
21 you were coming in and asking --

22 A. Never, never. And I think if maybe I had got a bit
23 closer with her and comfortable -- I was scared stiff of
24 her, to be perfectly honest with you. I think if she
25 got closer to me and was nicer to me, I might have said

1 something. I don't know. I don't know. I'm guessing.
2 I might have said something to her. But I just
3 couldn't.

4 Q. Okay.

5 You then go on to talk about your life after care.
6 I think if we go on to the top of page 30 at
7 paragraph 165, you talk there about your mum and dad
8 visiting you. Am I right in understanding that after
9 you left care and after you got married, you maintained
10 a relationship with your foster parents?

11 A. Yeah. They used to come and visit when I had my house
12 in [REDACTED] -- where I came from. And they'd visit on
13 a regular basis. I had my two girls by then. And to be
14 perfectly honest with you, they were really good to my
15 girls, and I couldn't understand this. But I could
16 never say anything or bring up the conversation. You
17 know, why did I never get these things? It was like
18 a competition at Christmas time between my
19 mother-in-law, my husband's mum, and them to see what to
20 get for my girls for their Christmas and it was loads of
21 things. I never got anything like that. I was quite
22 resentful about that.

23 And also the fact that I just felt I lost out on my
24 education a lot and I knew it was because of changing
25 school to school and things like that, and I really feel

1 I could have done better. Because as time went on
2 I really did well in my work, always did well. Always
3 wanted to -- always had in my mind if a job's worth
4 doing, it's worth doing really well. And I proved
5 myself in the workplace and won awards and different
6 things for the work that I did. I used to travel a lot
7 as well.

8 Q. You talk in the next paragraph at paragraph 166 about --
9 that you looked after your mum and dad as they got
10 older.

11 A. Oh yeah, as they got older, yeah. When the kids got up
12 a bit and they were at school, things like that, I would
13 have a full-time job, and on my day off I always went
14 down to them and did things for them. I even decorated
15 for them, laid carpets, done everything that I could for
16 them. You know, it was the only parents I knew.
17 I wasn't a vindictive person, never was.

18 But, you know, if they were living now, oh,
19 I would -- I would really have it out with them.
20 I'm sorry.

21 LADY SMITH: No, no, I'm interested in that, 'Linda'. What
22 in particular would you want to tell them?

23 A. I beg your pardon?

24 LADY SMITH: What particularly would you want to tell them
25 now?

1 A. You know, I wondered if my mum knew what was going on
2 with my dad. Things like that. And why they were so
3 mean to me all the time. I always remember, you know,
4 if we were having tea and things like that, my dad would
5 get a biscuit but I wouldn't. Things like that. You
6 know, the things kids want -- a wee chocolate biscuits,
7 and I never ever got any extras of anything.

8 And I always remember even with where the fireplace
9 was in [REDACTED] house, we had a fire in it and the
10 couch would be right in front of it and I would have
11 a seat behind the couch, I never got near the fire.
12 I was always frozen.

13 And things like that. I just felt they were -- just
14 mean, you know. But then how good they were to my
15 grandchildren -- to their grandchildren, my girls. They
16 were so good to them and the two girls loved them. But
17 they didn't know.

18 MS INNES: What had happened.

19 A. Never ever got, you know, a bedtime story, a hug,
20 a kiss. As we do with our own kids now. Just things
21 they didn't do then.

22 That was that.

23 Q. You talk at the bottom of this page from paragraph 169
24 onwards that your dad died after your mum and then
25 I think essentially at the time of his funeral, some of

1 his relatives --

2 A. Oh!

3 Q. -- had already emptied his house.

4 A. Yeah. My husband and the girls, we went on holiday, we

5 went on holiday down to -- and my dad had been ill in

6 hospital and we used to visit him every night after work

7 and it was quite a distance away. We used to visit him

8 all the time. But this time we wanted to go on holiday

9 and we went down to Nottingham to my aunt [REDACTED]s, my

10 real aunt, and we had a lovely time there.

11 But while we were there, we got a phone call from

12 the hospital to say that my dad was dying and, you know.

13 So we cut our holiday short and went back and when we

14 went back, my dad's house was already cleared out by his

15 brother and wife. Everything had gone.

16 And my dad was dead by the time we got back, by the

17 way, sorry, and they'd already cleared the house out

18 even before the funeral. Everything was gone and there

19 wasn't even, you know, any keepsakes or anything. They

20 took everything.

21 There was even a bank book that my dad -- after my

22 mum -- my mum died first and then my dad died five years

23 later, so I used to do everything for him, but my dad

24 got me to open a bank account down in [REDACTED] main

25 street, open an account, and I would go down every week

1 and put money in it, but it was in both of our names.
2 I never even got that. Nothing.

3 Q. I think you say --

4 A. And -- oh, at the funeral. Oh, at the funeral it was
5 awful. Seeing my auntie, she still lived in [REDACTED],
6 she held the kind of wake for my dad just before he got
7 buried, and we went up there and we were sitting and all
8 of a sudden my dad's brother, who was next to my dad
9 down, like younger, and he says to me -- and it was
10 really strange how ... because everybody came into the
11 room then to hear what my uncle [REDACTED] had to say to me,
12 and the first thing he said to me is -- he said my name,
13 "Tell me this", he said, "... were you legally adopted
14 with your mum and dad?" You see, they didn't know that,
15 which they did try to and my mother, my real mother,
16 wouldn't let me -- wouldn't let them adopt me. Don't
17 ask me the reason why, because it was ...

18 Anyway, so my uncle [REDACTED] asked if I was legally
19 adopted and I said, "No, but they did try to adopt me",
20 you know, and then, "Oh, right, okay", this is what he
21 said, so he just got up there and then, and the whole
22 room emptied and they all went into the kitchen in my
23 aunt's house, and all went in there and had a discussion
24 and I was just left there sitting.

25 It was just so strange.

1 But then the next day was the day of the funeral and
2 I wasn't even allowed the big car that the family would
3 go in. And this other aunt of mine, [REDACTED], she pushed
4 me in the car, "You get in that car, you're entitled to
5 go in there, it's the only mum and dad you had, get in
6 then".

7 And anyway, they kept asking me questions about this
8 and that when they was clearing my mum and dad's house
9 out and then they said that they'd burnt a lot of the
10 stuff, but they were asking about correspondence that my
11 dad had got when he was in army during the war and
12 things like that and I says, "Have you still got those
13 letters? I would like them". "Oh, we burned them".

14 At the end of the day, that was going to the funeral
15 and there was a bit of a kerfuffle at the graveside --
16 I'm sorry if I'm boring you with this.

17 Q. No, it's okay.

18 A. There was a bit of an argument because they never gave
19 my husband one of the cords, you know, things like that.
20 And I thought that was bad.

21 But anyway, when we went to the reception after it,
22 they never even asked us to sit beside them up at the
23 top table or wherever. I was put amongst people that
24 I didn't even know. I was totally ignored.

25 And you know how after a funeral there's a line up,

1 people shaking hands. I was at the end of the queue.
2 I wasn't even considered as their daughter or anything.
3 And when I did get up to them, my uncle [REDACTED] and my aunt
4 [REDACTED] just walked away and didn't speak to me, as if I'd
5 done something wrong.

6 So I was sitting at this table where we were sitting
7 and had the meal. I couldn't eat it I was so angry, so
8 angry, at the way I was treated. Nobody would come and
9 speak to me. And ... I done a terrible thing.
10 I couldn't help myself. I just turned the table up and
11 threw it up and ran out. I didn't want to be there.
12 Just the atmosphere and the way I was treated that day
13 was -- it was awful. As if I never existed, you know.

14 Q. You say at paragraph 171 that you were sad when your
15 parents died and you say:

16 "Any kid who's been through what I have will say the
17 same: no matter what they did to you, they were your mum
18 and your dad. I was brought up with them as my mum and
19 my dad and I did care for them."

20 Then you say in relation to the evidence that you've
21 just given it was bad that you were treated in the way
22 that you were at the end of their lives.

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. If we can move on, please, to the next page and
25 paragraph 175. You've already told us that you didn't

1 report what happened to you to the social work
2 department and you say in your statement that you didn't
3 report that to the police. You say at paragraph 175
4 that the Inquiry was the impetus that you needed to
5 start speaking about your own experiences:

6 "Other people were coming forward and it's a bit
7 easier knowing you're part of a group, that others have
8 had similar experiences."

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Was that part of your motivation to come to the Inquiry?

11 A. I was always like that, I didn't -- I didn't want to
12 speak about it, but then another person who is a friend
13 of mine -- well, was a friend of a friend, he had been
14 involved in this as well and he -- it was a friend of
15 mine's ex husband and she was still friends with him and
16 he spoke to me about INCAS, this body called INCAS, and
17 he was a -- he was one -- I think the chairman, I don't
18 know, I'm not sure what his position was. But he had
19 said that, "You know, you really need to talk about it
20 and get this, why don't you ..." He says, "They're now
21 having an Inquiry", which is hence the Scottish
22 Children's Abuse Inquiry. And it was him that talked me
23 into doing it, it says it would find closure to me,
24 hopefully, being able to get it out. Because I hadn't
25 really spoken about it to anybody.

1 Q. You go on in your statement to talk about some other
2 aspects, and if we can move to paragraph 188 at page 33,
3 when you're talking about lessons to be learned, so you
4 talk there about lessons to be learned I think from your
5 time in foster care.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You say that you feel so let down by the welfare
8 department.

9 A. (Witness nods)

10 Q. You talk about the places that you lived in, and you've
11 told us about them, and also the number of schools that
12 you went to.

13 A. Ten different schools altogether.

14 Q. You said a moment ago, I think, that had an effect on
15 your education?

16 A. Oh, definitely. I mean it was a long time after all
17 this happened I started getting -- you know, my
18 confidence and it ended up -- you know, I came out okay
19 the other side. And I know a lot of poor people were
20 worse off than me, I know that. But for that to happen,
21 I just hope this never happens to any -- that a thing
22 like this never happens.

23 I don't think it ever will, because I think the
24 authorities are much more strict now than what they were
25 then, and I feel I was let down with the welfare as

1 well. They really didn't really look into, you know,
2 how I was being treated. That just -- you know.

3 Q. You talk there about they should have sussed your foster
4 dad out a bit better, that they should have carried out
5 more checks before you were even placed with them.

6 A. Yeah, checks, I know, this is it. Because I used to
7 always feel that I think they took me out because they
8 got money for it and in them days it seemed a lot --
9 well, it doesn't sound a lot, but it was a lot of money
10 to them and I think the money that they got from
11 fostering a child kept them going, because I never got
12 it. I mean, even the meals that they gave me, it was
13 just plain ordinary food, you know, and I just got --
14 you know, I was always hungry.

15 Q. You've told us about how you were sent to the welfare
16 office and anything that was coming was being pawned by
17 your father.

18 A. Oh, that was a nightmare. I used to think -- when I was
19 there doing that, I used to think they were frightened
20 to go in and ask them because they knew that they were
21 exceeding what they should do, you know, sending me in.
22 But they never ever said anything to me. They were
23 always nice enough to me when I went to the office.
24 They knew, they always knew what I was in for. It was
25 always shoes, always shoes. I must have been hard

1 wearing on shoes.

2 LADY SMITH: Children's feet do have a habit of growing

3 awfully fast at times, don't they, 'Linda'?

4 A. Yeah. But they used to give us a chitty to go to one of

5 the shoe shops to go and get shoes and I would try and

6 do a deal and see if I could -- there was a certain

7 amount of money and I used to say, "Could I get two pair

8 of shoes out of that?" because I always wanted another

9 pair for changing with. Some of them did, some of them

10 didn't. Always looking for a bargain.

11 MS INNES: Okay, thank you, 'Linda'. I don't have any more

12 questions for you just now. Obviously we have your

13 statement as well. Thank you for your evidence.

14 There are no applications for questions as far as

15 I'm aware, my Lady.

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications?

17 A. I'm sorry if I went on a bit.

18 LADY SMITH: There's no need to apologise, 'Linda'. Just

19 let me formally check if there are any outstanding

20 applications.

21 No, I don't think there are and I don't have any

22 more questions for you.

23 Thank you so much for engaging with the Inquiry.

24 A. Thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: You had a long life in care as a child and

1 I know about your time in Smyllum, as you'll be aware we
2 covered Smyllum at an earlier stage in the Inquiry --
3 A. Yeah.
4 LADY SMITH: -- and I now know from your written statement,
5 and from hearing you today, all about your time when you
6 were in foster care. You've made it come alive by
7 coming here and I'm really grateful to you for doing
8 that.
9 A. Oh thank you.
10 LADY SMITH: I hope it does make you feel better as you go
11 away for having been able to --
12 A. Yes, hopefully a closure, yes.
13 LADY SMITH: -- share this with us and that you're able to
14 approach life now in a restorative frame of mind --
15 A. Yeah.
16 LADY SMITH: -- knowing how much you've done.
17 Can I just say also I'm very well aware of how long
18 ago it was that you first came to us --
19 A. Yes.
20 LADY SMITH: -- and I hope you appreciate it's because of
21 the way we have to schedule matters --
22 A. I understand.
23 LADY SMITH: -- that we weren't able to hear you in person
24 about your foster care before now, but it doesn't make
25 your evidence any less valuable.

1 Thank you very much and I'm able to let you go.

2 A. Thank you.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

5 MS INNES: We don't have a read-in that could be completed

6 in the remaining time available. We did the read-ins

7 earlier on, I think, so the remaining one couldn't be

8 completed in 20 minutes.

9 LADY SMITH: We've done quite well today so let's leave it

10 there and I'll resume at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (3.40 pm)

13 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on

14 Thursday, 9 June 2022)

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