

1 Friday, 10 June 2022

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 We return again to our evidential hearings in the
5 foster care case study and I'm told we have a witness
6 ready to give evidence. Is that right, Ms Innes?

7 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. 'Bill' is the first witness. He
8 was in the care of Glasgow Corporation, now Glasgow City
9 Council. He was boarded out to Tiree on [REDACTED] 1962.
10 As we will hear in his evidence, his siblings were
11 boarded out to Tiree on [REDACTED] 1962, so about four
12 weeks before him. He returned to Glasgow on
13 [REDACTED] 1965.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Bill' (sworn)

16 LADY SMITH: 'Bill', the first thing I want to mention is
17 that microphone. If you could make sure you speak
18 through the microphone so that we can all hear you and
19 in particular so that you're heard through the sound
20 system, because the stenographers need to hear that.

21 There's a red folder there, that has a hard copy of
22 your statement in it that you'll be asked to look at in
23 a moment, but you'll also see your statement coming up
24 on the screen and we'll use that to take you to
25 particular parts of your statement as we go through your

1 evidence.

2 Can I also, 'Bill', say at this stage that I do know
3 that what we're asking you to do is not easy and I'm
4 sure giving your statement that's now in writing wasn't
5 easy either, because we've asked you to go back to think
6 about your childhood and that no doubt has provoked
7 emotions that may have taken you by surprise and to go
8 through a history that part of you might have wanted to
9 leave behind.

10 I'm really grateful to you for being prepared to
11 come and talk about it to us. If you have any
12 difficulties or concerns, please let me know. If
13 there's anything I can do to make you giving evidence
14 easier, I want to do that.

15 A. Sure.

16 LADY SMITH: If it works for you, whatever it is, it works
17 for me. If you have any questions in your head, do
18 ask --

19 A. Sure.

20 LADY SMITH: -- you're allowed to do that here. You might
21 not have been allowed to do that when you were a child,
22 but we want to know here.

23 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
24 she'll take it from there. Is that alright?

25 A. Yeah, sure.

1 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, when you're ready.

2 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

3 Questions from Ms Innes

4 MS INNES: 'Bill', we understand that you were born in 1951

5 in Glasgow. Is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Your statement, which we give the reference

8 WIT-1-000000898 to, is on the screen in front of you and

9 in the folder. If we just look at the final page of it

10 first, page 25, paragraph 157 there says:

11 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

12 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

13 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

14 true."

15 I think you signed that statement on 31 January of

16 this year, 2022?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. Can I take you back to the start of your statement in

19 paragraph 2. I think you tell us there that you are one

20 of eight children; is that right?

21 A. Correct, yeah.

22 Q. You're the second child?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And there are five boys and three girls?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. I think you tell us that your youngest sister, who is
2 ten years younger than you, you mention her at the end
3 of this paragraph, she was born after you were taken
4 away or taken into care?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. If we go over the page, please, to paragraph 5, you're
7 talking there a little bit about what you remember of
8 your time before you were taken away from the care of
9 your parents and you say that your memories of your
10 childhood aren't happy at all.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. "We were basically hungry all the time."

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You say that sometimes your father was in prison.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And your mum was on her own.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And that caused your family some difficulties.

19 A. I'd say so, yeah.

20 Q. At paragraph 6 you also talk about having epilepsy when
21 you were a child.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

24 A. Luckily I grew out of it so I did, basically, so I was
25 told like. That lasted for about six, seven years or

1 something, like that. I don't know what caused it. It
2 was from two up till about seven or eight basically.
3 My older brother [REDACTED], who is no longer with us, he
4 looked after me so he did like, you know.
5 Q. Did he tell you what happened at that time and you say
6 that you were in and out of hospital and you used to
7 fall asleep in class and things?
8 A. I used to fall asleep in the class, yes, because of the
9 drugs I was on basically, I lost a bit of schooling so
10 I did so.
11 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 7 you talk about moving from
12 one place to another in the Gorbals.
13 A. That's correct, yes.
14 Q. You say you couldn't keep a house and you kept on
15 moving?
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. That was your recollection of your early life?
18 A. That's right, yeah.
19 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 8 about being taken away from
20 the care of your parents.
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. You say the man who took you away was a Mr Meldrum?
23 A. That's correct, yeah.
24 Q. You say you'll never forget him?
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. What was Mr Meldrum like?

2 A. He was -- he wasn't a tall guy, he was actually quite
3 short. He wore a collar and tie basically. I think he
4 wore a hat. There was another woman with him all
5 dressed in green basically. It was kind of a green
6 uniform. The both of them just sort of dragged us out
7 of house basically, the whole lot of us out of the
8 house, into this van, and the last time -- in fact the
9 last time I saw my brothers and sisters was I think it
10 was down I think it was John Street and then we were
11 split up and that was it basically.

12 LADY SMITH: 'Bill', can we just get you a little closer to
13 microphone? You may need to move the microphone nearer
14 you.

15 A. Sorry.

16 LADY SMITH: No, no need to apologise. Try that, thanks.

17 A. Yeah.

18 MS INNES: You say that Mr Meldrum was a smartly dressed
19 man --

20 A. Yes, uh-huh.

21 Q. -- and he came with a lady who was dressed in a green
22 uniform?

23 A. Yes, uh-huh.

24 Q. And you were --

25 A. There might have been two ladies, I'm not too sure,

1 but ...

2 Q. You say that you think you were put into this big van --

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. -- and you think you were taken to John Street in

5 Glasgow?

6 A. I think so, yes.

7 Q. Then you say the next thing you were in homes, all

8 separated.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you have any understanding of why you had been moved

11 or anything?

12 A. No, but the one -- but once we were all moved and that,

13 just the thought's come into my head maybe it's because

14 of the way we were brought up, basically, maybe, you

15 know, being hungry and things like that.

16 Q. You talk about the living conditions when you were with

17 your parents, that you had one big double bed between

18 you all. Some of you slept on the floor.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you say it was just a single room.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In the last house that you stayed in that you were taken

23 away from.

24 A. Yeah, the last room -- that was [REDACTED], yes.

25 Q. At that time that was seven of you, because it was

1 before your youngest --

2 A. That's correct, my younger sister wasn't born then,

3 yeah.

4 Q. Okay. You recall, I think, that one of your sisters,

5 ██████, was just a baby and you were about eight or nine

6 at the time?

7 A. That's right, yeah.

8 Q. Then, as you say, you went into some homes. You were

9 separated, and I think you tell us in the next part of

10 your statement that you spent some time in Mugdock Bank?

11 A. Mugdock Bank, that's in Stirlingshire up by Milngavie,

12 Westerton.

13 Q. Were any of your brothers or sisters with you there, can

14 you remember?

15 A. Well, I believe my two brothers were with me but I don't

16 remember too much about it like, you know, Mugdock Bank.

17 Q. Then you went to Gryffe Castle, I think?

18 A. Gryffe Castle, yes, uh-huh, that's in Bridge of Weir.

19 Q. Can you remember if any of your brothers or sisters were

20 with you there?

21 A. I think -- what I did see I don't remember, but what

22 I did do, I actually went after I made my statement with

23 my wife, I went up to Mugdock Bank and I went to Gryffe

24 and it brought back some more memories so it did like,

25 you know, when I walked about. It's the same grounds,

1 the same building, but they're all flats now.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. And I can vaguely remember ESE and being with

4 me at some point.

5 Q. Okay. So that's two of your brothers?

6 A. That's two of my brothers, yeah.

7 Q. If we move on to page 7 of your statement, you tell us

8 there that you moved from Gryffe Castle to Tiree.

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Can you remember anybody telling you that you were going

11 to leave Gryffe and go to Tiree?

12 A. No. I don't remember, no.

13 Q. You say at paragraph 37:

14 "The day I went to Tiree all I can remember is going

15 on a plane over to the island ..."

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Had you ever been on a plane before?

18 A. Never ever, no, no.

19 Q. Did you have any sense of where you were going, can you

20 remember?

21 A. No. No.

22 Q. You say that you were accompanied by a woman?

23 A. Yes, uh-huh.

24 Q. Was this a woman in a green uniform again?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you go on your own or were you going with some of
2 your brothers or sisters?
3 A. I was by myself. I was about two or three weeks later,
4 basically, because of my other conditions.
5 Q. I think you found out that your brothers and sisters had
6 gone to Tiree I think a few weeks earlier than you --
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. -- in [REDACTED] 1962, and I think you arrived in about
9 [REDACTED] 1962?
10 A. I think it was something like that. We tried to find --
11 we tried to find out exactly when it was through
12 Wellbeing, but they've not come back to me yet.
13 Q. And when you say Wellbeing, is that part of Glasgow's --
14 A. They actually try and find out your background and that.
15 Basically when we were taken away from our mother and
16 father. I don't know if it was 1960 or 1961 or whenever
17 it was.
18 Q. At paragraph 39 you say that when you arrived you
19 remember being taken from the airport to people called
20 Mr and Mrs EFA-EFB ?
21 A. That's correct, uh-huh.
22 Q. What were your first impressions? Can you remember
23 arriving at the house?
24 A. I remember arriving at the house, yes, uh-huh. They
25 were standing at the door and they introduced me -- the

1 lady introduced me to them and they said, "You call me
2 aunt and you call me uncle", basically, and they took me
3 out to the back to meet my two brothers, [REDACTED] and
4 [REDACTED] ESE [REDACTED].

5 Q. Okay. You say there at paragraph 40 that your brothers
6 were outside at the water pump?

7 A. The water pump, yeah.

8 Q. You say you recognised them immediately?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That's your memory of seeing them then?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You say you had a feeling of relief seeing people around
13 you that you knew?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. At paragraph 41 over the page you talk about being shown
16 around the croft.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you tell us a little bit of what it was like?

19 A. It was just like more like a farm basically. There was
20 fences all over the place and there was lambs in this
21 field, I think it was just during the lambing season or
22 something like that, I don't know, I'm not too sure.

23 LADY SMITH: That would fit, because I think you say earlier
24 in your statement, 'Bill', you thought it was about
25 [REDACTED] that you went out there.

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: So there would still be lambs at that time.

3 A. Yeah, uh-huh, yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: And you you'd be about ten years old?

5 A. No, I was -- yeah, about ten years old.

6 LADY SMITH: You'd be 11 later that year, I think.

7 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 A. There was the cow byres and stuff like that. The water

10 pump. They told me that's where we get the water,

11 because there's no running water in the house basically,

12 so there's buckets of water basically for everybody to

13 drink out of and that. That's basically it.

14 MS INNES: Just comparing that to where you had lived

15 before, so first of all you told us that you'd lived in

16 the Gorbals I think in Glasgow. Had you ever been out

17 into the countryside? I think you talked about the

18 homes that you'd lived in, which were maybe more rural?

19 A. Yeah, well the homes I lived in was -- it was all over

20 Glasgow, basically. It was [REDACTED] in the Gorbals,

21 and I think when I was actually younger I was told

22 I stayed in Edinburgh for a year or something like that,

23 I was just a kid, two years old or something like that.

24 But we moved to [REDACTED], to my grandfather's,

25 because I think they were put out the house or something

1 like that, and we had to stay with them for a while.

2 Q. So this must have been a totally different environment?

3 A. Oh, farm, massive, yes, massive.

4 Q. You mentioned that your brothers were -- there was no

5 running water in the house and they were getting water

6 from outside.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Is that something that you'd experienced before --

9 A. I'd never experienced that before, no, no.

10 LADY SMITH: Just to get an idea of your ages, that's the

11 three boys.

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 LADY SMITH: Your younger brother would be about seven or

14 thereabouts?

15 A. ESE, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: You were about ten?

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: And then there was your brother who was about

19 a year older than you?

20 A. [REDACTED] was 11. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: So a seven-year-old, a ten-year-old and an 11-

22 or 12-year-old?

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS INNES: Then can you tell us about what the inside of the

1 house was like?

2 A. Yeah, it was just -- coming from the back area there was
3 a big kitchen area with a tin roof and there was a room
4 above it, above the kitchen with a big stove.

5 You went through from there, there was a kind of
6 living room where Mrs EFA done some baking and stuff,
7 so she did, and there was a stove in there as well.

8 Through from that was a living room.

9 And through from that again was two or three
10 bedrooms. There was bedrooms up the stairs as well.

11 Q. Okay. Did you have a room of your own or did you share
12 a room?

13 A. I shared it.

14 Q. Was that with --

15 A. ESE .

16 Q. ESE , okay. And you say --

17 A. And was in the same room I think as well. But me
18 and ESE stayed -- slept in a double bed and in
19 a single. I think that's the way it was.

20 Q. Were there any other people living in the house amount
21 from Mr and Mrs EFA-EFB ?

22 A. Yes, , their son.

23 Q. How old was their son roughly in comparison to --

24 A. He was older, two or three years older.

25 Q. Was he older than your brother ?

1 A. Yes, uh-huh. He eventually went to [REDACTED], to [REDACTED] High
2 School.
3 Q. Then he would have been there during the school term and
4 just coming back from time to time?
5 A. Yes, uh-huh.
6 Q. Did they ever have lodgers in the house?
7 A. They did, yes. They used to get the British Telecom
8 guys coming to stay, two or three of their guys, because
9 they had come to fix the telephone wires and things like
10 that like, you know.
11 Q. Did they just come for a short period and then go away
12 again?
13 A. That's right, yeah.
14 Q. If we can move on to the bottom of this page and just
15 about the daily routine that you had, at paragraph 47
16 you say that you would get up at 6 o'clock --
17 A. Yeah.
18 Q. -- and Mr EFB [REDACTED] would come to the door and say, "Right,
19 up boys".
20 A. Uh-huh.
21 Q. You say you would get up, get dressed and go out to
22 work.
23 A. Well, to do the chores, we called they were chores like,
24 you know. So, [REDACTED], he milked the cows and I had to
25 feed the hens and the lambs, basically. Some of the

1 lambs didn't have any -- well, I think there was three
2 of the lambs that were born, the sheep didn't take to
3 them, so we had to feed them as well.

4 Q. Just in terms of the numbers of livestock, do you have
5 any kind of sense of how many cows the EFA-EFB had?

6 A. They had two milking cows. They had other cows and
7 calves basically and heifers and things like that.

8 LADY SMITH: Who taught you how to do this, because I don't
9 imagine you'd ever done anything like it in Glasgow?

10 A. Sorry?

11 LADY SMITH: Who taught you how to do these chores? You
12 wouldn't have done it before.

13 A. They did. They showed us how to do it. They told us
14 how to do it.

15 LADY SMITH: Mr and Mrs EFA-EFB ?

16 A. Mr and Mrs EFA-EFB , yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: How long did it take you to learn?

18 A. It didn't really take that long, because we had no other
19 option.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS INNES: You talk there and you've already mentioned lambs
22 and sheep, but again can you give us a sense of how many
23 sheep they kept at the croft?

24 A. Well, in the croft they had -- they actually kept it up
25 and I think it was EFB's sister's croft as well,

1 there was sheep up there, I think in total it was 30 or
2 40 sheep, basically. And just a rough guess, maybe
3 about 10/12 cattle basically.

4 Q. Okay. If we go on over the page, please, you say that
5 about 7.30 in the morning you would go and have
6 breakfast --

7 A. Breakfast, yeah.

8 Q. -- together, and then you'd do more jobs before you went
9 to school?

10 A. Yeah, we had to clean out the byres, basically.

11 Q. Right. Was that during the winter time or was it more
12 during the winter time --

13 A. No, we had to do that in the winter time. The likes of
14 the lambs and that we didn't have to do, it wasn't as
15 bad during the winter basically you know.

16 Q. There were certain times of year when there would be
17 more things to do?

18 A. Yeah, near the end of the year, you're talking about
19 September/October, you had to go and help in the field
20 basically lifting the potatoes and the turnips and that.
21 But before that during the summer it was the hay and the
22 corn, we had to help with that.

23 Q. We'll come back to that in a little bit more detail in
24 a moment in your statement.

25 You then talk in the next section about food and

1 meal times. What was the food like at the EFA-EFB ?

2 A. The food was fine, yeah.

3 Q. I think you say there was something that you didn't like

4 in the morning, the oatmeal?

5 A. Yeah, they used to make the oatmeal at night, put it on

6 a big stove and cover it with water and then heat it up

7 on the stove the next morning, mix it all in. It wasn't

8 that nice at all.

9 Q. You say that you would get your lunch at school?

10 A. Yes, uh-huh.

11 Q. And then you'd get dinner and sometimes you say you got

12 fresh vegetables and sometimes you'd kill one of the

13 hens and have chicken?

14 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

15 Q. Did the EFA-EFB deal with the killing --

16 A. They killed the hen but we had to -- we had to help to

17 pluck them basically.

18 Q. Right, okay.

19 In the next part of your statement at paragraph 52

20 you talk about washing and bathing and you say there was

21 an extension with an outside toilet.

22 A. Toilet, yeah.

23 Q. So there was no bathroom in the house?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And it had to be flushed -- it didn't flush and it had

1 to be emptied manually and sometimes --

2 A. Sometimes, yeah.

3 Q. -- you had to do that. Was that something that you

4 hadn't experienced before from --

5 A. Never ever experienced it, no.

6 Q. You talk about there was a tin bath where you had to

7 wash.

8 A. That's right, yeah.

9 Q. Where was that?

10 A. That was in that -- the extension as well basically,

11 yeah.

12 Q. You say it was normally cold water?

13 A. Yeah, it was normally -- they used to heat up some of

14 the -- sometimes they heated up the water in the big

15 washing machines, the big -- I don't know, the big

16 barrel, basically. They had a twin tub as well

17 basically, you know.

18 Q. Then you say that you'd essentially be left to it to

19 have a bath or a wash.

20 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

21 Q. Can you remember how frequently you were able to have

22 a bath?

23 A. I think maybe about once -- once -- once a week

24 basically, yeah.

25 Q. Okay. If we go on, please, to page 10 and paragraph 55,

1 you tell us there a little bit more about the work that
2 you did and you say when you first arrived and met your
3 brothers, you asked them what the place was like.
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. What did they tell you?
6 A. Well, they told me they had to do their chores, they
7 were told, basically, clean out the byres and the cows,
8 look after the cows and the sheep.
9 Q. Okay. Then you say at paragraph 56 that Mrs EFA
10 handed out the work?
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. What did her husband do?
13 A. Her husband, he -- he done all the work on the fields as
14 well basically, he was working on the fields.
15 Q. Okay. And did Mrs EFA also work?
16 A. Now and again she worked in the fields, but she more or
17 less was in the house doing the cooking and the cleaning
18 basically.
19 Q. Okay.
20 A. We had to help with that as well.
21 Q. What about their son? Did he have the same chores to do
22 as you?
23 A. He done some but not a lot basically, because he was
24 always out playing with his pals basically like, you
25 know.

1 Q. Then you talk about some of the jobs that you had to do
2 and you've told us about things that you did before
3 school and then sometimes you had to work after school
4 again?
5 A. Yes, uh-huh.
6 Q. You say you had to check the sheep and lambs and take
7 the cows back onto the fields.
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. So you had to move the cows --
10 A. Had to move the cows from the byres back into the
11 fields, yeah.
12 Q. Then you also say there was a garden and you'd work in
13 the garden?
14 A. Yeah, we used to grow all our own vegetables basically
15 and I had to weed it all.
16 Q. Then you say at paragraph 58 that you had to work in the
17 fields?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. You say that you're an expert at tattie fields now?
20 A. Yeah, yeah.
21 Q. You describe what you did there, I think, that Mr EFB
22 worked the plough and the tractor --
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. -- and then you had to plant them?
25 A. That's right, yeah.

1 Q. Then at the end of the season you had to pick them?
2 A. That's right, yeah.
3 Q. Was that done by hand?
4 A. Well, they used a plough to -- or some machine to lift
5 the soil up and you had to lift all the loose potatoes
6 and put them in baskets.
7 Q. Who was involved in that work? Was it just you and your
8 brothers --
9 A. Me and my brothers, Mr EFB, and sometimes [REDACTED] was
10 there just at school breaks or whenever it was.
11 Q. Would they ever have anybody else from other crofts
12 helping?
13 A. No. No, I don't remember. It maybe there were, but
14 I don't remember anybody.
15 Q. Then you talk about putting them into big metal baskets,
16 emptying them and then unloading them?
17 A. Unloading them, yeah. You used to actually just dump
18 them against a wall and cover them with clods just to
19 keep them fresh.
20 Q. Then you say in September and October you had to lift
21 turnips, so were there fields of turnips as well?
22 A. Yeah, the turnips, yeah.
23 Q. Did that have to be done by hand?
24 A. Yeah, you had to lift them by hand, yes, you had to pull
25 them out the ground. They were actually used -- well,

1 we used them for food plus they were used for the
2 animals as well, chopped with spades.
3 Q. You said you had to burst the leftovers up for the cows?
4 A. That's right, yeah. Chopped them with a big -- with
5 a shovel.
6 Q. With a shovel?
7 A. Yeah.
8 LADY SMITH: You had to do that by hand?
9 A. Oh, you had to.
10 LADY SMITH: There was no machine for it?
11 A. They had no machine for that, no.
12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
13 MS INNES: Then at paragraph 59 you talk about cutting the
14 corn and the hay.
15 A. Yeah, Mr -- Mr EFB, he worked the tractor and the
16 reaper and he cut the hay and once it dried off you had
17 to rake it and help to put it into stacks and then it
18 was brought down to the stack yard and then built into
19 bigger stacks basically and covered over for the winter.
20 Q. You say that you did have to use tools. So where the
21 reaper couldn't reach had you to --
22 A. Ah, some areas it was kind of hilly or kind of boggy,
23 the tractor would just get stuck so we had to use
24 a sickle or a -- what do you call it again, a --
25 Q. A scythe?

1 A. A scythe, aye, yeah.

2 Q. Then do the same thing, presumably rake it up and put it
3 into a sheaf?

4 A. Sorry?

5 Q. You'd then rake up --

6 A. You raked it up, yes, uh-huh, yeah.

7 The corn was different. When you cut the corn, you
8 just gathered it up and put it into sheaves, have to tie
9 it in sheaves and build it up and then take it back to
10 the stack yard and build that up again.

11 Then once that was all dried out, Mr EFB put it
12 through the shaker for the corn.

13 Q. Then over the next page at page 11, paragraph 60, you
14 say that you would have to collect seaweed?

15 A. Yeah, it was -- I can't remember what you call it. It
16 was used for manure basically for the fields.

17 Q. Did that involve collecting it and taking it over to
18 a trailer and then --

19 A. Yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Did you have to spread it or did he have a machine to do
21 that?

22 A. No, he -- Mr EFB kind of spread it mostly, and my
23 brother because he was a wee bit stronger than me,
24 like, you know.

25 Q. And then at paragraph 61 you tell us that they had

1 a field of daffodils as well?

2 A. That's right, they had a big field of daffodils as well.

3 When it came to them withering away we had to pull the

4 heads off them for some reason. I can't even remember

5 why they done that.

6 LADY SMITH: Ah, it's a very good practice, 'Bill'. If you

7 pull the heads off, it means that the bulb will feed

8 better.

9 A. Is that what it is?

10 LADY SMITH: In order to feed it up for the next season. If

11 you leave the head on, the daffodil will set seed and

12 its energy will be diverted to that and you want all the

13 energy in the bulb to go into feeding it up for the

14 following year.

15 A. Because then when we lifted some the bulbs as well we

16 had to take the roots off them, so we had to sit on

17 a wee stool and take all the roots off the bulbs

18 basically.

19 LADY SMITH: Did you have to divide them up where the bulbs

20 were beginning to separate?

21 A. We put them into bags, so we did, basically, yeah.

22 MS INNES: You say that they sold these bulbs?

23 A. Yeah, as far as I'm led to believe they did, yeah.

24 Q. You say at paragraph 62, and we've heard about your age

25 at the time that you were there, but you also say you

1 weren't that big.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You were probably thinly built?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And sometimes you found the work physically difficult?

6 A. It was, yeah, yeah.

7 Q. But there was nothing that you could do?

8 A. You just had to get on with it, yeah.

9 Q. Why was there nothing that you could do about that?

10 A. Oh, there was nobody -- you couldn't have been able to

11 say, "I'm not doing it", like, you know, because they

12 would just -- you just got on with it basically.

13 Q. What would have been the consequence of you saying, "Oh,

14 I'm not going to do that"?

15 A. I honestly can't remember the consequences.

16 Q. You say you just had to take it in your stride. There

17 was nothing you couldn't manage to do, but it was heavy

18 lifting.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And it would take two of you together to lift baskets

21 into the trailer?

22 A. When two of us done it, it was a lot easier, so that's

23 how we done it basically.

24 Q. That would be if you're lifting potatoes or anything --

25 A. Yes, uh-huh, anything like that, it was two of us, yeah.

1 It was wire baskets they used.

2 Q. Okay. You said your older brother was helping with

3 this. Was your younger brother also doing this work?

4 A. Yeah, he helped. He was helping as well, yeah. He

5 didn't do as much, but he was helping like.

6 Q. At paragraph 63 you say you never got any pocket money

7 for any of the work you did?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Mrs EFA would sometimes buy you toffees from the --

10 A. Bars of toffee basically whenever the van came around,

11 the grocery van.

12 LADY SMITH: Did she ever say thank you to you for the work

13 you were doing?

14 A. I don't remember. No, I don't think so.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS INNES: In the next paragraph you talk about clothing and

17 you think that that was sent over?

18 A. I think we got that every six months or something like

19 that basically. It was boots we had to wear all the

20 time basically.

21 Q. You think that the EFA-EFB would have told them what was

22 needed and then they would --

23 A. Send it over, yeah. I think that's the way it worked,

24 yeah.

25 Q. You then go on to talk about school. Where did you go

1 to school when you were there?

2 A. I went to primary school, [REDACTED] Primary School. I think

3 I was there for about a year and then I was moved to

4 Cornaig Secondary School.

5 Q. If we go on over the page, please, you talk about having

6 received some of the school records or registers showing

7 you when you were there.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. At paragraph 69 you say there were about 15 children in

10 the primary school with two teachers?

11 A. Yeah. I think it was about 15. That's just a rough

12 guess basically like, you know.

13 Q. Apart from you and your brothers, can you remember if

14 any of the other children at the school had been boarded

15 out?

16 A. I think there was one or two boarded out at the school,

17 yeah.

18 Q. Then you talk about going on to high school at

19 paragraph 70 and you say you think that there were about

20 60 pupils there.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. At the time were you aware of other boarded-out children

23 being at the school?

24 A. Yes, there was a few, yeah, yeah.

25 Q. Then I think you mention the school diary that you'd

1 seen and there was mention of boarded-out children being
2 removed from the school, I think, in the register?

3 A. Yes, uh-huh.

4 Q. If we go down to the bottom of the page at paragraph 72,
5 you talk there about the Gaelic teacher.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were you taught Gaelic at school?

8 A. No. Yeah, I was taught Gaelic, yes, but I've lost it
9 all. Not it all, but I know a few bits and pieces
10 basically.

11 Q. Did the EFA-EFB speak Gaelic?

12 A. No, they didn't. No, they never spoke Gaelic at all.
13 Their son did, but they never.

14 Q. If we then go over the next page, please, "Leisure time"
15 at paragraph 74, can you remember being able to have any
16 time off when you weren't at school or you weren't doing
17 the various chores?

18 A. Yeah, we used to have a game of football between us, we
19 used to go down to the beach and play football and that.
20 In the summer we'd go in for a dip in the water. That's
21 where I learned to swim basically. A bit cold, mind
22 you, but ...

23 Q. Apart from you and your brothers playing together, were
24 there other children in the --

25 A. Yeah, there were a couple that stayed near the beach and

1 that. They used to play football with us now and again.
2 I remember one of them, [REDACTED], he was
3 quite a good friend.
4 Q. Had these children been boarded out as well or were they
5 locals?
6 A. No, they were natives, if you want to call them, of
7 Tiree, basically.
8 Q. If we go on, please, to birthdays and Christmas at
9 paragraph 76 you say that no birthdays were celebrated
10 and you didn't even know your date of birth?
11 A. That's correct.
12 Q. You talk about the spelling of your name had also been
13 changed, I think, when you were over there?
14 A. Yes, uh-huh.
15 Q. At paragraph 77 you say you never celebrated Christmas
16 either?
17 A. No, there was not a lot done at Christmas at all, no.
18 Q. Did they do more at New Year?
19 A. I think they had a wee drink by themselves basically,
20 that was it.
21 Q. Okay, so no presents or anything?
22 A. No, no, nothing at all, no.
23 Q. Then over the page, you're talking here about personal
24 possessions, and you can't remember having any books or
25 toys or games?

1 A. No, don't remember at all, no.

2 Q. Just the football and the rugby ball?

3 A. That was it basically, yeah.

4 Q. If we go on to paragraph 80, you say that there's no

5 photographs of you when you were living there?

6 A. No.

7 Q. But you say that there are other boarders in photos?

8 A. Yeah, that's right. So the likes of the class

9 photographs, there were some boarded-out people in the

10 class photographs but the likes of myself, [REDACTED] or

11 ESE [REDACTED], no.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. My other brother, [REDACTED] -- well, my other two brothers

14 and sisters, they were in photographs, school

15 photographs in primary. They have photographs of

16 themselves in primary, but we never ever got any

17 photographs taken at all, the three of us.

18 Q. These photographs that you've seen of the primary school

19 class, and you said there were some boarded-out children

20 in them --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- how do you know that they were boarded-out children?

23 Is it because you knew who they were and you knew they

24 were boarded out?

25 A. Yeah, I knew they were -- yes, I knew they were.

1 Q. You say that the way you see it is either Mr Meldrum or
2 the EFA-EFB must have told the school not to put you in
3 the photos?

4 A. That's just the way I believe it to be like, you know.

5 Q. At paragraph 81 you talk about trips and holidays and
6 you say you never went on holidays --

7 A. No.

8 Q. -- you were on the island 24 hours a day, seven days
9 a week, on the island, on the croft.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. Apart from going to school --

12 A. No, we never visited anybody else, no. We were always
13 kept in [REDACTED] basically.

14 Q. Okay, so you were always at the --

15 A. The only time we left [REDACTED] was the school sports, that
16 was it, once a year, school sports, and that was held in
17 the big field across from Cornaig Secondary School.

18 Q. Okay.

19 You go on in the next section to talk about family
20 contact. You say at paragraph 82 that during the time
21 that you lived in Tiree you didn't have contact with the
22 other members of your family?

23 A. No, none.

24 Q. So you've told us that you and [REDACTED] and ESE [REDACTED] were
25 together at [REDACTED]?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Where were your other brothers and sisters that had been
3 boarded out?

4 A. They stayed in a village about two mile away, [REDACTED]
5 and [REDACTED] I think they call it.

6 Q. Okay. They were staying, I think, with --

7 A. The EMY-EVI .

8 Q. -- the EMY-EVI . I think you say here that the woman, so
9 Mrs EMI , who was looking after your other brothers
10 and sisters --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- was Mrs EFA 's cousin?

13 A. Aye, I found out they were both cousins, yeah.

14 Q. When did you find that out?

15 A. Way before -- way before my statement, basically.

16 Q. So not when you were living there?

17 A. Not when I was living there, no.

18 Q. But after?

19 A. It was after.

20 Q. So they lived about two miles away.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Did they go to a different primary school?

23 A. They went to a different primary school, yeah.

24 Q. You say that I think you didn't see them at all when you
25 were in Tiree?

1 A. Never ever saw them, no.

2 Q. You say in this paragraph you'd asked your brothers if
3 you were allowed to go and see your brothers and
4 sisters.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What did they tell you?

7 A. Say we were not allowed.

8 Q. It's okay. (Pause)

9 Are you okay to go on, 'Bill'?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay?

12 A. (Witness nodded)

13 Q. You say in your next paragraph that you saw your brother
14 [REDACTED], I think, one day when you were at the sports day
15 that you talked about?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And you saw him in the corridor when you were in high
18 school?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And --

21 A. He was -- he was in a class just below me, so he was --

22 Q. Sorry?

23 A. Seemingly he was in the class below me.

24 Q. Okay, so you saw him once or twice --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- and you said we asked if we could see them, but were
2 told, "No, you're not allowed".
3 A. That's right.
4 Q. Over the page, you talk about, as I think you've already
5 told us, that they only lived two to three miles away.
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. I think you say that Mr EFB was a [REDACTED] as
8 well?
9 A. He was the [REDACTED] for the whole island. He
10 delivered [REDACTED] to everybody on the island, so he did.
11 Q. So --
12 A. So there was no -- I don't think there was any reason
13 why we couldn't see them like, you know.
14 Q. Okay. If we move on in your statement from that, if we
15 go down to paragraph 89, you say that you can't
16 recollect there being any visits or contact from
17 Mr Meldrum when you were there?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Is it possible that he visited the EFA-EFB and you
20 didn't see him?
21 A. Sorry?
22 Q. Is it possible that he visited the EFA-EFB and that you
23 didn't see him?
24 A. No, I don't think so, no. I don't remember it at all,
25 no.

1 Q. You don't remember it at all?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. At paragraph 90, you're asked there about your
4 relationship with the foster parents and you say:
5 "It was more of an existence than a childhood."
6 A. Yes, it was, yeah. Definitely, yeah.

7 Q. Over the page you talk a little bit about that at
8 paragraph 91.
9 At paragraph 92 you say you were never treated
10 like --
11 A. One of their own, yeah.

12 Q. Did you think that they treated their own son
13 differently?
14 A. Oh, they would, yes, they did, yes, uh-huh.

15 Q. You've talked about that he didn't do maybe as many
16 chores as you did?
17 A. That's right.

18 Q. That he was able to go and play with his friends?
19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Were there any other differences or was that the main
21 thing?
22 A. That was the main thing, yeah.

23 Q. Then at the next page, page 17, you say there at
24 paragraph 98 that you'd -- after you'd been there a few
25 weeks, you started wetting the bed.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And you'd never done that before?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And it started when you were there?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Did it stop again?

7 A. It stopped -- no, I think it just actually stopped about

8 three years later or something like that, basically,

9 four years later.

10 Q. Did it stop before you left Tiree or after you came

11 back?

12 A. I think -- actually, I think it was actually when we

13 came back basically, yes.

14 Q. What was Mrs EFA's reaction to you wetting the bed?

15 A. Well, she didn't like us doing it, basically.

16 Q. And you say that you had to get a cold bath?

17 A. There was never any hot water, yes, we had to wash

18 ourselves in cold water before we went to school.

19 Q. And you had to steep the sheets yourselves?

20 A. Steep the sheets ourselves and then rinse them and put

21 them into the washing machine and she would wash them.

22 Q. Then in the next part of your statement you talk about

23 an incident, I think, when your brother ESE got

24 threatened with a poker.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And that's something that he's told you about, I think?

2 A. Yes, uh-huh, yeah.

3 Q. You say at paragraph 103 that if you ever did anything

4 wrong, you would get the belt like the teachers did.

5 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

6 Q. Did they use a school belt or was it a --

7 A. No, it was just an ordinary belt.

8 Q. That you put around your trousers or something?

9 A. Yeah, uh-huh.

10 Q. Did they hit you with the buckle side of the belt --

11 A. No, no --

12 Q. -- or the other side?

13 A. -- the other side.

14 Q. Would it be one hit of the belt or more than one?

15 A. It was one good hard one, basically.

16 Q. You say at paragraph 104:

17 "To me we never did anything seriously wrong but

18 would get it for doing things boys did ..."

19 A. Yes, that's right, just silly things basically, you

20 know.

21 Q. How often did this happen?

22 A. It didn't happen a lot, no.

23 Q. I think you say in your statement it maybe happened to

24 your brothers more than you?

25 A. It did, yes. ESE, yeah.

1 Q. Then if we go over the page, you talked about the way in
2 which they struck you with the belt, but you say at
3 paragraph 106 that you feel that being separated from
4 your brothers and sisters and not being able to see them
5 was abusive.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Then you talked about the wetting the bed as well and
8 the response to that.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Then at paragraph 108 you also say:

11 "The fact we were made to do work wasn't right."
12 Tell us what you think about that.

13 A. Well, I knew we could do a wee bit of work because of
14 our age and that, but not as much as we were doing,
15 like, you know.

16 Q. Then you say at paragraph 109 that you never reported
17 the abuse, "There was nobody to tell".

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. So you weren't conscious of --

20 A. No.

21 Q. Well, you've talked about Mr Meldrum. You weren't
22 conscious of seeing him?

23 A. No.

24 Q. If you had been able to speak to him, do you think you
25 would have told him what was happening?

1 A. I don't know. Maybe. I don't know. I don't know, to
2 tell you the truth. Maybe. Whether they would listen
3 or not is a different matter altogether like, you know.
4 Q. Do you think you might have asked him about seeing your
5 brothers and sisters?
6 A. I probably would have, yes, uh-huh. Yeah.
7 Q. Then you tell us at the bottom part of this page that
8 you then left Tiree --
9 A. Uh-huh.
10 Q. -- in [REDACTED] 1966.
11 A. That's right. I think it was [REDACTED]. That's not
12 a dead date neither, you know.
13 Q. You tell us that you went back, I think, on a plane
14 again. Is that right?
15 A. Yes, uh-huh.
16 Q. Did anybody tell you in advance that you were going back
17 to Glasgow?
18 A. No, they didn't. I think it was the day before we were
19 told we were going back to Glasgow the next day.
20 Q. Can you remember how you felt about that?
21 A. Oh, I -- I couldn't tell you, to tell you the truth, no.
22 Q. Can you remember going to the airport and getting on the
23 plane?
24 A. I can remember going to the airport and stepping on the
25 plane, yeah.

1 Q. And was there somebody from Glasgow Corporation there
2 again?

3 A. Yeah, I think it was two ladies -- either one or two
4 ladies dressed in the green uniforms again basically,
5 took us onto the plane.

6 Q. Were your brothers and sisters --

7 A. My brothers and sisters were there as well, yeah.

8 Q. Did you all immediately recognise one another or not?

9 A. I think we kind of slightly -- my sisters didn't know
10 us, my two sisters didn't know us at all. They were --
11 because they were quite small when we were over there
12 like. They didn't know they had other brothers.

13 Q. Then if we go on to the next page, please, I think you
14 talk about going back.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. What happened when you got off the plane? Can you
17 remember?

18 A. We were taken in this minibus thing, in this green
19 minibus thing to [REDACTED] in Dalmarnock, Glasgow
20 and we were taken up the stairs to this kitchen, the
21 seven of us, and we met our young sister that we didn't
22 even know we had basically.

23 Q. So you were taken to a room and a kitchen, you say, and
24 that's where your parents were living?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. By this time they'd had your youngest sister, who you
2 didn't know about --
3 A. That's right, yeah.
4 Q. -- until you got there?
5 A. Yeah.
6 LADY SMITH: She would have been about four or five years
7 old, would that be right?
8 A. Yes, uh-huh.
9 MS INNES: So there were eight of you plus the two adults in
10 this room and kitchen?
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. Okay. At paragraph 115 you say it was horrendous being
13 back in the family home?
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. Did you have any contact with the authorities again
16 after you went back to the family home?
17 A. Sorry, say that again?
18 Q. Did you have any contact with the authorities,
19 Mr Meldrum or --
20 A. No. Definitely not.
21 Q. Okay.
22 A. I think I'd just turned 15 then.
23 Q. Okay. And then you talk about some of your experiences
24 being back in the care of your parents.
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you told us that you came back to Glasgow in
2 [REDACTED] 1966 and then your father died at the end of
3 that year?

4 A. My father died. He was drowned about three months after
5 we came back, yeah.

6 Q. If we can move on from there, you talk about the things
7 that you did in the rest of your life.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. If you go on to the heading "Impact", page 21,
10 paragraph 128, you talk first of all about your time in
11 care having a massive impact on your relationship with
12 your parents.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that I'm not sure
15 if your mum ever really discussed the time in Tiree with
16 you?

17 A. No, she didn't, no. We tried to tell her but she just
18 ignored us basically because she didn't -- she got six
19 months put in prison so she did basically for it.

20 Q. So when you were taken away, she went to prison?

21 A. She went to prison, yeah.

22 Q. You refer to the fact that you had no contact with them
23 over the time that you were in Tiree.

24 A. No contact whatsoever, no.

25 Q. So no letters or cards or anything?

1 A. Nothing, no.

2 Q. You say that nobody ever had a discussion with them
3 about you, about who they were?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Or why you had gone into care?

6 A. No. One of my aunts, aunt [REDACTED], she says she tried to
7 get one or two of us, but whether that was true or not
8 I don't know, before we were taken away.

9 Q. You'd had this period in Tíree where you had no contact
10 with them whatsoever and then you went back into their
11 care?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you say it was really difficult going back to them
14 and not knowing who they were?

15 A. A lot of them we didn't actually know. We had to get to
16 know them. Didn't know them at all.

17 Q. That applied to your parents and it also applied to your
18 brothers and sisters that you'd been separated from?

19 A. Yes. I didn't really know my father at all.

20 Q. Okay. I think you then go on to talk about the impact
21 that that's had on you personally.

22 If we can go on again, please, to the bottom of
23 page 23, the heading, "Records". I think you've
24 mentioned already in your evidence that you'd contacted
25 Wellbeing, so the bottom of the page at paragraph 145.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You'd contacted Wellbeing to try and get your records.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. And I think you'd done that since --

5 A. I'm still waiting to hear back from them.

6 Q. You did that recently since you signed your statement?

7 A. Yes, uh-huh.

8 Q. You'd also, as you've told us, contacted, I think,

9 Argyll and Bute?

10 A. Argyll and Bute, I've contacted -- that was David

11 Sinclair, and he managed to send us a copy of one or two

12 of the diaries from primary school, just to show --

13 prove that I was at [REDACTED] Primary School in Cornaig.

14 Q. If we can go on to page 24 and lessons to be learned,

15 you have a number of things that you discuss under this

16 heading.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. At paragraph 147 you have some reflections on the fact

19 that you were taken away from your parents.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. What do you think that the Corporation should have done

22 differently?

23 A. I think they should have maybe tried to help my mother

24 with a better accommodation and help with clothes and

25 food and things like that, like, you know, but I don't

1 think they had that kind of thing in those days,
2 basically. But they could have maybe tried something
3 different instead of sending us away over to the other
4 side of the water. Away from all the rest of our family
5 and that like, you know.

6 Q. So it's not just -- perhaps not just about your
7 immediate family but also --

8 A. No, just the whole family, yes, uh ...

9 Q. The wider family.

10 A. Because on my father's side there was 14, there was 14
11 of them brothers and sisters. Something could probably
12 have been done between them, you know, but there was no
13 mention of it.

14 Q. Then you say that they just took you away, separating
15 all of you:

16 "They treated us like animals, that was the way
17 I saw it."

18 A. Yeah, basically, yeah. You go there and you go there
19 and that's it basically.

20 Q. Then at paragraph 148 you talk about how your mother
21 wasn't prepared to discuss you being on Tiree and you
22 say that you don't think she even knew where you were?

23 A. No, I don't think she knew where we were, no.

24 Q. Then you discuss at paragraph 149 some discussions that
25 you had with one of your brothers about your experiences

1 in Tiree?

2 A. Yeah. Yeah, well, we discussed -- me and my brother
3 discussed that we should really talk about it and I've
4 managed to talk to my other brother as well, ESE ,
5 and he's talking about it now. So he's -- he's tried to
6 do something as well.

7 Q. Is that the first time that he's spoken about it?

8 A. That's the first time we've discussed things, yeah.

9 Q. That's the first time any of you have discussed it?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Then at paragraph 150 you say:

12 "The way I see to make it easier for children going
13 into care is there needs to be more communication."

14 A. Yeah.

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

16 A. Well, they should be bringing the parents and the kids
17 together and talking with somebody professional
18 basically and trying to work things out properly for
19 them, instead of putting people away and not seeing them
20 again basically for so long.

21 Q. You say that when they're in care, they need to speak to
22 them once a week, not once a year or once a month, to
23 help them understand what their situation is, why they
24 are in that situation and what is going to happen. So
25 that would -- do you mean the social workers --

1 A. Yeah, social workers, yeah.

2 Q. -- should be doing that?

3 You say:

4 "This needs to change as I don't think it happens."

5 A. Yeah, in some cases it doesn't happen I don't think,

6 yeah.

7 Q. At paragraph 151 you say:

8 "The most suitable person to speak to them [I think

9 you mean children there] should be trained, independent

10 and maybe somebody who has been there and done it

11 themselves having been in care."

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. Can you just tell us your thoughts on that, why do you

14 think that?

15 A. Because they've been through it before, they know

16 exactly how they've been treated, and then they can help

17 basically. I don't know ... well, the way they've been

18 treated and that and they know how to speak to somebody

19 properly. That is just the way I see it.

20 Q. You then at paragraph 152 talk again about the distance

21 that you were away from your family was too far, you're

22 over the water and on an island.

23 A. Yeah, exactly, yeah. Just far too far away from the

24 family basically. Far too far away. No communication.

25 Q. Then at paragraph 153 over the page you talk about that

1 family should be -- you should try to keep them as close
2 as possible.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. So if they're --

5 A. They should never be separate. They should be able to
6 see each other, at least once or twice a week.

7 Q. And go out to play together --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- that would keep the childhood bond, you say.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. So that's contact between brothers and sisters as well?

12 A. Yeah. Because we just didn't have that.

13 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 154 about the potential of
14 perhaps a family member looking after you?

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

16 Q. You think that that should be considered or --

17 A. They should speak to the families before they take kids
18 away from their parents.

19 Q. Okay. Then you say at paragraph 155 that it was you
20 that got your family to do what they're doing just now.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is that speaking to the Inquiry --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and also exploring your history?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Why did you decide to do that?

2 A. Because it had been just building up in our minds and
3 then read it in the paper, just seen it in the -- you
4 have seen it in the news basically, just to get it off
5 our chests.

6 Q. You talk there about at paragraph 156 that you say that
7 you speak on behalf of your older brother [REDACTED] that
8 you've mentioned and your sister [REDACTED], who have
9 since died --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- and are no longer able to speak about the experience
12 they had on Tiree.

13 A. Yeah.

14 MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'Bill', for your evidence.
15 I have no more questions for you.
16 There are no applications, my Lady.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 Are there any outstanding applications for
19 questions?

20 'Bill', that does complete all the questions we have
21 for you today. As I said earlier, I'm really grateful
22 to you for coming forward, and as I've heard, for
23 encouraging others to come forward as well. It's such
24 a help to do this and improve my learning and
25 understanding of what it was like to be boarded out from

1 the city to one of the far islands --

2 A. Yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: -- in the time that you were there.

4 Thank you for doing that. Thank you for coping,

5 particularly with the difficult parts of your evidence

6 but they really helped me understand and I'm grateful to

7 you for doing that.

8 I hope you're able to have a quieter time for the

9 rest of today --

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: -- and as the weekend calls, that you can relax

12 and recover from being here.

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: I'm able to let you go, but you go with my

15 thanks.

16 A. Okay, thank you.

17 (The witness withdrew)

18 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

19 MS INNES: My Lady, we do have a read-in ready to read.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS INNES: Ms Rattray will deal with that, and again if

22 I might be excused to --

23 LADY SMITH: Of course.

24 MS INNES: -- speak to 'Bill'.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

2 'Joe' (read)

3 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant

4 who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the

5 pseudonym 'Joe'. His statement is at WIT-1-000000965.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS RATTRAY: 'Joe' was boarded out by Glasgow Corporation to

8 Tiree from [REDACTED] 1962 to [REDACTED] 1965 and we're

9 hearing evidence from two of 'Joe's' siblings this

10 morning.

11 "My name is 'Joe'. I was born in 1954. My contact

12 details are known to the Inquiry. I was born in Glasgow

13 and lived there with my parents and siblings. I have

14 three older brothers. My oldest brother has now passed

15 away. I have a younger brother and two younger sisters.

16 I do have another sister but she was born when I was in

17 care and I didn't find out about her until I was

18 returned to my mother's care in 1966.

19 My father initially worked when I was a child. He

20 was a welder to trade but started losing his eyesight as

21 a result of the job. When he come out of work he

22 collected scrap metal to bring some money into the

23 house. My mother didn't work. She looked after the

24 children.

25 Life at home wasn't easy and it wasn't very nice.

1 I remember times when my siblings and I would cry due to
2 hunger. I really don't know how we managed, but we did.

3 Two of my brothers and I went to primary school in
4 the Gorbals. I don't think my oldest brother was at the
5 same school. He might have already started high school.

6 Whether we actually went to school would depend on
7 my mum getting us up in the morning and whether there
8 was anything to eat in the house. If there was nothing
9 to eat, we didn't go to school.

10 Back then there were truant officers. I remember my
11 mum used to make us stay quiet when the truant officer
12 came to the door so she could pretend no one was home.
13 There was one occasion my oldest brother accidentally
14 answered the door to the truant officer and said, "My
15 mummy says she's not in".

16 My siblings and I went into care in the early 1960s,
17 I think it was 1961, and I would have been six or seven
18 at the time. A social worker called Mr Meldrum turned
19 up at the house one day and took us all into care. All
20 seven of us were taken to the social work offices at
21 John Street, Glasgow, and then we were separated. Me
22 and two of my older brothers were taken by taxi to
23 Mugdock Bank Children's Home. I have no idea where my
24 other siblings were going."

25 From paragraphs 6 to 12, 'Joe' tells us of his

1 experiences at Mugdock Bank Children's Home and Gryffe
2 Children's Home. Moving now to paragraph 14 on page 4:
3 "We were only at Gryffe a couple of months and then
4 all of a sudden we were leaving again. I think I was
5 eight years old by this time. On the morning that we
6 left, a social worker turned up and told us that we were
7 going to a foster care placement. The social worker
8 took my oldest brother and I and put us on a plane to
9 Tiree. My other brother was left behind at Gryffe.
10 I think he was in and out of hospital with his epilepsy
11 at that time.

12 I don't remember leaving with a suitcase or any
13 other personal possessions. I think all we had was what
14 we were wearing. At the time we weren't actually told
15 where we were going and whether our brother would be
16 joining us. As it turned out, we went to Tiree and he
17 did come a couple of months later.

18 We were placed in foster care with EFA-EFB
19 EFA-EFB. EFB was known as EFB.
20 I think they were both in their early 50s. EFB and
21 EFA were very rugged. EFB was a bit bald on
22 top and always wore a flat cap. EFA had curly grey
23 hair. They had a son of their own. He was a year or so
24 older than my oldest brother and was probably about 14.
25 He wasn't a very nice boy. He could be very cruel.

1 I remember while we lived there he learned how to
2 manipulate the radio and speak through it to make it
3 sound like a radio broadcast. He would use this to make
4 up stories about my family and pretend he had spoken to
5 my mum and say through the radio that she didn't care
6 about us or want us back.

7 The EFA-EFB lived in a big white house on a working
8 farm. The house had three bedrooms upstairs. EFB
9 and EFA had one room, their son had a room of his
10 own. My brothers and I shared a bedroom above the
11 kitchen. It had three single beds in it.

12 I remember the stairs up to the bedroom were very
13 steep. My oldest brother saved me from falling down
14 them a few times because I used to sleepwalk. I think
15 this developed when I was in Tíree as a result of being
16 punished for wetting the bed and I was unconsciously
17 getting out of bed to try to reach the toilet in the
18 night.

19 On the ground floor there was a living room and
20 a big kitchen with a range in it. The range provided
21 the heating for the house as well as a couple of coal
22 fires. There was no inside toilet. The toilet was out
23 the back door, through the yard, in a brick-built room.
24 Once you used the toilet you had to empty the bucket
25 into the cesspit, clean it and put it back.

1 There was no hot water while we were living with the
2 EFA-EFB . My brother remembers them getting hot water in
3 just before we left to go home.

4 The EFA-EFB had lived all their lives in Tiree and
5 some of EFB 's siblings lived nearby. One of
6 EFB 's brothers, , owned and
7 EFB 's sister owned a big house just along
8 the road. It felt like the whole island was related to
9 one another and we were the odd ones out. The islanders
10 all looked after each other but not outsiders. That's
11 what we felt like. If you even tried to get involved in
12 a conversation with anyone you were told to shut up and
13 be quiet.

14 We called EFB "uncle" and we called EFA
15 "auntie". EFB was a . The ships
16 would come into Tiree and EFB would
17 meet them at the pier where the .
18 EFB would then go backwards and forwards with the
19 tractor and trailer to bring back to the farm.
20 EFA didn't work. She looked after the house and
21 the children.

22 As soon as we arrived at the EFA-EFB , we were put
23 straight to work on the farm. Each day we had a number
24 of chores to do. We would get up at 6 in the morning to
25 clean out the byres and pens. We would then walk up to

1 the field to bring the cattle in, dry them off, wash
2 their udders and milk them by hand. We had to put the
3 milk into galvanised steel buckets and leave it until
4 the next morning. Then you would scrape the cream off
5 the top and once a week we would churn it into butter by
6 hand.

7 After we had milked the cows, we took them back out
8 to the field. We then had breakfast and went to school.
9 After school we had to collect the cows and milk them
10 and take them back out to the field again. We had to
11 see to the cows at the weekends too but there were more
12 chores at the weekends. We had to build haystacks for
13 the winter months and pick vegetables from the fields.
14 I remember using a sickle to chop the roots and leaves
15 off the vegetables and a scythe to cut the hay for the
16 cows.

17 We also had to help EFB with [REDACTED]. We would
18 fill [REDACTED] at the back of the house and weigh them
19 for him. My oldest brother and I did the brunt of the
20 work on the farm. My other brother had to do his share
21 but not as much heavy labour as my oldest brother and I.
22 We didn't receive any pocket money for the work we did.

23 We ate lunch at school and EFB [REDACTED] made our main
24 meal in the evening. We went to bed very early. Most
25 nights it was still light outside. We had a bath once

1 a week on a Sunday. The EFA-EFB had a tin bath in front
2 of the range. Everyone would get into the bath one
3 after the other. The water wasn't changed for each
4 person. I found it embarrassing having a bath in front
5 of everyone else. We used carbolic soap and we were
6 given a face cloth to wash and a towel to dry ourselves.

7 We ate our meals with the family. If you were given
8 something you didn't like, you just had to eat it.
9 There was no choice. You weren't allowed to leave the
10 table until you had finished. At that time I couldn't
11 stand liver and it made me feel physically sick. They
12 would give me liver and onions quite a lot and they
13 would sit and watch me until I ate it all. Sometimes
14 I managed to stick it in my pocket and feed it to the
15 dog later on. I'm sure if my brother didn't like
16 something, he would be given something else. He was
17 always treated a little more reasonably because of his
18 epilepsy. There were a few occasions where we were sent
19 to bed without dinner as a punishment for something.

20 I don't remember taking any personal possessions to
21 Tiree. When we arrived, all we had were the clothes on
22 our backs. I think we mainly wore short trousers and
23 wellies. EFA would knit a lot and she
24 knitted socks and jumpers for us, so we got a winter
25 jumper.

1 I remember that someone used to come to the EFA-EFB
2 house once a year to measure us. It was a different
3 person every year. We would then be given new coats,
4 jackets, jumpers and trousers. We would get
5 a sou-wester coat and hat. I'm sure that the person who
6 visited came from the mainland. It may have been
7 someone from the social work department, but I can't be
8 sure. We couldn't have spoken to them about how we were
9 being treated by the EFA-EFB as we were never left alone
10 with anyone without EFA, EFB or both of them
11 being there. We would have been severely punished if we
12 said anything we shouldn't have.

13 We went to primary school, which only had one
14 teacher, called Jeanie, and two classes. There were
15 just under 30 kids at the school. Most of the kids
16 could speak Gaelic. My brothers and I couldn't, so we
17 had to learn to speak and write in Gaelic.

18 My brothers and I weren't very well treated by the
19 other kids, but coming from Glasgow we could look after
20 ourselves and give as good as we got.

21 We always seemed to get the blame for things because
22 we weren't local kids. If the teacher told EFA and
23 EFB that we had misbehaved, we would be punished at
24 home. The teacher wasn't someone we could talk to about
25 the way we were treated by EFA and EFB because

1 she was friends with them.

2 [EFA] and [EFB] weren't particularly religious,
3 but I did go to Sunday school, which was held in
4 a building behind our primary school. It looked
5 a little bit like a church. It was an escape for me.
6 It was a day away from punishment and work on the farm.
7 My brother wasn't allowed to go in case he took
8 an epileptic fit and my oldest brother had to stay back
9 to work on the farm. I can't remember our Sunday
10 schoolteacher's name. It wasn't our normal primary
11 school teacher, Jeanie. The Sunday schoolteacher wasn't
12 as bad as Jeanie.

13 I don't remember getting immunisations or regular
14 check ups while living with the [EFA-EFB]. If we needed
15 medical attention for a specific reason, the doctor
16 would come to the house. I remember the doctor visiting
17 me when I had shingles. I think he was from the
18 mainland. I had to put camomile lotion on my skin and
19 when it dried, my skin became very itchy. [EFA] had
20 an idea to make me stop scratching. She poured iodine
21 on my sores. I had open blisters and I remember it
22 burning. I cried for hours. I had shingles more than
23 once and this was [EFA]'s remedy each time.
24 Coincidentally I later found out that the doctor who
25 visited me in Tiree was the brother of my doctor at home

1 in Glasgow.

2 I was still wetting the bed when I lived in Tíree
3 with the EFA-EFB. I remember being so scared of being
4 punished that if I thought I was going to wet the bed,
5 I just wouldn't go to bed. I would sleep on a sheet on
6 the floor with a blanket over me. I would rather pee on
7 the floor than in the bed.

8 If I did wet the bed, I was taken out into the open
9 yard where they had a bath and a pump to bring the water
10 up from underground. The EFA-EFB would fill the bath
11 with freezing cold water, put the wet sheets in and make
12 me get in too. I had to tramp the sheets and then sit
13 down to wash myself. They even did this in the middle
14 of winter.

15 On the very few occasions we weren't working on the
16 farm, we got to play cricket or something similar. It
17 was never particularly enjoyable because the EFA-EFB
18 son would play with us and he would try to hit us with
19 the ball. On one occasion he hit my brother on the hand
20 with a cricket ball and he lost two of his fingernails.
21 There wasn't a lot of leisure time and I don't remember
22 being taken on any trips or holidays with the EFA-EFB.
23 There was one occasion I went with EFB to the
24 Gallowgate in Glasgow, but that was to deliver retired
25 cattle to slaughter.

1 My brothers and I were never treated like part of
2 the family. We were treated very differently to their
3 son. He got birthday and Christmas presents.
4 I remember him getting an electric Hornby train set one
5 year. We didn't get birthday or Christmas presents. We
6 didn't have any toys or books. I don't even remember
7 our birthdays ever being celebrated. We were there to
8 work. We were free labour to them and nothing more.

9 The only outside visitor I remember was the person
10 who came to measure us for new clothes and the doctor.
11 I don't remember a social worker ever coming to see us
12 in Tiree and we had no contact at all with our parents
13 or siblings. We didn't even receive letters or phone
14 calls from home.

15 We didn't know where our siblings were living until
16 my other older brother turned up at the same secondary
17 school as my oldest brother. It turned out that my
18 other two brothers and two sisters had been placed with
19 a foster family, the EMY-EVI, in a different part of
20 Tiree. All that time, they had been a 20-minute walk
21 away from us and we had no idea. We only came to learn
22 of their whereabouts by accident. After we found out
23 that our siblings were living in Tiree, things didn't
24 change. We were not allowed to visit them.

25 My brothers and I were regularly beaten by the

1 EFA-EFB . Particularly by EFB . We were even
2 punished for things we didn't do as their son would make
3 up stories to get us in trouble. If he did something
4 wrong, he would blame us. If EFB thought we had
5 done something wrong we would be told to go into the
6 byre and we knew what was coming next. He would take
7 his belt off, lean us over the wall and give us four to
8 six swift ones. He would hit us on the backside over
9 our clothes or on our legs. We were usually wearing
10 short trousers so our legs were particularly vulnerable.
11 I remember getting the belt for trying to run away once.
12 EFB used to fight tooth and nail with his son.
13 They would get into disagreements regularly and I saw
14 them get into a physical fight a couple of times.
15 EFB would punch his son hard. You could hear the
16 punches. His son would give as good as he got.
17 I believe he went on to train as a teacher and became
18 a headmaster at a school.
19 On one occasion, EFA accused my brother
20 of stealing a box of matches from her. The three of us
21 denied it, but she didn't believe us and she said she
22 wanted the truth. She put a poker in the fire to heat.
23 When she took it out, it was red hot and she told us
24 that if we were telling the truth it wouldn't burn us
25 when we grabbed it. She held out the poker and I almost

1 grabbed it. Luckily, my oldest brother pulled my arm
2 away and shouted at her. She swung the red hot poker at
3 him, but missed. Later that night she found the matches
4 she accused my brother of stealing.

5 My brothers and I left the EFA-EFB in 1966. I would
6 be coming up for 12. No one spoke to us about leaving
7 and we only found out when a social worker turned up to
8 escort us back on the plane to Glasgow. I can't
9 remember the social worker's name but she was a bit of
10 a battleaxe. My other four siblings, who had been
11 living with another family on Tiree, were also on the
12 plane.

13 I later found out that very shortly after we left
14 the EFA-EFB they fostered another two children. They
15 clearly knew in advance that we were leaving and had
16 made arrangements to replace us. They had been
17 fostering for many years and this was a way to save them
18 from having to employ anyone else to work on the farm.

19 My brother later on showed me a copy of a front
20 page of a [REDACTED] that had a picture of the
21 EFA-EFB with foster children. The article described how
22 good the EFA-EFB were in taking in so many foster
23 children to live with them. The picture showed EFA
24 and EFB at the dinner table with the children they
25 were currently fostering.

1 After leaving Tiree, all seven of us were returned
2 to my parents' care. My mum and dad had moved address
3 but were still living in Glasgow. I hadn't seen them or
4 had any contact with them since I went into care in
5 1961. I found out that they had another daughter so
6 I had another sister that I didn't know about and had
7 never met. I also found out that my mum spent six
8 months in prison for child neglect while my siblings and
9 I were in foster care.

10 Life at home with my parents was tough. There were
11 ten of us in a tiny house. It was just one small room
12 and a kitchen. We all slept on mattresses on the floor.
13 There weren't enough blankets to go around so we used
14 coats and jackets as blankets at night. It was
15 horrendous and there was no social work involvement at
16 all after we came back from Tiree. It was also strange
17 being back with my other siblings who I hadn't seen in
18 a number of years. I vaguely remembered my other two
19 brothers. My sisters were very young when we were taken
20 into care so I didn't really remember them or know them.

21 My father died in 1966, not long after we came back
22 from Tiree. It was [REDACTED] at the time and it
23 was said to have been a drowning accident. That wasn't
24 quite true. The [REDACTED] because
25 my mum was widowed with eight children. He actually

1 died while poaching with my grandfather. The riverbank
2 gave way and my dad drowned, my grandfather survived.

3 After leaving Tiree, I went back to primary school
4 in Glasgow. I was way behind all the other kids because
5 all we focused on in Tiree was learning Gaelic. They
6 hadn't taught us arithmetic or science or anything like
7 that. I started secondary school when I was 13 and left
8 school at 14.

9 I got a job as an apprentice carpet fitter and after
10 that I went from job to job. I ended up in the army for
11 nine years. I got married at 18 and my wife was 16
12 years old. In fact, we married on her 16th birthday.
13 We had three children and were married nearly 30 years
14 before we separated and divorced. I remarried two years
15 later and have a stepson from that marriage.

16 I went on to work in hotel management in various
17 hotels in Glasgow. It was a job I enjoyed and I was
18 good at it. I later worked in events security and I did
19 that until I stopped working approximately seven years
20 ago due to ill health. My health went downhill very
21 rapidly and I found it very difficult because I'd always
22 been very active.

23 I vowed never to treat anyone the way I was treated
24 while in care. Ultimately, I think everything I went
25 through made me determined to be a better person. I was

1 able to tolerate more, which was useful, especially when
2 my kids were young. They didn't get disciplined in the
3 way that I did. I've never spoken to them about my
4 childhood.

5 I've remained close to my siblings but we didn't
6 really talk about what we all went through in Tiree.
7 I could speak to the brothers I lived with on Tiree
8 about our experiences. I'm sure our other four siblings
9 spoke to each other about their experiences, but we
10 didn't share them with each other. All I know is that
11 they had a bad experience too.

12 My brother went back to Tiree to see the house we
13 lived in with the EFA-EFB . I've never wanted to go back
14 as even in my adult life certain things would be
15 triggers for me and take me back to my time there.
16 I believe my brother has obtained some of his records
17 but I've never wanted to see mine.

18 I think the care system needs to be more open and
19 transparent. If children are being placed in foster
20 care, there needs to be someone experienced put in
21 charge of the oversight of their care and who is
22 an adult for them to talk to. That needs to be coupled
23 with regular checks on children, perhaps by someone who
24 has been in the care system themselves, as they will
25 know exactly what to look for to tell if a child is

1 being mistreated.

2 I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true."

6 My Lady, the statement is signed by 'Joe' on
7 22 April 2022.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 Thank you very much. We'll break now, it will be
10 another witness around 11.45; is that right?

11 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

12 LADY SMITH: Before I do that, people may have noticed that
13 names have been used that are protected by my general
14 restriction order. The EFA-EFB have been referred to,
15 some of the children in care's siblings' names have been
16 used, as has the name of the EFA-EFB son. They can be
17 used within this room but not outside it so please
18 remember that.

19 I'll rise now and sit again after the break. Thank
20 you.

21 (11.34 am)

22 (A short break)

23 (11.48 am)

24 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

25 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

1 The next witness is 'James'. He was again boarded
2 out by Glasgow Corporation, now City of Glasgow Council.
3 He was also boarded out to Tiree on [REDACTED] 1962 and
4 returned to Glasgow on [REDACTED] 1965, and he was in
5 a foster placement with the EMY-EVI [REDACTED].

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 'James' (sworn)

8 LADY SMITH: The first thing I want to mention, 'James', is
9 that microphone. If you can make sure you stay in
10 a good position for the microphone to pick up your
11 voice, that would be really helpful.

12 A. Can you hear me?

13 LADY SMITH: That's great, that's really good.

14 There's a red folder there, that has the hard copy
15 of your statement in it --

16 A. The hard copy.

17 LADY SMITH: -- that you've signed and you'll probably be
18 asked to look at that, but we're also going to bring
19 your statement up on screen if you find that helpful and
20 we'll put the different parts of it we're going to talk
21 about up on screen as we go through your evidence.

22 But also, 'James', it's really important to me that
23 you understand I do know this isn't easy. I do know
24 that coming forward to us at all, that isn't an easy
25 thing to have done, and taking you back to talk about

1 such a difficult time in your childhood will have no
2 doubt provoked emotions that will have taken you by
3 surprise.

4 Can I just assure you I understand that and what
5 I want to do is do anything I can to make it as easy as
6 possible for you, but knowing the whole thing isn't
7 easy, I do get that.

8 A. Yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Let me know if you have any questions, if you
10 have any concerns, if you want a break or if you just
11 want to pause while you're sitting there, will you do
12 that?

13 A. I will do, yes.

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

16 A. Yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 Questions from Ms Innes

19 MS INNES: 'James', we understand that you were born in
20 1955. Is that right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. A copy of your witness statement is on the screen in
23 front of you and in your folder. We give it the
24 reference WIT-1-000000913. If we can go to the final
25 page of it, please, page 13, at paragraph 55, you say

1 there --

2 A. As I say there.

3 Q. "I have no objection to my witness statement being

4 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

5 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

6 true."

7 I think you signed your statement on 17 February of

8 this year, 2022, is that right?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. If I can take you back to the start of your statement,

11 please, you talk a little bit about your family. At

12 paragraph 3 you tell us that you were one of eight

13 children.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. So five boys and three girls.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I think you're the fifth --

18 A. I'm the fifth, yes. I'm the youngest lad.

19 Q. So you had four older brothers and three younger

20 sisters?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. I think you tell us that your youngest sister was born

23 after you were taken away into care; is that right?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. At paragraph 4 of your statement that we see there, you

1 say that you don't remember primary school or really
2 anything about home before leaving when --
3 A. No.
4 Q. -- you were about five or six.
5 A. That's right, yes.
6 Q. You say your first memory is being taken away.
7 A. Yeah, well, I just don't remember any of it at all.
8 Q. What do you remember about being taken away?
9 A. I can only remember more than anything is the plane
10 ride. That's the start of it, really. That's when it
11 all -- you know, because it's like -- first plane ride
12 is like an adventure. But it's obviously never turned
13 into it.
14 Q. I think if we go over the page to page 2 you say that in
15 terms of your early life you have some understanding of
16 what happened, that you were separated into children's
17 homes.
18 A. Yeah.
19 Q. But I think that's perhaps information that you've
20 received from your older brothers?
21 A. Older brothers, yeah.
22 Q. You say your first memories, at paragraph 6, are going
23 to Tiree.
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. At paragraph 7 you say:

1 "I don't remember the whole trip to Tiree, but
2 I remember the plane ride."
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. Can you remember your brothers and sisters being on the
5 plane with you, on the plane?
6 A. To be honest, no. I just remember the -- the plane ride
7 was the only thing that sticks in my head.
8 Q. You say at paragraph 8 that the family were split up
9 right away.
10 A. Uh-huh.
11 Q. And you, one of your older brothers and your two younger
12 sisters went to one house --
13 A. Uh-huh.
14 Q. -- and the other three brothers went to another family?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. Can you remember that happening, can you remember --
17 A. I can remember getting to the -- the boarding out -- the
18 family, the foster family, I can remember going there.
19 Q. Can you remember being conscious that some of your
20 brothers were not there or weren't staying at the same
21 house?
22 A. I would imagine back then I did, but now I can't
23 remember that far back to be honest with you. I can
24 remember just the four of us there saying oh, this is my
25 two sisters and my older brother.

1 Q. You say there at paragraph 8, and we'll perhaps come
2 back to this, you didn't see your older brothers
3 again --
4 A. No.
5 Q. -- until you returned to Glasgow four years later, is
6 that right?
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. What were your first memories of the people that you
9 went to stay with?
10 A. First memories was just when I got there, you know, they
11 were -- because -- I think it was because the man from
12 the government, whoever it was, Mr -- I think it was
13 Mr Meldrum or something like that I think it was,
14 because he was there, they were dead nice to us, they
15 were really nice. You know, just like tickling you,
16 messing about with yous, trying to make us feel
17 comfortable, but when he went away it was a different
18 story altogether.
19 Q. You talk a little bit about the area that you were
20 living in. Again if we go over the page to
21 paragraph 10, you say you can't remember how old the
22 EMY-EVI were, you think maybe about 35 to 40?
23 A. 40s, yeah, they must have been something like that.
24 Q. And they had one daughter of their own?
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Was she living in the house when you got there?
2 A. I think she was, but I can't remember.
3 Q. Can you remember her living there at all when you --
4 A. I remember her being there at times, yes.
5 Q. Was she somebody who was at school or was she working?
6 A. I think she was at school, possibly.
7 Q. You say that you met her again when you were older and
8 you think she's maybe about ten years older than you?
9 A. Yeah.
10 Q. At paragraph 11 you say that the only other person you
11 remember being there when you arrived was Mr Meldrum,
12 who you've mentioned.
13 A. Yeah.
14 Q. Can you remember what he was like or anything about him?
15 A. Do you know, I could not remember one thing about him.
16 If he stood in front of me, I would not even know who he
17 was. Couldn't remember anything.
18 Q. You were just conscious, I think, that he was there when
19 you arrived?
20 A. Yeah, yeah, because he was the one that took us over
21 there. This is -- this is me getting it from my brother
22 that Mr Meldrum was the man that was organising it all
23 from the Corporation at the time.
24 Q. So your brothers told you that Mr Meldrum was --
25 A. Yeah, Mr Meldrum, yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: Have you any memory of a woman taking you over
2 as well?
3 A. I have not, no.
4 LADY SMITH: Or anybody from the Local Authority who wore
5 a green uniform?
6 A. No.
7 LADY SMITH: It's fine if you don't remember.
8 A. This is like a long time back.
9 LADY SMITH: I know, I do realise that.
10 A. It's -- half the time I can't remember what I did
11 yesterday, so this is -- something like that, that long
12 ago ...
13 MS INNES: Okay. If we go on, you talk about what the house
14 was like. You say it was a big working farm.
15 A. Yeah, it was a big working farm, yes.
16 Q. Can you tell us a bit about the house? What was it
17 like?
18 A. It was a big house, dreary house. It was like early
19 stages of electricity, you know, these kind of things on
20 the farm. You know, like I said, it was just -- it
21 never had a lot of like I'd say hot water, things like
22 that. You had to boil everything and things like that.
23 It was just a big working farm. It was just a horrible
24 place.
25 Q. You talk about the bedrooms, that you think the house

1 was big and there were six or seven bedrooms.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You say you and your brother shared a room.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And you think probably the girls did too?

6 A. My sisters, yeah.

7 Q. In the time that you were there, apart from the EMY-EVI

8 and their daughter and you and your brother and sisters,

9 can you remember anybody else living there?

10 A. I can remember a brother and sister there, [REDACTED] and

11 [REDACTED].

12 Q. Had they been boarded out?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And can you remember what sort of ages they were? Were

15 they a similar age to you or --

16 A. I think they were a similar age, because I've got

17 a school photograph that shows them round about the

18 same -- you know, in the school photograph sort of

19 thing, so they must have been a similar age. I've never

20 been in contact with them, so.

21 Q. Would that have been in primary school?

22 A. It would have been, yes.

23 Q. Then you say that there were cattle on the farm.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Do you have any sense of how many cattle?

1 A. I know there was a lot. I know there was a lot, but ...
2 that's -- that -- I think that was the only thing they
3 had. They never had anything other than just cows,
4 cows.
5 Q. Then you say that there were fields with corn, hay,
6 potatoes --
7 A. There were all that kind of stuff was all there. They
8 had big fields, tractor, trailer, all that stuff.
9 Q. Was the purpose of that to feed the animals?
10 A. Well, obviously the hay was.
11 Q. Yeah.
12 A. The corn -- and the corn I would imagine so as well.
13 Q. We know that there were crofts on Tiree as well, but was
14 your sense that this was bigger, a bigger farm than
15 a croft?
16 A. Oh, I don't know the difference between the two of them.
17 Q. A croft might be a wee bit smaller, I guess.
18 A. No, it was quite big. It was a large, large place.
19 Q. Okay. Were there sort of barns and --
20 A. Yeah, there were barns -- the byres what they would call
21 them, I think it is.
22 Q. If we go on to paragraph 12, you say that your memory
23 is:
24 "It was okay at the beginning ..."
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. "... everything seemed to be fine, but after that
2 I don't remember anything happening apart from working
3 on the farm."
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. Do you have any memory of when that started, working on
6 the farm?
7 A. I don't know whether it was maybe a year into us being
8 there or whatever, but all I can remember is we were on
9 the farm, we were putting things together, you know,
10 building haystacks and corn and all that stuff.
11 Q. Okay.
12 A. Because at the time they never had all of the usual
13 machinery, so you had to -- like the corn used to stand
14 up and you used to wrap it with corn, just stand it up.
15 Q. Okay.
16 A. I remember doing that clearly.
17 Q. You say that there was no playing.
18 A. I think the likes of any time that we had to ourselves
19 we just sort of just messed about with ourselves, just
20 like kids running about, whatever, I don't know. But we
21 never had any toys, no nothing.
22 Q. If we go down to paragraph 14, you say the EMY-EVI
23 didn't foster any other family while you were there,
24 other than you've mentioned the [REDACTED] in the preceding
25 paragraph.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You say:

3 "I would say that they fostered because it

4 benefitted them with farm labour."

5 Why do you think that?

6 A. Well, because they didn't look after us like kids.

7 I mean it's like you're in a place where there's nowhere

8 else to go and it's like -- to me it's just like --

9 I don't know. It's just ... to me it was like -- it

10 saved them a lot of money. That's all it is, you know.

11 Rather than getting people in to work. Don't get me

12 wrong, it wasn't like hard labour because we were just

13 kids, but we never done as much as what adults would do,

14 but we did do stuff. And it wasn't like where you go

15 somewhere and obviously it would be a day at work with

16 your dad sort of thing. This was constant, it was ...

17 Q. You say that the government would have given them a lot

18 of money for doing it?

19 A. Well, I would imagine so. That is what they do, isn't

20 it, they pay to foster out. You see it advertised now

21 to help with everything, so I could only -- this is only

22 a supposition. I'm not -- I don't know.

23 LADY SMITH: Were you the youngest of the group of children

24 there, 'James'?

25 A. No. My two sisters were.

1 LADY SMITH: Oh your two sisters were younger.
2 A. Yeah.
3 LADY SMITH: So far as the other two children --
4 A. The other two were about the same age as myself.
5 Obviously they were a different age from each other, the
6 brother and sister, but I can't remember what one was
7 older out of the two.
8 LADY SMITH: So you were quite a young group of children
9 then?
10 A. Yes.
11 LADY SMITH: As you say, five, maybe six years old?
12 A. I think I was six when I first went there.
13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
14 MS INNES: I think your brother is a couple of years older
15 than you; is that right?
16 A. [REDACTED]'s about three years older than me.
17 Q. Okay, so he would have been about eight or nine when you
18 went there?
19 A. Yeah. Because the photograph I've got, he's like a way
20 up there and I'm a way down there.
21 Q. You say in this paragraph that you don't know if the
22 foster carers treated their own daughter any
23 differently. Can you remember her doing any work on the
24 farm?
25 A. No, not at all, no.

1 Q. Okay. You say that the EMY-EVI told you to call them
2 mum and dad?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. How did you feel about that?

5 A. Didn't know any better, really, didn't know any better.
6 I think it was more so's that -- I think when you
7 interact in the schools, you didn't want to turn around
8 and say Mr and Mrs EMY-EVI because you'd alienate
9 yourself with the other kids. But we didn't know who
10 was all fostered, obviously we were kids, you don't
11 know.

12 To me it's like if we call them Mr and Mrs EMY-EVI,
13 they know right away you're fostered or whatever. So
14 I think it was more that way and it's just their way of
15 just -- we'll be your mum and dad now, simple as that
16 sort of thing.

17 Q. Okay. If we go on over the page, you talk a little bit
18 there about some of the routine, and we will come back
19 to the work that you were doing. But you say that you'd
20 get up about 7 and the EMY-EVI fed you well, that's one
21 they --

22 A. That's one thing they did do, they fed well.

23 Q. Then you went to school and you had lunch there.

24 In the next paragraph you say that when you got
25 home, in the winter you didn't really do anything.

1 A. No, because obviously it's a bit dangerous possibly,
2 I don't know.
3 Q. It being dark, maybe?
4 A. Because in the winter it is dark at night as well, so.
5 Q. In the summer months you say that you would do various
6 things on the farm.
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. Which we'll come back to. Then you say after that you
9 went back into the house for your main meal, which was
10 always good.
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. Then you'd be put to bed; is that right?
13 A. Yeah.
14 Q. If we go to the bottom of the page, washing and bathing,
15 you say the washing facilities were bad, you didn't have
16 much. Can you tell us a little bit about that?
17 A. All I can remember is that we used -- she used --
18 I don't know whether they changed it maybe once or twice
19 or whatever, but I know we used to follow each other
20 into the bath, you know, likes of that. I think maybe
21 like the two sisters would be in the bath together, that
22 kind of thing. But that's all I can remember to be
23 honest with you.
24 Q. Can you remember if it was inside the house --
25 A. It was inside the house.

1 Q. Was there a toilet inside the house as well?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You say that there was electricity but you had no

4 running hot water, you had to boil it?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I think you mentioned that already.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You say that you don't remember anything electric in the

9 house.

10 A. I think there was lights, you know, electric lights,

11 things like that, you know, because -- I think it was

12 like stoves. You know, the Agas sort of thing, the

13 cooking type thing. I can remember a big -- big things,

14 you know.

15 LADY SMITH: Did they have their own generator for

16 electricity or was it mains electricity?

17 A. No, I think it's cable coming across the fields.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 A. I think it was cables.

20 MS INNES: Then over the page at the top of page 5 you say:

21 "They shouldn't have put kids there as it wasn't

22 suitable."

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Why do you say that?

25 A. Because it's not an environment a kid can live in. It's

1 not like where you go to school, you could meet friends,
2 stay overnight at their friends, things like that. You
3 couldn't do nothing like that. Your friends were your
4 family. I mean, the only -- okay, you maybe played with
5 a few people at school, but when you come out of school,
6 that was it. There was no like kiddy thing, if you want
7 to call it that. To me it was just -- it's wrong, and
8 the wrong environment to put a kid into. Because there
9 was no love in that house whatsoever. Nothing at all.

10 Q. You talk about school in the next section. How did you
11 get on at school?

12 A. I don't really know, actually. I know we used to do
13 school work at home. You know, you maybe got homework,
14 you do reading, you do spelling, that kind of thing.
15 Just the basic stuff at the time, because there was none
16 of this like algebra and all sorts of stuff. It was
17 just your basic stuff and we did that, so -- but how
18 I got on, I don't know because I've not seen any
19 reports. I can't remember any reports.

20 Q. Were you taught Gaelic at school?

21 A. No.

22 Q. No?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did the EMY-EVI speak Gaelic?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did they communicate with one another in Gaelic?
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. Did they communicate with their daughter in Gaelic, can
4 you remember?
5 A. I can't remember.
6 Q. Did you have any idea what they were saying?
7 A. Didn't have a clue, no.
8 Q. Did they speak to other people in the community in
9 Gaelic when you were there?
10 A. Yeah, well, when they had visitors or people coming
11 over, to interact with the farmers they may be speaking
12 Gaelic, but I think it was like their first language,
13 really.
14 Q. Okay. At paragraph 22 you say that you think that there
15 were other foster children at the school?
16 A. Yeah, I would imagine so because I think it's a whole
17 community of foster kids that's been over there.
18 Q. Okay.
19 A. I'm only surmising. I don't know for a fact, but ...
20 Q. Okay. It's perhaps not something that you would have
21 noticed at the time?
22 A. No, it's not something you're going to ask. You're
23 a kid and you don't know these things. You don't ask,
24 "I'm fostered at this one, are you fostered at that
25 one?" You don't know.

1 Q. Then you talk about clothing. You don't remember the
2 EMY-EVI taking you out and buying clothes.
3 A. No.
4 Q. You don't remember wearing a school uniform, just normal
5 clothes.
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. You say you have a school photo and everyone is wearing
8 normal clothes.
9 A. Wearing normal clothes, short trousers. I remember
10 that, short trousers.
11 Q. Is it short trousers all year round?
12 A. I think it was actually, to be honest with you. I could
13 only see photographs it is just short trousers.
14 Q. You say that you have this school photo. Is that
15 something that you got at the time or is that something
16 that you've --
17 A. No, that's something I got through family. You know,
18 they found it and shared it.
19 Q. Was that more recently then?
20 A. Within the last four years maybe.
21 Q. Then at paragraph 24 you say that you didn't have any
22 toys or books, magazines or comics. You didn't get
23 pocket money. You can't recall getting sweets.
24 A. No.
25 Q. There were no shops near you anyway. Did a mobile

1 grocery van came around, can you remember?

2 A. I don't remember that.

3 Q. No?

4 A. No.

5 Q. In any leisure time that you had, can you remember what

6 you did?

7 A. We just played outside a bit. Summer obviously played

8 outside.

9 Q. That would be with your brother and sisters?

10 A. With my brother and sisters, yeah.

11 Q. Then if we go to the top of the next page, page 6 at

12 paragraph 25, you say that on school holidays you would

13 help on the farm?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You never went on a trip or a holiday --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- you stayed on Tiree for --

18 A. The whole time we were there, all the time.

19 Q. Can you remember, other than going to school, ever going

20 anywhere else on the island?

21 A. No.

22 Q. If we go on to the next paragraph, you're asked there

23 about any visits. Do you remember anyone coming from

24 the social work department from Glasgow to visit?

25 A. Not -- no.

1 Q. You mention your parents. Did you have any contact with
2 your parents when you were there?

3 A. No. None at all whatsoever.

4 Q. As you've already said, you never saw your other
5 siblings?

6 A. No.

7 Q. At birthdays and Christmas, can you remember your
8 birthday being celebrated when you were there?

9 A. No. No.

10 Q. Were you conscious of when your birthday was?

11 A. I don't think I was actually to be honest with you.
12 I don't know I knew myself.

13 Q. Can you remember anything being done for your sisters'
14 birthdays or your brother's birthday?

15 A. No.

16 Q. What about Christmas? Do you have any memories of
17 Christmas when you were there?

18 A. I can't remember anything at all at Christmas.
19 Christmas to me was just another day.

20 Q. Did they do anything at New Year rather than Christmas?

21 A. No. They were just a working family. That's all they
22 were, just a working family.

23 Q. If we go down to this next section, you talk more about
24 the work that you had to do.

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Can you tell us about some of the jobs that you had to
2 do on the farm?

3 A. We just had to like -- we cleaned the byre out and we
4 were working on the fields and that. The hardest thing,
5 as I say on there, is like the corn, because it was --
6 because we were little kids, your feet got hurt, your
7 hands got cut and all sorts. Not drastically bad, but,
8 you know.

9 Q. Would the corn have been cut by a machine and then you
10 had to collect it together and tie it up?

11 A. Yeah, and tie it, yeah.

12 Q. I see.

13 A. I think sometimes they used these big scythes and that,
14 you know. It all depends how big the crop was, I would
15 imagine.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I don't know whether it was big looking because I was
18 that small, but it did feel it was an enormous place.

19 Q. So there was the corn. You talk about picking potatoes?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Did you have to do that?

22 A. Yeah, you had to do that automatically, yeah. That was
23 part of the whole thing.

24 Q. Did you have to plant potatoes as well in the spring
25 time?

1 A. I don't remember doing that, I don't remember planting
2 them.
3 Q. Then, as you say, you remember cleaning out the byre?
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. You talk about sitting on the back of trailers going
6 from field to field?
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. That was something you enjoyed?
9 A. Yeah. Because it was ... every kid loves to sit on the
10 back of a truck or whatever. I would imagine it was --
11 to me it was -- it was obviously fun.
12 Q. You say you didn't realise you were being taken
13 advantage of?
14 A. No.
15 Q. Can you just explain a little bit more about that?
16 A. No, the thing just taken advantage of as in, you know,
17 just doing work. There was nothing, you know, malice in
18 it or anything. It was just like work, just taking
19 advantage that way.
20 Q. Did you ever have to do any jobs inside the house?
21 A. I don't remember doing anything -- I'd imagine making
22 beds and all that, do your own beds, that kind of thing,
23 yes.
24 Q. But it was mainly outside?
25 A. Everything was mostly outside.

1 Q. You say that your brother did the same work as you --
2 A. Yes.
3 Q. -- but you don't remember your sisters out working in
4 the fields?
5 A. I don't remember them doing that much, you know.
6 Because they were -- they were tiny, you know.
7 Q. Then you say that it was a way of life, you just got on
8 with it.
9 A. It is. Once you're there for so long, it's like you
10 just: well, this is what I'm doing, so you just do it.
11 You just do as you're told.
12 Q. Were the EMY-EVI out in the fields doing the work
13 alongside you?
14 A. She wasn't. He was.
15 Q. Did they have any other help on the farm?
16 A. I don't remember it to be honest with you, but the --
17 I don't remember any other adults being there.
18 Q. Then if we go on to the next page, page 7, you say that
19 in the summer you would be out for four to five hours,
20 at the top of the page.
21 A. Yeah, I see it there.
22 Q. You would be out for four to five hours. Would that be
23 perhaps in the summer holidays or after school?
24 A. After school you'd probably do some stuff, you would
25 have done some stuff, but during the holidays you were

1 out in the fields most of the time.

2 Q. Were you allowed to go back into the house if you wanted
3 to?

4 A. I don't think so. I think we all had to stay together,
5 you know, when we were there. We never asked us -- if
6 you needed a wee or something like that, you just went
7 into a corner or whatever and that was it.

8 Q. You say again in the four years that you were there, it
9 was all work. That's your --

10 A. That was our life.

11 Q. You say you can't remember having a ball, even to play
12 football with?

13 A. No, nothing.

14 Q. You also say the nearest house was miles away.

15 A. It was -- well, it's not a big island, but to us it felt
16 like miles away because it's like -- there's nothing,
17 it's not like you had a next-door neighbour. You
18 couldn't go visiting somebody else. You know,
19 especially on your own.

20 Q. As you've said, your friends were your family.

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. You went to school, came home and stayed there.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. So you didn't have friends that you could visit in the
25 local community --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- outwith the school?

3 A. Nothing at all. That's a definite no-no.

4 Q. Then at paragraph 31 you say that when you first went

5 there you wet the bed regularly --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- because it was traumatic.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Why do you say it was traumatic?

10 A. Because it was after the initial settle, you know,

11 getting there. It was after that. You know, I would

12 say about two, three, four weeks down the line, reality

13 set in, what they were like and what you had to do and

14 it was just scary as a kid. It was just one of these

15 things that, you know, you just couldn't handle it.

16 They weren't exactly the best. Just one of them -- just

17 couldn't handle it.

18 Q. What was Mrs EVI's reaction if you wet the bed? What

19 would they do?

20 A. Well, it was more like she just -- they'd punish you,

21 but not severely. But ... I think what she used to do

22 is she'd put all sorts on you rather than proper clothes

23 because you never had a lot then. I don't know what

24 they had for you or whatever, but I can remember them

25 putting kilts or whatever on me. That way I wouldn't

1 wet my pants. You know, things like that. These things
2 were horrific.

3 Q. Yes. You also say that it was freezing cold --

4 A. Well, in the winter, that was the worst time, obviously.
5 In the winter it was bad. It was bad then.

6 Q. In the bedrooms it would have been freezing cold?

7 A. Because you are talking about like so when we first went
8 there, I think it was like the middle of the year, kind
9 of hitting summer type thing, so you're talking about
10 like these months down the line it was getting colder
11 and colder and Tiree's not exactly the warmest place.

12 Q. If we go down to the bottom of this page at
13 paragraph 32, you say that if you were naughty and had
14 done something wrong, Mr EMY leathered you with
15 a belt.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What kind of belt did he use? Was it --

18 A. Just a belt off his pants, whatever, off his trousers.
19 I'm saying "pants" because I lived down south. "Pants"
20 is "trousers".

21 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, I know what you mean.

22 A. I'm not used to saying it down there, buying a new pair
23 of pants, it's trousers. So just taking his belt off
24 his denims or whatever he's got on.

25 MS INNES: Yes. You go on there to say that something was

1 reported by the school, I think --

2 A. Yeah, it's like when you're kids you used to play --

3 later on, you used to play penny to the wall. We used

4 to use stones, because you never got money, you never

5 had nothing over there. And one of the kids said I hit

6 the teacher's car with a stone, I didn't, it was well,

7 well away from us. But she reported it. She told the

8 [REDACTED] that I did this and when I got back there I got

9 absolutely battered silly with the belt, because the

10 teachers reported me to them. I don't know whether it

11 was because of, you know, because we were foster kids.

12 Maybe somebody's just done that just to be evil,

13 something like that, I don't know.

14 Q. You remember that occasion when he battered you with the

15 belt. You can say that you can also remember being

16 smacked more without the belt?

17 A. Yeah, you used to get just a slap on the head or

18 whatever, "Don't do that again. You're not allowed,

19 don't do this, don't do that". It's these little

20 things. It's the belt that is the bit that sticks in my

21 head more than anything. But he was the disciplinarian,

22 because she would tell him and he would be the one to do

23 that.

24 Q. As you say there, she left him to deal with discipline?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. But she was strict?

2 A. Oh, she was strict, yeah. You weren't allowed to do
3 this, you weren't allowed to do that and all this kind
4 of stuff. Just done as she told you, simple as that.

5 Q. You mentioned they never showed any affection after that
6 first day?

7 A. No, after the first week there, I think you got a week
8 to settle in period sort of thing and then that was it,
9 because I don't remember them being nice really after he
10 went away.

11 Q. Were you frightened of them?

12 A. Well, I would say I was, yes. That's why I was wetting
13 myself and all sorts. I would say it was just like --
14 you know, this is completely new, this is not a kid.
15 This is not where a kid should be.

16 Q. Then on the top of the next page, paragraph 33, you say
17 you were treated like workers --

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. -- as you've said, you had nothing --

20 A. Mm.

21 Q. -- and you have no happy memories of being there. You
22 say:

23 "I had nothing else to compare it with ..."

24 A. No, nothing. Nothing whatsoever. Apart from sitting in
25 the back of a trailer getting pulled about, that was

1 about the only good thing that ever happened. And
2 having meals, because they was good that way.

3 Q. Then you go on to talk about leaving Tiree.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Can you tell us what you remember of that?

6 A. I can just remember us -- I don't remember the actual
7 event, but I do remember us all being on a plane and
8 I can remember us getting back to Glasgow. That's about
9 the only I can remember. I don't remember the events,
10 you know, "Yous all into a van and away yous go",
11 I don't remember these details.

12 Q. On the plane, were you conscious that your brothers who
13 had been in the other --

14 A. They made their selves known to us, yeah, they made
15 their selves known.

16 Q. Can you remember anything about how you felt about that?
17 Were you aware that you had brothers?

18 A. I think it was maybe exciting, between meeting them and
19 being on a plane again. I think it was that. That's
20 about it.

21 Q. Then you say that you were -- you think you were kept
22 separate?

23 A. We were kept separate, the two households were kept
24 separate on the plane. It was like we were at the back
25 of the bus, they were at the front of the bus type of

1 thing.

2 Q. Did you each have somebody -- a social worker or

3 somebody from Glasgow with you?

4 A. I can't remember. I can't remember. I can imagine

5 there was.

6 Q. Then you say that you remember being back in Glasgow.

7 Can you remember arriving back?

8 A. I can just remember in the house, going to the house.

9 I don't remember, you know, the events getting to the

10 house, that kind of thing.

11 Q. If we look down at paragraph 36, can you tell us what

12 the house was like that you went back to?

13 A. A -- it was just a room and kitchen. It was just a room

14 and kitchen, and when we came back there was just eight

15 of us and two adults in a house, in this little house.

16 It was ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous.

17 My mum and dad -- we knew that they slept in the

18 recess in the kitchen area, but we were all crammed into

19 the room. And it must have been traumatic for the

20 younger sister when we went back there, for her to have

21 a room to herself and all of a sudden there's another

22 seven people on top of her. It must have been

23 absolutely horrendous for her as well.

24 Obviously she'd be excited, "I've got brothers and

25 sisters", but that environment, to live in that, was

1 terrible. I just can't get over how we were sent back
2 to that. Don't get me wrong, it was nice for us all to
3 get back together, but to go back to that, that --
4 I can't get over that.

5 Q. So in terms of your parents, you said that you hadn't
6 seen them for the four years or --

7 A. No, had no contact whatsoever. Obviously I think we
8 were taken off them. Well, we were taken off them, you
9 know, because of the circumstances, whatever.

10 Q. Can you remember what it was like being back in the care
11 of your parents and how you interacted with them?

12 A. At the beginning it was just like -- you know, it was
13 more brothers and sisters rather than parents. Because
14 it was just like an adventure because you're little
15 kids, you know what I mean, it's -- but I don't remember
16 that much. Because my dad died after three months or so
17 after we got back.

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Four months.

20 Q. You say at paragraph 37:

21 "Life was horrible. We had nothing."

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And your mum wasn't much better than when you'd been
24 left?

25 A. No. God rest her soul, but she was -- she thought about

1 herself more than us. That's all she did. We came
2 back. The government supplied us all with clothes and
3 all sorts -- the Corporation, whatever, to give us all
4 clothes and all that. No sooner than we had the clothes
5 than she was putting them in the pawn and things like
6 that just to get money to go out and things like that.
7 Q. Then you say at paragraph 38 that you think you bonded
8 pretty quickly with your brothers and sisters that
9 you --
10 A. Yeah, yeah.
11 Q. Because you had that bond?
12 A. Yeah.
13 Q. You were brothers and sisters.
14 Okay, if we can move on from there, please, I think
15 you tell us a bit about your life after care. If we can
16 go on, please, to the bottom of page 10, paragraph 45,
17 you say that you've never reported what happened to you.
18 Why not?
19 A. Didn't know who to report it to. Simple as that. These
20 things, it's like that would need to be like a group
21 report, if you want to call it that. To me it's like we
22 all get together and let's get this -- whatever. But
23 I've never ever done anything like that, no.
24 Q. Then if we go on to the next page, page 11, and you talk
25 about impact. If we look at paragraph 47, you say:

1 "To me it has made me a better person."
2 A. Of course it has, yes.
3 Q. Can you explain --
4 A. Well, what I went through, I would never have my kids or
5 anything like that going through it. And the bond I've
6 got with my family is unbelievable. Ah ...
7 Q. It's okay. When you're talking about your family there,
8 you're talking there about your own children and
9 grandchildren and --
10 A. Yeah.
11 Q. You tell us a little bit about your family.
12 If we go on to paragraph 49, you talk about your
13 brothers and sisters, I think. You say:
14 "I think because we went through so much turmoil
15 when we were younger, we are very close now."
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. "We've never had any big fall outs."
18 A. No, never.
19 Q. Then at paragraph 50 you say:
20 "I think we possibly needed counselling at the time,
21 but we didn't know that. I just got on with life. You
22 put it to the back of your mind."
23 Is that right?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. If we can move on over the page, please, to "Records",

1 you talked about some photographs and things that you
2 have seen, have you tried to get your records?

3 A. I've tried with Wellbeing Scotland, whatever. I got
4 a phone call when they asked to call me on certain days
5 and I've never had a call back since.

6 Q. I think you say you've been in touch with Future
7 Pathways?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You mentioned some things that you would like to know
10 about your childhood, I think.

11 A. Just want to know why it happened. You know, not so
12 much why it happened, who organised it all and who put
13 us in that kind of care. Why would you go to a farm?
14 Why would you come back to what we came back to? I want
15 to know why. As much as I'm happy to have my family
16 back, but I think it's wrong, completely wrong.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. They have a lot to answer for.

19 Q. From that I assume you would say that it's important
20 that children are given information about their
21 childhood and their time and why things happen?

22 A. Everybody should know everything. I mean, you should
23 know everything about yourself. But -- and the working
24 on the farm is not normal. It's not -- to me, to put
25 little kids in it when the people that work on the farm,

1 all they do is think about the farm, well, where's the
2 love with kids? There's nothing. There's not a thing
3 to me. I would hate to put a kid through that.

4 Q. You talk about that at paragraph 53, where you say that
5 if kids are put into care, everything should be put in
6 place for them --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- and it should be made sure that they're put into
9 a loving environment.

10 A. Of course, yeah. That's what brings them up, that's
11 what makes them better people.

12 Q. Yes.

13 Your hope for the Inquiry is that it makes sure that
14 what happened to you doesn't happen to anybody else?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Is that one of the reasons that you've come forward to
17 share your experience with the Inquiry?

18 A. Yes.

19 MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'James', for your evidence.

20 I don't have any more questions for you and I don't
21 understand there to be any applications, my Lady.

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

24 There are no questions left that we have for you,
25 'James'. I just want to thank you again very much for

1 coming forward and increasing my learning on what
2 happened to you and generally what was happening to
3 children who were being boarded out in this way --
4 A. Yeah.
5 LADY SMITH: -- at the time you were in the 1960s.
6 A. Yeah.
7 LADY SMITH: I said at the beginning I did understand that
8 this would be difficult and I do understand that it
9 triggers emotions and that's perfectly all right. It
10 does demonstrate I hope, as you say, that at least you
11 do now have ongoing family relations that at one time
12 were taken away from you --
13 A. Yeah.
14 LADY SMITH: -- and perhaps you can salvage that from what
15 you've described as chaotic at times.
16 I'm able to let you go now and I hope you're able to
17 get some rest and peace for the rest of the day.
18 A. Yeah.
19 LADY SMITH: But you go with my thanks, please remember
20 that.
21 A. Yeah. Thank you.
22 (The witness withdrew)
23 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.
24 MS INNES: My Lady, we don't have any other read-ins this
25 week, we've completed them. We have another witness who

1 should be available at 2 o'clock.

2 LADY SMITH: Very well.

3 I'll rise now until 2 o'clock. Before I do that,

4 reminding people of the impact of my general restriction

5 order in relation to the last witness, the family with

6 whom he was boarded out, the EMY-EVI, names have been

7 mentioned, including their daughter. He's mentioned the

8 names of his own siblings and indeed the other children

9 who were boarded out with the EMY-EVI. These are

10 identities that are all protected by my order so please

11 don't mention them outside this room.

12 Thank you.

13 (12.42 pm)

14 (The luncheon adjournment)

15 (2.00 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

17 We move it our last witness today, I think,

18 Ms Innes; is that right?

19 MS INNES: That's correct, my Lady. The next witness is

20 'Illya'. He was in the care of Glasgow Corporation, now

21 Glasgow City Council, and was boarded out in Tiree from

22 1963 until [REDACTED] 1966.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 'Illya' (sworn)

25 LADY SMITH: 'Illya', I do need you to use that microphone.

1 It's important that everybody can hear you, and in
2 particular that the stenographers hear you through the
3 sound system which comes from the microphone.

4 Before we begin your evidence, a couple of things.
5 The hard copy of your statement's in that red folder
6 there, and you'll be taken to that, but we'll also put
7 parts of your statement up on the screen in front of
8 you, it's on the desk, and you might find it helpful.
9 You don't have to use that, but if it is helpful, do by
10 all means look at that when you're being asked
11 questions.

12 Can I also assure you, 'Illya', that I know that
13 giving evidence is tricky, it's quite difficult, and
14 given the subject matter we're asking you to talk about,
15 which requires you not just to go back decades in your
16 own life but to a difficult time of your life when I'm
17 sure you'll be aware that your emotions can take you by
18 surprise at times, that may already have happened as
19 you've gone back to think about it. I do understand
20 that.

21 If you need a break at any time or a pause, that's
22 absolutely fine by me. If it works for you, it works
23 for me. And if anything's troubling you about what
24 you're being asked or how you're being asked it, just
25 say. It's important that we do what we can to get it

1 right to enable you to give the best evidence you can.

2 Is that all right?

3 A. Thank you very much. Thank you.

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

5 she'll take it from there. Is that okay?

6 A. Thank you, yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS INNES: Thank you.

9 Questions from Ms Innes

10 MS INNES: Good afternoon, 'Illya'. We understand that you

11 were born in Glasgow in 1953; is that right?

12 A. I was, yes.

13 Q. If we can just look at your statement, we give it the

14 reference WIT-1-000000723. If we could go to the final

15 page of that, please, at paragraph 275, you say there

16 that you have no objection to your witness statement

17 being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry

18 and that you believe the facts stated in the witness

19 statement are true, and I think you signed that on

20 15 June last year, 2021.

21 A. Correct, yes, thank you.

22 Q. If I can take you back to the start of your statement

23 and just at paragraph 3 you tell us that you are one of

24 seven siblings and I think that you are maybe the fifth

25 child; is that right?

1 A. Yes, I think that's right.

2 Q. Okay. You tell us a little bit about your early life in
3 the first few paragraphs of your statement, and I think
4 at paragraph 7 on page 2 you tell us about living in
5 Bridgeton in Glasgow.

6 A. Correct, yes.

7 Q. I think that's your earliest memories are from that
8 time?

9 A. Yes. It is indeed, yeah.

10 Q. You talk about some of the difficulties that your
11 parents faced in your early life. At paragraph 8 you
12 tell us a little bit about your father. That he was one
13 of the brightest people that you've ever met but
14 unfortunately he had some problems in his life; is that
15 right?

16 A. That's correct, yes.

17 Q. You talk about him having a bit of a drink problem,
18 losing his job, and that repeating?

19 A. That's correct, yeah.

20 Q. Then if we go on to the next page, please, you talk at
21 paragraph 12 about your father also spending some time
22 in prison and there were times that he wasn't -- he
23 essentially wasn't there, he wasn't at home?

24 A. That's correct, yeah.

25 Q. At paragraph 13, you say that your mother just rolled

1 with it and tried to pick up the pieces where she could
2 to make things work out. And also I think people in the
3 neighbourhood in the east end of Glasgow also looked out
4 for you; is that right?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. There then came a time as you say in your statement that
7 something had to be done and you tell us that initially
8 you went into Castlemilk House in Glasgow?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. If we just move on to page 4 of your statement, I think
11 you tell us that there were maybe times that you were
12 going into Castlemilk House but then you were back at
13 home again?

14 A. That's correct, yeah.

15 Q. Then there came a time, if we go on to page 5, and
16 I think starting at paragraph 22, there came a time
17 where you were taken away from the care of your parents
18 on a longer-term basis. At paragraph 22 you refer to
19 bailiffs turning up at your house.

20 A. Correct, yes.

21 Q. Can you tell us a little of what you remember about
22 being taken away from the care of your parents, if
23 you're able to do that?

24 A. Well, as I said in my statement, on the day, just
25 a normal day, I was out doing what kids do and someone

1 said, "Oh, there's something going on at your house",
2 and it was sort of -- I didn't know what it was. It
3 could have been anything. And when I turned up, our
4 furniture -- what little furniture we had was out in the
5 backyard and some out the front but most out the back,
6 and of course this is something -- I mean, it was
7 like -- wow, what's going on? It certainly wasn't going
8 to be anything good, like somebody bringing us new
9 stuff, that's for sure.

10 It turns out that the bailiffs or the sheriff's
11 officers or whatever they were, they had been sent by
12 the Glasgow Corporation housing department because there
13 was an arrears on rent, I believe, which I found out
14 later on it was an arrears on rent, and it wasn't -- it
15 wasn't a great deal of money, but it was -- you know,
16 back then in the early 1960s it was more than my parents
17 could find, having maybe exhausted all other things over
18 the years, borrowing and what have you. I think it had
19 sort of come to a head and basically the housing
20 department, they seen it as the right thing to move us
21 out because it wasn't their problem to deal with us.
22 That was Social Services to deal with us.

23 Q. You talk at paragraph 25 about going to John Street in
24 Glasgow to an office there. I think maybe that was the
25 welfare office of Glasgow Corporation?

1 A. Yeah, I believe it was, yeah.

2 Q. What was the response of the Local Authority to your
3 parents?

4 A. Well, I think what my father was trying to negotiate --
5 because all said and done, when he was sober he was
6 academically brilliant. He tried to negotiate, you
7 know, them to reconsider and, you know, he put the
8 argument over, from what I'm told and I remember him
9 telling me this later, that, you know, for the sake
10 of -- I don't know, pick a number, £30 worth of rent
11 it's going to cost them hundreds of pounds to put us
12 into care and the maths didn't sort of stack up and --
13 you know, they didn't buy that one. I think they'd had
14 enough of him letting them down, as it were.

15 Q. If we go over the page to page 6 at paragraph 26, you
16 tell us that you were all at the welfare offices when
17 this discussion was going on.

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. And you say your parents left and all seven of you were
20 shipped out to Eversley Children's Home?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. So it appears that the outcome of the discussions were
23 that you were removed from your parents' care by the
24 Local Authority?

25 A. Absolutely. Although it says they left, they didn't

1 just walk out or anything. Obviously negotiations were
2 over, we were taken into care and eventually through
3 a back door into a vehicle and as we drove out our
4 parents were still on the corner of John Street, but,
5 you know, still not believing what was happening.

6 Q. You say this at the bottom of this page at paragraph 30.
7 You refer to it being social workers of some sort that
8 took you away in a minibus and you describe the social
9 workers.

10 A. Yeah. They were faceless, emotionless, just, you know,
11 no compassion. But that's the job, it's hard to show,
12 I suppose, it's maybe hard for them to show compassion
13 or tell us everything's going to be all right when, you
14 know, they do this daily, I suppose. It must be
15 difficult for them.

16 Q. These were people you describe being dressed in green?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think that comes up again in your statement.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Were social workers from the Corporation always dressed
21 in green?

22 A. I would say the ones I come across were always in a sort
23 of in this dark green. And even in green vehicles.

24 Q. Right, okay.

25 Then you talk over the page about going to Eversley

1 Children's Home but you say that you were only there for
2 a short period, maybe a day or so, I think you
3 discovered, before going on to Castlemilk.

4 A. That's correct, yeah. It was a holding -- it was
5 probably, you know, much like they do with prisoners
6 nowadays that get convicted, they put them into whatever
7 prison's got cells and maybe farm them out later on.
8 That's what was available to take seven of us in.

9 Q. At paragraph 32 you say that it was quite soon after
10 that your two older brothers went on to be repatriated
11 with your parents.

12 A. Yeah. We went to Castlemilk for a short time with them
13 and then they -- I think it's we went to Dunclutha, they
14 went back to our parents. I think it was very --
15 a couple of weeks, maybe, a month, I can't remember.
16 But we were put there really in quarantine because at
17 the time we were not in the best of health, hygiene
18 wise, you know. There was certain things that we -- we
19 had to go through a quarantine system before we could go
20 into the main children's home. We had to live in
21 quarantine to be cleaned up.

22 Q. I think you talk about that at paragraph 34 in your
23 statement, which is blanked out on the screen because
24 it's a separate institution, but I think you can perhaps
25 see it in the statement in front of you.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You say there that you remember when you went to
3 Castlemilk, you were separated from the other children
4 and put into isolation for two weeks.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. That's your recollection. I think you go on in fact to
7 say at paragraph 35 you didn't have any contact with
8 other children and you were bathed, washed, changed and
9 fed when you were in that isolation period.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Then from there you tell us I think at page 13 that you
12 moved to Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon.

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. I think that you describe that you were essentially
15 taken from school, in the paragraphs that we see at the
16 top of the page here, 65.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You were sitting at your desk at school and then --

19 A. Yeah, it was ... (Pause)

20 Q. It's okay. (Pause)

21 You talk there, 'Illya', at paragraph 68 you say
22 there was no opportunity to say goodbye to your
23 classmates and no collection of personal possessions and
24 you describe what happened as being very callous.

25 A. It were brutal, it was brutal.

1 Q. What about -- are you able to answer this -- your older
2 brothers that you said had gone back to the care of your
3 parents. Did you know at the time that they'd gone back
4 to the care of your parents?

5 A. No. When I was taken from the school, we met in the car
6 park at Castlemilk and there was just my three sisters
7 and my younger brother there, and the other two I can't
8 recall them being around. And that was us taken off to
9 Dunclutha.

10 But, you know -- I've composed myself a little
11 bit -- it was brutal.

12 Q. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Because, 'Illya', before then you'd been
14 a group of eight children together. Is that right?

15 A. Seven.

16 LADY SMITH: Sorry, seven in total.

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: All together.

19 A. Yes, we had, yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: And you didn't know what was happening?

21 A. I didn't know. As I said, I was sat in the classroom.
22 Teacher came in, spoke to my teacher, said something
23 along the lines of, you know, "Go and speak to
24 Ms Jones", or whatever her name was, and off I went,
25 thinking I was maybe going to be taken for another

1 inspection. And everything I owned, you know, my pen,
2 my ruler, everything, was just left.

3 LADY SMITH: Those things matter to children. Part of your
4 daily life.

5 A. Especially the way I had obtained them.

6 They were gifted to me.

7 LADY SMITH: By family?

8 A. (Witness shakes head)

9 Children. (Pause)

10 By other children in the class.

11 LADY SMITH: I see.

12 A. They were gifted to me by them and we were never given
13 anything.

14 LADY SMITH: I suppose your daily life would normally be
15 a matter of you packing those things up and taking them
16 carefully away from your desk at the end of your time in
17 the classroom --

18 A. (Witness nodded)

19 LADY SMITH: -- and then taking them back?

20 A. Treasured.

21 LADY SMITH: I can understand that.

22 A. But I have replaced them.

23 LADY SMITH: Good. And you've not lost the memories, I can
24 hear that.

25 MS INNES: I'm going to go on to when you left Dunclutha,

1 'Illya', if you're ready to go on.

2 A. Yes, I'm fine, thank you. Sorry.

3 Q. No, it's fine.

4 You talk at the end of page 21, at paragraph 113,

5 that you think Dunclutha was a clearing ground for

6 onward movement to the boarded-out system for some of

7 the children. Can you explain why you've come to that

8 view?

9 A. Well, we as a family of five, we met up with other

10 families at Dunclutha and then when we went on to the

11 next stage, they joined us at the next stage with

12 separate boarded-out families, so, you know, there was

13 a lot of families that, you know, had come there, stayed

14 a short time, eight months, six months, and then moved

15 on to -- you know, to the boarded-out system.

16 Q. Do you know how long you spent at Dunclutha?

17 A. I -- I think it was probably 10 months.

18 Q. Right, okay.

19 A. I think it's about 10 months. Honestly I -- I think it

20 was about that sort of time.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. But it was a good time, it was a good place.

23 Q. Okay. Then at page 22, at paragraph 114, you talk about

24 the move to Tiree.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Can you tell us about that? How did you find out about
2 that?

3 A. Well, we had been pre-warned that it was going to
4 happen, but I think maybe by a day or two. We did have
5 a -- using the militarism -- heads-up that it was going
6 to happen, and the minibus turned up, we were on the
7 minibus and off we went for a long drive.

8 Q. Can you remember what you were told about where you were
9 going?

10 A. Well, we were told we were going to be together and it's
11 a nice -- another home. We didn't know if that was
12 going to be a children's home or a private home. It was
13 just another home. And, "Don't worry, you'll be
14 together, everything will be okay, it's lovely,
15 countryside", you know, all the sort of standard
16 nonsense that they would feed us.

17 Q. You mentioned there that they said you were going
18 together. Was that together with your siblings that you
19 were with or together with other children --

20 A. No, it was just my brothers and sisters.

21 Q. You mentioned there that they talked about the
22 countryside. Did they say it was going to be a nice
23 place in the country and that sort of thing?

24 A. Yeah, they sold it to us as a package that it was going
25 to be in our interests to go there, it would be nice.

1 And because these people had been good to us in
2 Dunclutha, I can't take that away, we had no reason to
3 disbelieve what they were telling us. And quite
4 possibly they believed they were telling us the truth
5 because that's maybe what the green lady had told them.
6 Who knows. But, you know, we believed her story.

7 Q. You talk at paragraph 116 about the minibus drive and
8 you say there was a green lady on the bus with you; is
9 that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. On the bus, was it just you and your siblings or were
12 there other children there as well?

13 A. No, there were just my siblings and the green lady.

14 Q. You say that you were told on the journey that you were
15 all going to the same house, the same thing, that you
16 were all going to be together.

17 A. Yeah, yeah.

18 Q. You mentioned some of the things that you were told
19 about it. You say you didn't know it was an island and
20 you didn't know where it was. Can you remember if you
21 went on the boat over to Tiree?

22 A. Absolutely, yeah.

23 Q. Can you remember being on the boat?

24 A. Oh yeah.

25 Q. Is that fresh --

1 A. My older sister remembers it as well because we spooked
2 her a few times with our boy-ish behaviour.

3 Q. Was that the first time you'd been on a boat?

4 A. That big -- I think we'd gone up to Dunoon on a boat, on
5 a small ferry, you know, but a proper boat, yeah.

6 Q. It would be a much longer journey.

7 A. About four hours, yeah.

8 Q. You say that you remember when you got there, people
9 were speaking Gaelic.

10 A. Even on the boat, yeah. It was -- I mean they were
11 speaking this foreign language that was -- you know,
12 first you try to tune in thinking that you're missing
13 something and you couldn't quite work it out. But,
14 yeah, turns out it was the Gaelic, yeah.

15 Q. When you got off the boat, where did you go on the
16 island?

17 A. I think I remember we went to the white house,
18 a building that was on the island, it's a hotel now, the
19 Scarinish Hotel. I believe at that point is when my
20 oldest sister was told that we were going to be going to
21 different homes. I don't recall that, but in
22 conversation with my older sister, who lives overseas,
23 she said that that's when she was told and she tried to
24 create some sort of argument for it, but didn't --
25 didn't -- obviously it was never going to happen.

1 Q. At paragraph 118 you describe the green lady that was
2 with you. What do you remember of her?

3 A. Oh, I think they used her as a model for some of the
4 programmes that came out with the women's prisons, you
5 know. She was certainly a very stern lady. You
6 wouldn't want to -- you wouldn't want to cross her.

7 Q. You say that as far as child welfare was concerned, she
8 was definitely a square peg in a round hole.

9 A. Absolutely, yeah.

10 Q. Then you go on to say:

11 "I don't think she was deliberately brutal, perhaps
12 she just saw it as a job and was desensitised ..."

13 A. Yeah, I dare say that she had possibly in the past dealt
14 with some troublesome children and after a while they
15 become -- I don't know what the right word is -- used to
16 dealing with them, so they deal with them all the same.
17 But there was no compassion or -- or anything from her.

18 Q. Then you describe leaving this white house, the hotel,
19 and driving to [REDACTED], I think, and you say that you
20 stopped at a little hamlet of houses.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. What happened then?

23 A. Well, we pulled up at this white house and two cottages
24 attached to it -- well, we thought they were cottages
25 but in actual fact they were the byre and a stackhouse

1 or something, and my sister [REDACTED] and I were sort of
2 ordered out of the car and -- well, you know, "Come
3 here, you two", and that was when I realised that we
4 were not going to be together and we were told to go
5 into this house where this lady met us on the drive and,
6 you know, there was words exchanged and, you know,
7 documents or whatever, and we were told, "Don't worry,
8 the others are going to be quite close, they're just up
9 there a short distance away".

10 And having experienced the deceit and lies, we just
11 didn't know if we were ever going to see them again. We
12 didn't know we were actually on a small island, and,
13 of course, you know, the chances are we were going to
14 see them, but we didn't know that at the time because
15 they could have been 100 miles away. We didn't know how
16 big the island was or even what we were doing there. We
17 didn't know where they were taking them.

18 Q. You said that you and your sister were told to get out
19 of the car. Who told you to get out of the car, can you
20 remember?

21 A. The green lady.

22 Q. Did you have any sense as to whether it had been planned
23 in advance that it was you and your sister that were
24 going together or was it just picked at random?

25 A. Well, I didn't have any sense of it at the time, but it

1 certainly would not have been a random pick because
2 these people would have spoken in advance and they knew
3 what they needed. They were a little bit -- prior to
4 that, the system used to be they would turn up and all
5 the family would get out and the first in the line would
6 get to choose who they wanted, and if there was two
7 families in the car, the person would easily choose,
8 say, me and the other family's son or brother because
9 maybe we looked the part for her. But I think they'd
10 moved on from that slightly and they were a bit more
11 organised in our dispersal.

12 Q. We'll come onto it later, but I think you've done a lot
13 of research into children that were boarded out in Tiree
14 and have spoken to many of them.

15 A. Yeah, absolutely, yeah. [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] and quite a lot of ex-boarded-out
17 people have joined it. And also we have a lot of
18 islanders that join it, because I didn't want it to be
19 a mutual appreciation society with just boarded-out
20 people saying bad things about the island. I wanted to
21 allow the islanders who wanted to do to have their say
22 as well. And it's -- I mean, it's been proactive in
23 bringing people to this very room. [REDACTED] group
24 has brought people here.

25 Q. When you say that you were aware that at the earlier

1 stage people were lined up and they were picked at
2 random, is that information that you've learned from
3 speaking to people who that happened to?

4 A. Absolutely, you know I won't mention names, obviously,
5 but the woman I was living with, there was a family with
6 them before, and then the family before that, they have
7 spoken to one of the children -- the gentleman, now, but
8 I've spoken to one of them and he told me this story
9 himself, that he and his brother turned up at the same
10 gate and basically, "Do you want a couple of kids?" And
11 the lady and her husband came out and sort of looked
12 around and the lady said, "Yeah, we'll have him but we
13 won't have him". Said, "Why not?" said, "Oh, he
14 couldn't fetch the cows in, he couldn't bring in a stack
15 of hay. Look at him, he's scrawny, we don't want him".

16 And the husband was like, "If we're going to have
17 one, we're going to have both of them", and they were
18 negotiating themselves while the two boys were just
19 stood there thinking, "What's going on?" And eventually
20 the husband won and he got both of them, but this little
21 boy said he was terrified that, you know, because he
22 wasn't as muscular as his brother, that he was going to
23 be left behind. As it was, they stayed together.

24 And about 12 months later, the husband of this lady,
25 he was tragically killed in an accident where a horse

1 kicked him or something, you know, and that was
2 witnessed by this boy, and because she was now manless
3 within the croft, these two guys were invaluable to her
4 to run it. And she said -- but she did not want him
5 there, you know, from the get go. And the resentment
6 was obvious, he said.

7 Q. You cover that in your statement at paragraph 121. So
8 was this the same woman that you ended up living with?

9 A. Absolutely, yeah.

10 Q. And I think she was EGY ; is that right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You say at paragraph 122, you talk maybe about some of
13 your first impressions of her. Can you tell us what
14 those were, when you first met her? Can you remember
15 what she was like, what she said?

16 A. She was quite inviting -- my sister was with us, was
17 a little bit vocal about the fact that we were being
18 separated and she left her in no doubt that that was to
19 stop and, you know, she sort of set out the rules and
20 what we can do, what we can't do. They weren't overly
21 restrictive, you know, things that we had to do. She
22 sort of broke the thing with the -- we were going to do
23 chores around the house. I mean, that's not
24 unreasonable to expect to wash dishes or fetch water in,
25 maybe. But obviously it progressed from there. Once,

1 you know, she'd calmed us down, and told that's what it
2 was going to be, that things went on.

3 Q. If we go on to the next page, please, I'd like to --
4 well, first of all at paragraph 123 you say that you
5 believe that there would have been around 60 to 75
6 boarded-out children on Tiree during your time on the
7 island. You say you that you certainly know of one
8 house that had 18 children staying there at one time.

9 A. Absolutely, yeah.

10 Q. Again is that from -- is that something that you were
11 aware of at the time or is that something that you've
12 learned from speaking to people that had similar
13 experiences to your own?

14 A. We were aware of it at the time because we were in
15 school with these children.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. And although it's not like today with your mobile, you
18 can go and see places, we just assumed it was that many
19 because it was a big house. And it did have quite a lot
20 of buildings but they were mostly outbuildings for
21 cattle and stuff like that. But the actual building was
22 a three bedroom house.

23 Q. With 18 children in it?

24 A. Yes. First up, best dressed.

25 Q. You say you were a family of five, although you were

1 separated, as you've told us, and you were aware of some
2 other larger families around as well.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. At paragraph 124 you say that you were boarded out from
5 1963 until [REDACTED] 1966 and that was the day that
6 you were all repatriated back to Glasgow, so you and
7 your siblings?

8 A. Yes, correct.

9 Q. You say:

10 "We stayed there on the island throughout the entire
11 period of time."

12 So you never left the island for that whole period?

13 A. I -- I went to the Isle of Mull for one day for
14 a Highland games, you know, so I was ... technically the
15 answer is yes, I did leave the answer, but for one part
16 of a day, and then I was -- obviously when the games
17 were over -- brought back.

18 LADY SMITH: But you didn't come back to the mainland until
19 1966?

20 A. No, not at all. I think when we were on the Isle of
21 Mull we might have thought that was the mainland,
22 because we wouldn't have known.

23 LADY SMITH: It's much bigger than Tiree.

24 A. Just a little bit.

25 MS INNES: Then you say at paragraph 125 being boarded out

1 was never really explained to you. Were people using
2 this phrase, "You are being boarded out"?
3 A. It was certainly a label, yeah. It was certainly
4 a label that you were boarded out. And the islanders
5 had subtle ways of keeping you in your place as
6 a boarded-out. Even the school register, I found out
7 recently because I was able to obtain it through
8 requests, the boarded-out names were written in
9 a different colour ink from the islanders.
10 Q. Right.
11 A. So I can't quite remember the colours, but one was blue
12 and one was black, and if you were blue you were boarded
13 out, I think, you know, and that was how they -- but
14 they were never -- in the register or in the diaries
15 that they kept, there was very little reference to
16 boarded-outs, but it was pretty clear the diaries that
17 were written in one colour for boarded-out and one
18 colour for -- the diary would say, "We've had three new
19 children join us today from Glasgow Corporation", and
20 your name would be added to the register and it would be
21 written in whatever colour ink that you're designated.
22 And also the islanders all had names, you know --
23 like everybody has names, but some of them had nicknames
24 and family names, you know, and things, but we were
25 always referred to by our second name. So if we were

1 a family of Joneses, you wouldn't be called
2 "Fred Jones", you'd be called "Jones", and that was
3 their way when introducing you to anyone to let them
4 know that he's a boarded out guy, he's not an islander
5 and he's not an incomer, but he's different. And you
6 were always referred to by your second name.

7 Q. Your surname, okay.

8 A. Your surname.

9 Q. You say at paragraph 125, as you've already indicated,
10 that you were told that you would be expected to do
11 certain chores, but then also that you would be there to
12 help run the croft.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Initially when you were there, did you have any concept
15 of what that might involve?

16 A. I didn't even know what a croft was. It was -- it was
17 a funny farm to us. It was interesting because, you
18 know, we were seeing cattle and chickens and things like
19 that for the first time close up.

20 LADY SMITH: Who told you you'd be expected to do chores and
21 you'd be helping to run the croft?

22 A. EGY . It was slowly introduced to us obviously
23 because we didn't know if she said to us, you know, go
24 bring the heifers in from the top field, I didn't know
25 what a heifer was. I thought it was a swearword. And

1 so we --

2 LADY SMITH: That wasn't something that was explained to you

3 before you left Glasgow?

4 A. No, not at all, not at all.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 A. Thank you.

7 MS INNES: Then you go on to tell us a little bit about the

8 house itself and you've already described what it was

9 like with the building and then the byre and a store or

10 a shed for hay at the side.

11 Then at paragraph 126 you also say that between the

12 buildings there was a building or a big doocot-type

13 thing and that was your toilet.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. So was that outside?

16 A. Yes, it was an outside toilet. Just a big wooden

17 structure half as wide as your desk, half the size of

18 that, quite a tall thing, and that was the outside

19 toilet.

20 Q. Was there a bathroom in the house?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So it was just the outside --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- toilet?

25 A. Any baths was done in a tin bath.

1 Q. Okay. Was the tin bath taken into the house or was that
2 outside in --

3 A. No, it was taken into the house in front of the fire,
4 yeah.

5 Q. At paragraph 127 you note that there was no running
6 water in the house.

7 A. That's correct, at the time, yes.

8 Q. Sorry?

9 A. At the time there was no running water.

10 Q. Was that the same for the whole period that you were
11 boarded out there?

12 A. Yes, the whole period, yeah.

13 Q. You had to get water from two different places?

14 A. Yeah. There was -- outside the back of the house there
15 was a deep well with concrete circular things sort of
16 inserted into the ground and there was a pail with
17 a rope on it and we would throw that down into it and
18 pull it up. It was probably as deep as this room. Not
19 somewhere I would want to fall as a kid, because there
20 was obviously no escape from it. And we would pull that
21 up and put the water into the pails that were very, very
22 clean and silvery and bring that into the house. That
23 was used mostly for the washing-up type stuff.

24 Outside the front gate, turn left, go about
25 50 yards, there was a stream that seemed to just come

1 out of the side of the dyke, and that's where we got
2 fresh water, which was drinking water, and we would be
3 expected to bring at least half a dozen pails of water
4 a day into the house.

5 Q. Was that something that you were expected to do right
6 from the start of your time there?

7 A. Yeah, very quickly, yeah. Well, yeah, yeah.

8 Q. Did EGY do that as well or was it just you and your
9 sister?

10 A. No, I think if I remember right, she showed us what
11 needed doing and then that was our job that had to be
12 done.

13 Q. Then you talk about what the inside of the croft was
14 like. You say there were a few bedrooms upstairs,
15 a kitchen and a small bedroom and a posh living room
16 downstairs.

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. You say that you had the small downstairs bedroom?

19 A. Yes. It was as you come in the door, slightly to the
20 left, it was under where the stairs would go up, it was
21 my bedroom.

22 Q. Over the page you say that your sister had a bedroom
23 upstairs, but if there were visitors she would have to
24 move into EGY's room?

25 A. Correct, yes.

1 LADY SMITH: From what you've described, it sounds as though
2 there was no window in the place you slept; is that
3 right?
4 A. No, there was a window, my Lady.
5 LADY SMITH: There was?
6 A. Yes. Because the [REDACTED] lighthouse would --
7 LADY SMITH: Yes, you mentioned that.
8 A. -- sort of come into the room every 14 seconds or
9 whatever.
10 LADY SMITH: But you were underneath the stairs?
11 A. Yes.
12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
13 MS INNES: In the rest of this page you talk again about the
14 beginning of your time there, that you had no idea where
15 your siblings had gone, and you note at the end of
16 paragraph 131 that you discovered a couple of days later
17 that they were at the same school as you.
18 A. Correct, yes.
19 Q. We'll come back to how often you were able to see them
20 over your time when you were boarded out.
21 At paragraph 132 you say that you remember EGY [REDACTED]
22 explaining the rules to you and telling you that if you
23 didn't behave, you would be sent back to the home and
24 that you wouldn't get to see your siblings.
25 A. Yeah. That was often used as a -- as a way of keeping

1 us in line. Any protest, any complaints. Especially
2 when we were -- if we ever got visited from the
3 Corporation visitor:
4 "Be careful what you tell them because if they're
5 not happy with it, they'll take you away."
6 Q. How did that make you feel?
7 A. Well, we learned to say nothing.
8 Q. You say there that you realised as long as you complied
9 things would be okay?
10 A. Yeah, yeah. Reasonable, yeah.
11 Q. If we go on to the next page, please, page 26 you start
12 telling us about the work that you had to do when you
13 were on Tiree. What job did you have to do in the
14 morning?
15 A. Well, as my statement says, most mornings my job would
16 be to take the cattle that we had, half a dozen or so,
17 it's exactly a mile from our house to the top field,
18 which was a -- they call a common machair, the common
19 land, and we would let them into the machair and then
20 I would come back and, if time allowed, I got my
21 breakfast and then I would travel that mile back up
22 because that's where the school was.
23 Q. Again, is this something that you started doing as soon
24 as you --
25 A. Yeah, very quickly, yeah. I believe it was a sort of

1 seasonal thing. I don't think they were up there all
2 during the winter. I think there might have been
3 a break in the winter where we didn't take them up
4 there. I have that vague memory.

5 Q. They might have been kept in the byre in the winter?

6 A. They were kept closer to home in the smaller field. But
7 in the summer that field was used to grow the hay and
8 obviously you don't want the cattle there when that's
9 happening.

10 Q. Who showed you how to move the cattle?

11 A. Nobody. She just told us what to do, you know. Gave us
12 a direction, "Move them up there and take the stick".
13 The cattle were generally well disciplined in that they
14 knew where they were going and I even believed that if
15 I was in a hurry to bring them back because I had
16 something to do, they would know that and play me up,
17 because on the return journey they would stop.

18 Q. You say that depending on them, sometimes it could take
19 quite a while and sometimes in the morning you were late
20 for school or you missed your breakfast, I think.

21 A. Yes, yeah, if they had it on them they didn't want to go
22 up there or something caught their attention on the side
23 of the road, some nice hay or something like that, they
24 would want to take their time. A nightmare.

25 Q. You say that you remember some occasions when you

1 fainted in class because you'd not had anything to eat.

2 A. Yeah. Yeah, that was something that happened on

3 a couple of occasions, yeah.

4 Q. Was that investigated by the doctor?

5 A. (Witness shakes head)

6 Q. Where the --

7 A. Sorry, no, no.

8 Q. Was the teacher concerned that that was happening?

9 A. Not at all, not at all. It was my fault.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. In their eyes. In their eyes.

12 Q. Then you talk about Saturdays at paragraph 136 and you

13 say -- what did you do on a Saturday?

14 A. Well, my job, once I'd done any chores within our croft,

15 was the lady I was living with, her brother, he lived

16 about three miles as the crow flies from us in a village

17 called [REDACTED], and we were -- I was expected to go

18 over there and meet with him and do chores for him,

19 mucking out the byre, all sorts of things that I had to

20 do for him. If he was collecting potatoes I would help

21 him collect potatoes. If he was collecting the hay, I'd

22 help him do that. Occasionally I got to drive the

23 tractor in a field. But it was -- I was a hired hand

24 for him.

25 Q. Sorry, I should have asked you when you were talking

1 about the chores that you had to do in the morning and
2 moving the cattle, was that something that you did on
3 your own? Did your sister have to do those?
4 A. No, no, she had other chores to do.
5 Q. So where were her chores?
6 A. Within the home. I think she got more involved in the
7 preparation of food and stuff.
8 Q. On a Saturday, what would she be doing?
9 A. She had the day off. She used to go off and play with
10 one of our school friends.
11 Q. Right. You then talk at the bottom of the page about
12 food and your sister assisting with that. If we go on
13 to the next page, 27, at paragraph 140, you say that you
14 were shown how to dispatch some chickens.
15 A. Yeah.
16 Q. And that --
17 A. EGY would sort of callously sort of invite us to,
18 "We're having chicken on Sunday dinner, go and find
19 a chicken that we're going to cook at the weekend", and
20 she would show us how to kill the chicken and pluck the
21 chicken and gut the chicken. And after that it became
22 my -- once I'd been shown how to do it, it became my
23 job. I don't think I was nine at the time.
24 Q. Okay. If we can move on, please, to page 28 and some
25 more material about the work that you did, so at

1 paragraph 146 you say that it wasn't just that, that you
2 were working on EGY's croft, but you were sent to
3 other crofts?

4 A. Yeah. A sort of quid pro quo I think you would call it,
5 sort of arrangement that they had. The croft where my
6 youngest sister was living was one of the biggest in the
7 area and he would come around with his tractor and
8 trailer and different children from different crofts
9 would get on the back of it and he'd take them to his
10 croft on -- you know, for potato picking, hay
11 collecting, sheep shearing and stuff like that.

12 And then we were -- in fairness we were fed and
13 watered there, and although it was hard work, it was
14 an opportunity to see other children and interact to
15 a point, but it was hard work. Back-breaking work. And
16 then we'd be brought back and EGY would be given
17 a couple of sacks of potatoes for our services, as it
18 were.

19 Q. The children that were doing this work with you, were
20 they local children or were they boarded out or did you
21 not know?

22 A. Well, we knew they were mostly boarded out. I think the
23 particular croft, his children did get involved in some
24 of the jobs, but it was mostly boarded-out children that
25 were gathered up and used.

1 Q. At paragraph 149 at the bottom of this page, you also
2 had to help out when there was sheep shearing and sheep
3 dipping, and from what you say, that involved initially
4 going and gathering the sheep?

5 A. Yeah, yeah. Up into the machair by the big hill --
6 hill, it seemed like a big hill when you're a kid. And
7 we would all spread out in a bit of a line with does and
8 stuff and the crofters from different crofts would
9 obviously have the control of them dogs and we would
10 help bring them into big pens, where they were
11 identified by their paint markings and sheared
12 accordingly.

13 Q. Then you talk about collecting some wool and any wool
14 that you collected would be sent away and did you then
15 get the money from that?

16 A. Well, the money come to EGY and she would release it
17 to us as and when. You know, we knew that we had,
18 I don't know, £2 in the bank, as it were, and
19 occasionally we would get, you know, using modern
20 amounts, 50 pence or something to go to the van. And
21 that was out of our kitty, as it were.

22 Q. When you say the van, would that be a mobile grocery
23 van?

24 A. A mobile grocery, yeah, that would come around. I can
25 assure we didn't get much, it was just enough to buy

1 a couple of chews or something, you know.

2 Q. If we can go on, please, to paragraph 151 you give some
3 reflections there on what people might say about work
4 that it might be a good thing for children to learn how
5 to do some work or some jobs and you provide your
6 response to that and the work that boarded-out children
7 had to do. Can you share your reflections on that with
8 us, please?

9 A. Like I say, it was -- it was hard work for someone who
10 was eight-, nine-, ten-year-old to do, but because we
11 had that routine, we developed a work ethic that maybe
12 was greater than it should have been for kids of our
13 age, but you did develop a work ethic, which it would
14 devastate some children nowadays to put their own plates
15 in the dishwasher, far less, you know, do the things
16 that we done. But it did give us a bit of a work ethic.

17 Q. You say that the way that you were made to work and were
18 expected to work when other children were having leisure
19 time was quite obvious.

20 A. Oh yeah, it was, yeah. I mean maybe I'm jumping the gun
21 here but I remember a couple of years ago I was on the
22 island and a young woman a bit younger than me, she come
23 and said hello to me and said do you remember me, I said
24 I can't, she said I used to be very friendly with your
25 sister, I used to come and play them on the Saturday,

1 she said but you were never there because you were known
2 as the boy that's always working. But she knew me, but
3 she didn't really know me, but she knew I was -- the boy
4 that was always working was the way I was described by
5 her.

6 Q. Okay. At paragraph 152, you say that you found
7 a document called, "Instructions to guardians" that were
8 written down by the Corporation of Glasgow. How did you
9 find that booklet?

10 A. We -- on [REDACTED] that we're with, there was
11 different people got involved and were able to supply us
12 with information. I'm a great believer that -- from
13 previous work that you don't always believe what you're
14 told, you need to have something to back it up, and it
15 was in conversation with one [REDACTED] group it came out
16 about the instructions for the guardians and we just
17 took it as read that we had done as we were told and he
18 said, "No, there was definitely an instruction", and he
19 was able to obtain that for me, and give me the copy
20 which I've subsequently shared with you.

21 Q. If we can look, please, at WIT-3-000001205, which should
22 come up on the screen. I think this is the booklet that
23 you found. We see that this is from:

24 "Corporation of Glasgow public assistance
25 department, boarded-out children instructions to

1 guardians".

2 I just wonder -- just bear with me a moment.

3 If we go to the final page, page 4 and at the
4 bottom, I think that we can see that this was from the
5 director of public assistance on 15 September 1937. So
6 that seems to be the date of this document.

7 If we can look, please, at page 3 and paragraph 9,
8 it says there:

9 "While the guardians are reminded that it is their
10 duty to train the child in habits of industry and
11 usefulness, they shall, at the same time, afford the
12 child adequate opportunity for play and recreation. Any
13 duties assigned to the child shall be such as will not
14 interfere with attendance at school or preparation of
15 lessons, and shall be within the limits of the child's
16 physical ability."

17 Seeing that and comparing it with your experience,
18 do you have any comment on how that compares with what
19 you had to do?

20 A. Well, I would say that it was never read by the people
21 who were our carers. It was never read. If it was, it
22 was ignored.

23 Q. At paragraph 10 we see that it says:

24 "The guardian shall not, on any account, utilise the
25 services of any child under the age of 12 years in the

1 furtherance of any trade, business or calling carried on
2 by him. Children over the age of 12 may not be so
3 employed except subject to any bylaws made by the local
4 education authority and then only in the performance of
5 such light agricultural and horticultural pursuits as
6 may be done by the child without risk of injury to the
7 child's health and general welfare."

8 Some of the work that you've said you were doing was
9 before the age of 12.

10 A. Oh, absolutely, yeah.

11 Q. Then even if you're over the age of 12, would you
12 describe what you were doing as "light agricultural or
13 horticultural pursuits"?

14 A. It wasn't light. It might have been light for a grown
15 man, but it certainly wasn't light for us, that's for
16 sure.

17 Q. Right, we can set that aside.

18 Thank you for sharing that with us. We've seen
19 similar documents from other Local Authorities, but not
20 this document from Glasgow, so thank you.

21 A. Yeah.

22 MS INNES: My Lady, it's 3 o'clock. I wonder if that might
23 be an appropriate time for the mid-afternoon break.

24 LADY SMITH: Yes, I think that would work.

25 'Illya', would it work for you if we took a short

1 break just now?

2 A. Yes, my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: Then I'll resume to hear further evidence from

4 you after that.

5 A. Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: Very well.

7 (3.00 pm)

8 (A short break)

9 (3.13 pm)

10 LADY SMITH: 'Illya', are you ready for us to carry on?

11 A. Yes, my Lady, thank you.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 Ms Innes, when you're ready.

14 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady

15 If we can go back to your statement, 'Illya', and to

16 page 30 at paragraph 155, you talked earlier in your

17 evidence about some of the things that made you

18 identifiable as boarded-out children on the island and

19 the way that the islanders spoke to you or addressed

20 you.

21 At this paragraph you talk about being distinguished

22 by what you wore.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you explain that, please?

25 A. The islanders obviously had -- there was a --

1 a gentleman used to come on the island selling clothes.
2 In fact, he used to reside in our house and that was one
3 of the occasions where my sister would move out, and
4 then he would go round selling clothes which the
5 islanders bought. I think we might have got the odd
6 thing from him, you know, socks, pants, or something
7 like that. I don't recall too much. But it was mostly
8 the islanders that turned up the next day with -- shall
9 we say, the latest flares, or whatever the style was.

10 But we had sort of donkey jackets and corduroy
11 trousers, which were supplied by the Corporation mostly.

12 Q. You say in this paragraph that if you look at old
13 photographs of -- maybe school photographs, perhaps, you
14 can spot the boarded-out children?

15 A. Yeah, you certainly could. One particular photograph
16 I remember looking at was -- it was one taken in the
17 sort of early -- 46 or something like that, before my
18 time, of Balemartine School and it's a big photograph,
19 40 children on it, and honestly, if you didn't -- you
20 could almost circle the ones that were boarded out.
21 They either had no shoes on or the other stuff you could
22 see.

23 And then when you look at the names, then at the
24 names you know to have been boarded out, you would see
25 they were pretty -- the only thing missing was a star on

1 their chest.

2 Q. If we go over the page, please, to schooling, you talk
3 about going to school and you say, I think, that your
4 older sister was made to go to primary school, even
5 although she'd been at secondary school while you were
6 at Dunclutha.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Then after a little while she went to secondary school
9 and you surmise, I think, that she was maybe sent to the
10 primary to kind of look after the younger children as in
11 your younger brother. Is that right?

12 A. Yeah, we've since obtained the school diaries and the
13 registers and I have sort of worked it out that
14 I believe what went on was that the secondary school
15 children would be going through their exam period and to
16 have my sister taken there on the last couple of weeks
17 when the exams were running might have been too
18 difficult. It might have caused a disruption in some
19 way. So they -- because my younger brother was starting
20 his first day in primary school anyway, I think, she was
21 sort of more or less -- to great amusement, she was sent
22 back to primary school to look after him for a couple of
23 weeks.

24 Q. Then you say at paragraph 160 that there were only 12 to
25 14 children in the primary school and about nine of them

1 were boarded out?

2 A. Yeah, and the school photograph I have reflects that,

3 yeah.

4 Q. When you say it reflects that, is that because you

5 remember that certain children were boarded out or

6 because it's apparent from the photograph?

7 A. Well, I knew -- I mean I know every child in the

8 photograph and I know their status, shall we say.

9 Q. You say at paragraph 162 that school was a positive

10 experience for you --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- in Tiree.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. If we move on from that, please, on the next page you

15 talk about the lack of leisure time and at paragraph 168

16 you mention what you said earlier, that you were always

17 known as the boy who was working.

18 If we look at the bottom of page 32, there's

19 a heading, "Birthdays and Christmas", and the top of

20 page 33, paragraph 170 you say:

21 "I think I learned to forget when my birthday was,

22 as our birthdays were never celebrated."

23 A. Correct, yes. It was never an event. The only --

24 I think probably we knew -- you know, we'd moved up

25 a year age wise, but it was just a non-event.

1 Q. You say at Christmas, at paragraph 171, you think that
2 you were given small presents at Christmas?

3 A. Very small. You know, fruit and type of things like
4 that, you know. But there was never anything that would
5 stick in my mind as being, you know, a wow present in
6 any way.

7 Q. You say you don't remember ever getting excited about
8 Christmas. It wasn't really an event.

9 A. (Witness shakes head)

10 Q. Was New Year more of an event in Tiree?

11 A. It was. The spare room that we had, the Sunday room as
12 we sort of thought of it as, would have visitors come
13 and be music playing, you know, the old gramophone would
14 go with Jimmy Shand and his band and Kenneth McKellar
15 and there was people coming and going and it was
16 a little bit of a party atmosphere. But it was
17 certainly not for us, it was for them, and because we
18 were there we were able to enjoy the commotion, as it
19 were.

20 Q. Was it more for the adults?

21 A. Oh, absolutely, yeah.

22 Q. If we go down, please, to family contact at the bottom
23 of this page, you've already told us that you were
24 separated from your brother and sisters and I think your
25 older sister and younger brother were in the bigger

1 croft that you've referred to.

2 A. They were in a bigger croft, but not the biggest croft.

3 The biggest croft was where my youngest sister was.

4 Q. Okay, so she went to a separate croft on her own and

5 that was the really big one?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. When did you get to see your brother and sisters?

8 A. Not very often. I mean obviously in school my younger

9 sister and brother would be there once my sister got old

10 enough to go there, and occasionally on a Sunday we

11 would all go to Sunday school and we would meet up then,

12 and occasionally after Sunday school we were allowed to

13 meet up with my older sister and my younger brother.

14 Although in conversations with my sister since, she

15 says it wasn't that frequent, but when we did meet, it

16 was precious.

17 Q. Over the top of the next page you say that occasionally

18 you would be allowed to go to where your older sister

19 was living?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. "We weren't allowed to go to the house she was living

22 in, so we would meet up on the road and go for a walk

23 and do stuff."

24 A. Yeah, yeah. They could see us coming up the road, you

25 know, because it's so flat and open. They knew roughly

1 what time, on the few occasions we did, so she would
2 watch for us and then she would come over the field
3 towards us, a short distance, 100 yards or so, and then
4 we would go off to the beach or one of the hills on the
5 side there and spend an hour or so, then we'd come back,
6 she would go off with my brother and we would return
7 back to our place.

8 Q. But you weren't allowed to go to the house?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did she and your brother come to see you at the house
11 that you were living in?

12 A. No memory of that at all of them ever being in our
13 house.

14 Q. What about your younger sister who was on the big croft?
15 Other than going there to work, did you see her?

16 A. Yeah, she would be -- because where she was
17 geographically we would pass her house, as it were, to
18 get to my other sister's and we would collect her, if we
19 were allowed, and take her up to meet with us. Then we
20 would bring her back. But she was only three/four years
21 old.

22 Q. You say that you can't remember these visits with your
23 older sister any more than half a dozen times over the
24 whole time that you were in Tiree?

25 A. Yeah, I think half a dozen is probably pushing it as

1 well. But we did see, as I say, my younger brother at
2 school, and occasionally there would be a sports day on
3 the island in the summer and we would meet then at the
4 sports day because all the schools would come together.
5 In fact, my sister became sports girl of the year twice
6 when she was there.

7 Q. At paragraph 179 you say that there was zero contact
8 with either of your parents throughout the entire time
9 you stayed on Tiree.

10 A. Zero contact.

11 Q. So no letters or cards?

12 A. Not to my knowledge, not to my knowledge. I don't know
13 if my sister had any -- anything, but we certainly
14 didn't hear anything.

15 Q. At paragraph 180 you talk about visits from Mr Meldrum,
16 who you say was a social worker. You say that you saw
17 him at school and at the house. Can you remember
18 meeting him?

19 A. I mean he would just appear. The -- I have found out
20 subsequently that when he was due to come and visit the
21 island, the flight that he was booked in on would be
22 aware of his arrival and the man who was in charge of
23 the airfield, the islander, he would phone everybody
24 around and say, "Oh, a surprise visit's happening
25 tomorrow by Mr Meldrum", you know, so they were

1 pre-warned that it was going to happen. But that's
2 jungle drums, isn't it. But it's true. It's what
3 happened.

4 If it was during the school time, you know, he would
5 come to the school and we would spend two or three
6 minutes with him or whatever, it wouldn't be long. But
7 we -- you know, boarded-out children become very, very
8 clever at knowing who's who. And they become very
9 clever of knowing that the guy was a waste of space and,
10 no disrespect to him or his family, but he was a waste
11 of space as far as we were concerned because he could do
12 nothing for us. Anything you told him "in confidence",
13 you paid for it later on that day. So we learnt very
14 quickly: say nothing.

15 Q. Was that your experience, that if you said something to
16 him then it would get back to the guardian?

17 A. Yeah. Oh yeah, yeah. It was experience that we boarded
18 out shared amongst ourselves at the time as well. When
19 new ones would come, you'd say to them, "If you get
20 a visit by Meldrum, say nothing, say nothing to him".

21 Q. When you say that he would come to the school and he
22 would see you for a couple of minutes, would he speak to
23 you on your own? Would you be taken out of the
24 classroom to speak to him? Or was he speaking to you
25 kind of at your desk with all the other pupils around?

1 A. No, I think we were taken out. Because it was a very
2 small school. I mean the whole footprint of the school
3 was as big as this corner area here, and there was
4 a dining room thing to one side and we would sort of be
5 ferried through there and out again. Very clinical.
6 "Everything okay?" "Yeah". "Shoes fit?" "Any
7 problems?" "No, no problems". Move on. But we learned
8 very quickly that -- who was who.
9 Q. Can you ever remember seeing him at EGY's house?
10 A. Yes, he did come there on the odd occasion. There was
11 the odd visit where he just appeared.
12 Q. Did you get to speak to him on your own there?
13 A. I think on our own was probably stretching it a bit,
14 EGY wasn't far away. It didn't matter, she could be
15 in a separate county, we would still say nothing to him,
16 you know.
17 Q. Why would you say nothing to him?
18 A. Three ways in passing a message, television, telephone
19 and tell Meldrum. And he would just repeat it. He
20 would just repeat it and it would come back and bite us.
21 LADY SMITH: Are you telling me then, 'Illya', that you knew
22 it would get back to EGY?
23 A. Yes, my Lady, yes, absolutely, in a heartbeat, in
24 a heartbeat.
25 MS INNES: Over the page at paragraph 182 you say that when

1 your older sister was about 14 or 15, she made
2 a complaint to Mr Meldrum and he then told her guardian,
3 who took the belt to her.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Is that something that you knew about at the time
6 because your sister told you about it at the time or is
7 that something that she's told you later in life?

8 A. She told us at the time. And maybe because I was young
9 and it didn't sort of mean the same, but we knew the
10 consequences, as I say, right from the beginning of
11 talking to him, and we might not have sympathised with
12 her as much because, you know, we're kids, "It's your
13 problem, sister, deal with it" sort of thing. But as
14 you get older and you get into it in detail, which we
15 have spoken on an occasion about it in detail.

16 Q. You also say that your sister told Mr Meldrum that the
17 son of the guardian had tried to rape her and he told
18 the guardian, who didn't believe her and belted her for
19 making such an accusation.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. I think that's something that you -- from what you say
22 there "I know now", is that something that you've
23 learned from your sister later in life?

24 A. Yeah. I mean it's not something she would tell her
25 younger brother at the time, but it was something that

1 we can talk about.

2 Q. Moving on to the bottom of this page, you speak about
3 language and you told us I think at the beginning when
4 you were on the boat people were speaking Gaelic and it
5 was like a foreign language. Did that continue when you
6 were living on Tiree, that people continued to
7 communicate in Gaelic?

8 A. Oh, absolutely, yeah. EGY was fluent in it and the
9 farmers or crofters that she would speak to would come
10 and they would speak in Gaelic. But we learned to -- we
11 learned to identify the words and we got the gist of it
12 very quickly of, you know, some of the words that were
13 important. A beautiful language. I wished I'd taken it
14 on.

15 Q. Were they using it to communicate about you and the
16 other boarded-out children or were they just using it
17 because it would be their first language?

18 A. It's their first language, I would say, and I dare say
19 that anything that was needed to be said about us would
20 have been involved in that first language, it would have
21 been.

22 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 36 of your statement
23 and there's a heading there in your statement, abuse
24 that you suffered at the place that you lived in in
25 Tiree. You say that EGY was a strong and quite

1 a stubborn lady but she wasn't all bad and did nothing
2 more than slap your sister and belt her a couple of
3 times. But you don't recall being physically punished
4 yourself by her.

5 A. No, and I think that showed itself with EGY because
6 the males were doing so much for her, that if -- if she
7 was as heavy handed with us, that might stop, and
8 that's -- you know, she knew that she needed to be maybe
9 more tolerant with us. I'm not saying I was less cheeky
10 or -- or misbehaved in any way more than my sister, but
11 I think my sister got the brunt of it.

12 Q. I suppose you were -- you've told us that you were
13 working outside a lot more --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- so you weren't necessarily spending as much time with
16 EGY, would that be right?

17 A. Yeah, and as long as I was doing what she was asking me
18 to do, then she really didn't have any cause to
19 discipline me the same. And I tried not to give her
20 that.

21 Q. Did she thank you or praise you for the work that you
22 were doing? Did she show appreciation for it?

23 A. No. There was never ...

24 Q. You then go on to talk in paragraph 190 and following,
25 I think, about a person who came over to help on the

1 croft as a farmhand. I think you say perhaps when --
2 perhaps not initially, maybe a little bit later in your
3 time with EGY . This person had been boarded out with
4 EGY before; is that right?

5 A. Yes, he had been part of the previous boy and girl, and
6 obviously had reached the age where they were no longer
7 in the care system, but he had remained local-ish on the
8 mainland. I think he lived in Oban at the time.

9 Q. Okay. At page 37, over the page, you talk about him
10 abusing you, starting off, you say, in the summer of
11 1965.

12 A. Yes, I believe that's correct, yeah.

13 Q. We can see what you said in your statement about this.
14 I don't know whether you feel able to tell us about the
15 abuse that he perpetrated.

16 A. Yeah, he ... he ... had all the wrong hormones going on
17 at the time in his life, I suppose. And he invited me
18 to come and see comics or, you know, something that he
19 had got. And sometimes he had in fact produced comics
20 that he'd brought from the mainland. And like I say in
21 my statement, you know, on this one particular occasion
22 he -- he invited us there but there was no -- it wasn't
23 to see comics or anything like that. He was after some
24 sexual gratification, which was totally alien to me as
25 a nine-year-old kid. Totally alien.

1 Q. You talk at paragraphs 193 to 195 of how this abuse
2 developed and it escalated over time; is that right?

3 A. Yes, indeed, yeah. He just wanted me to satisfy him
4 sexually and it was something I didn't understand. You
5 know, it was -- as I say, it was something I didn't
6 understand, but to him it was just get on with it sort
7 of thing like and he showed us what he needed doing, as
8 it were.

9 Q. Did you feel that you had any kind of relationship with
10 EGY that you could tell her what was happening?

11 A. No. No. She wouldn't -- she wouldn't believe it, for
12 a start. I don't think that was an option.

13 Q. Was there anybody that you felt that you could tell?

14 A. No. I was too ashamed. I mean, I was made to feel that
15 I'd done wrong, it was me that was wrong. It was me
16 that had allowed that to happen, you know. It was my
17 problem. My -- yeah. I was the one that was wrong.

18 Q. Over the page at paragraphs 197 and 198, and the next
19 paragraph 199 as well, you say that after this happened,
20 something then happened with EGY's brother who you'd
21 been going to help out every Saturday, as you've told
22 us.

23 A. Yeah. Yeah.

24 Q. Are you able to tell us --

25 A. I was on my normal Saturday's visit to help him and at

1 that time I do believe I had a pushbike somebody had
2 donated to me and I'd gone there as normal.

3 And this other guy turned up, which was unusual, and
4 he could speak a bit of Gaelic, I'm sure, you know, but
5 they had a conversation which without -- I wasn't able
6 to hear or be involved in, but I was aware that I was
7 the subject of that conversation. I didn't know why,
8 you know. It was -- I was quite aware that there was
9 something going on and I just put it down to experience,
10 whatever, you can talk about me, it doesn't hurt.

11 But really, I think what he was doing was telling
12 uncle **EHB**, as we called him, that he could abuse me the
13 same way as he had, which he tried to do.

14 Q. You tell us at paragraph 199 that he tried to but you
15 managed to get away and it didn't happen again.

16 A. Yeah, yeah. He was left in no -- you know, I -- no
17 uncertain terms that it wasn't going to happen and by
18 that time I was starting to be able to defend myself.

19 Q. Then if we go over the page at paragraph 202, you say
20 I think that you understand that the person who had
21 abused you also tried to abuse your sister and tried to
22 rape her?

23 A. Yes. That's -- I was aware that there was some
24 discomfort going on within the setup there at the time.
25 Didn't know what it was. But I learned later in life

1 that when we'd had him there, my sister would give up
2 her bed and move in with EGY [REDACTED] and he actually got into
3 bed with my sister, who was in bed with EGY [REDACTED], and
4 tried to rape her in that bed while EGY [REDACTED] was sleeping
5 in the same bed.

6 Q. Did EGY [REDACTED] have no awareness of --

7 A. No awareness, no.

8 Q. Then you go on at paragraph 203, you say that other than
9 those experiences that you've told us about:

10 "... living on Tiree was hard work, or slave labour,
11 that I would have rolled with ..."

12 A. Yeah, you could say -- it was -- if you compare it to
13 the previous life in Glasgow where we didn't have
14 a meal, we didn't have bathing or anything like that,
15 I mean the hard work was not good but we were fed and we
16 were watered and we were reasonably clean. The things
17 that spoilt it was that the work was really hard and
18 this predator.

19 Q. You tell us at paragraph 204 that you and your siblings
20 left Tiree, I think you say on [REDACTED] 1966.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Did you have any warning that you were going back to
23 Glasgow?

24 A. We had been alerted earlier in the summer that we were
25 possibly going to be going back in about [REDACTED], I think

1 it was. There was a mention. But it never come to
2 anything and we were used to being misled, so we thought
3 it was just another -- you know, another bit of
4 nonsense. But then it come that we were going to go
5 back in [REDACTED] and it was like yeah, whatever, let's
6 see what happens, and it did happen.

7 Q. Then if we go down to paragraph 209, but just before we
8 look at that I think you say that it was your
9 understanding that some children when they got to
10 a certain age, they would be sent back to Glasgow
11 anyway.

12 A. Yeah. I do believe that the contract, for the want of
13 another word, for these children was when they reached
14 about 15 or 16 and they were no longer required to
15 school, that they would be taken back to Glasgow and put
16 through clearing homes that they had. Sheltered
17 accommodation they would call it now, maybe? My sister
18 was getting there at that age, you know, she was due to
19 leave, and she -- you know, she was due to leave anyway.
20 So I think that was part of the school of thought,
21 because we were of -- our parents then would have known
22 where we were.

23 Q. Then if we go down to paragraph 209, you say that there
24 was no Glasgow Corporation or social work involvement or
25 any kind of preparation for us being reunited, the green

1 lady just picked you all up on the day, took you on the
2 flight to Glasgow, took you to the house, walked you up
3 the stairs and walked away without even coming into the
4 house.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Is that what happened?

7 A. Yeah, basically, yeah. There was no -- I dare say they
8 had been there before and had maybe inspected the house
9 or whatever, but I wouldn't know that. But I know that
10 the building -- I don't know if you're going to come to
11 it but I'll say it now. The building they moved us into
12 was a condemned building and the reason why they moved
13 us into a condemned building, there was no obligation
14 for my father to pay rent, because it was a condemned
15 building, because they knew he wouldn't pay it anyway,
16 and it was not a nice place. The doocot toilet in Tiree
17 was better than it.

18 Q. You refer to that over the page at paragraph 212.

19 At this point you were reunited not only with your
20 parents but your two older brothers who you hadn't seen
21 for the --

22 A. Yeah, yeah.

23 Q. -- whole time that you were in, well, Dunclutha and then
24 Tiree.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. How did you feel about leaving Tiree?

2 A. It was an adventure that we were -- you know, we were
3 doing something else. It was a break to routine. I was
4 leaving behind the dangers that lurked in the shadows
5 there. But on the other hand it was -- well, yeah, we
6 would see our parents but very quickly I was of the
7 opinion that it was the worst of both evils, really,
8 even though we were with our family because we went to
9 a home where there was no money for food. The rain come
10 in. The floor in the kitchen was electrified, because
11 it was a condemned building, and if you walked across it
12 you would literally get tingly shocks from it and we had
13 to put bricks with planks of wood to walk on to get to
14 the sink, because if you walked on the floor you
15 would -- not the shocks that would kill you, but it
16 was -- there was something not right with the electrics
17 of the place.

18 It was a condemned building. It was -- you know.

19 Q. You tell us about -- a bit more about that in your
20 statement and then some other institutions that you were
21 at before you left home, I think, on page 44 at
22 paragraph 226 you say that you left home in 1970 and
23 then in [REDACTED] 1972 you joined the military and you
24 went on to spend 22 years in the military.

25 A. (Witness nodded)

1 Q. You talk then about you met your wife and you married
2 and you had two children and then your work after you
3 left the military as well.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. We then have a heading, "Reporting of abuse", I think
6 we've covered some of this before in the sense of your
7 lack of any ability to report to Mr Meldrum.

8 At paragraph 230 you say that you've never made any
9 official report to the police or a lawyer and why did
10 you not report what had happened to the police?

11 A. Well, first we knew we would never be believed, but
12 I think primarily it was the shame, the shame. Because
13 at that time any activity that would be seen as
14 homosexuality would have been a taboo. It would have
15 brought shame to the family that were -- you know, like
16 especially my older brothers, they were ... if I said
17 Glasgow gangsters I'm bumming them up to much, but they
18 were known about town and they had a good reputation and
19 the shame that that would have brought them would have
20 just not been -- and myself, because I've got my pride
21 as well.

22 Q. If we can move on to the next page, please, 'Illya' and
23 to page 237 at the bottom of page 45, you're talking
24 here about the impact of your experiences on you and you
25 say here that you do think you're strong enough not to

1 let what happened guide your future.

2 And over the page, that you try not to dwell on the
3 past and your stance at the end of this paragraph, you
4 say your stance, your glass is always half full and you
5 don't carry negatives.

6 A. I try not to.

7 Q. If we just scroll down a little, at paragraph 240
8 I think you're answering a question here about the
9 impact of this on your relationship with your siblings.
10 Do you think that the separation of you from your
11 siblings has impacted on your relationships?

12 A. Well, certainly with the older brothers it was quite
13 hard to reconnect with them because they were aloof from
14 us, they were doing their thing, you know. The ones
15 that returned from Tír, it didn't take too long for
16 them to start to disperse. The two sisters who were
17 older than me, you know, we came back in 1966. Within
18 two years both of them had moved down to the Harrow area
19 of London seeking employment and, you know, doing their
20 thing down there. So it didn't take us long to sort of
21 disperse. So we didn't really spend a lot of time
22 bonding.

23 Of course, once they got to Glasgow, we rarely seen
24 them because it's a big city, they would soon disappear
25 into it with their new friends and old friends.

1 Q. If I can move on to page 49 of your statement, please,
2 and to a heading you have about records. I think in
3 this part of your statement you've been talking about
4 some of the work that you've done in gathering together
5 experiences of other boarded-out children who were on
6 Tiree. I think you've highlighted a particular issue in
7 relation to records. Can you tell us about that,
8 please?

9 A. Yeah, it's -- the [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] -- once they
11 get confident they get talking to us. One of the
12 biggest gripes from them is their inability to get any
13 record.

14 I know some of them they want chapter and verse and
15 everything that happened, but others, just to get proof
16 that they were in care is an absolute minefield. For
17 people who are traumatised and untrusting of authority
18 to do it. For someone like myself that's more
19 confident, I was in the information-gathering world in
20 my previous life and I have the ability to sniff out
21 things that need to be brought out. I do try and help
22 them, but there is -- it's a minefield for them to -- as
23 I say, when we applied for proof that we were in care,
24 seven of us were taken away and Glasgow Corporation
25 could only show proof of one person in our family as

1 having been in care. There is absolutely no way that
2 they would support that we were in care. 100 per cent.
3 It's just: you weren't in care, there's nothing here.

4 You know, with -- I know it's not what we're here
5 for, but with the redress thing that's running, anything
6 that -- any claims you make, you need to have proof of
7 your time in care and the barrier isn't that high. You
8 just need a little bit of proof. But it's proving so
9 difficult. So difficult.

10 And if I may, just the other day I was on a forum
11 for Future Pathways, which I'm working with, and a young
12 man on there said that he is not going through the
13 redress scheme, he went through the other side, the High
14 Court, and he couldn't get any documentation himself to
15 prove that he was in care and the High Court issued
16 an order to the particular council, Corporation or
17 whatever, to release his documents and lo and behold
18 boxes of documents appeared with the High Court order
19 when he couldn't get nothing and they were denying his
20 existence. And he said once they got that High Court
21 order -- well, that's fine for him, but not everybody
22 has that desire to go that route, or even the money to
23 pay for it there.

24 I'm not -- I'm not cynical, I know how that works,
25 but I do believe that the -- there is a ... a reluctance

1 to assist at the highest level, and if not to resist, to
2 obstruct our quest for proof. I do believe there is --
3 you know, there is a body for some reason there -- and
4 that's not me being paranoid because I've been there,
5 seen it, done it, I know how it works. They do --

6 Just going on to Tiree, and I don't know if
7 I mentioned it about the documents I was able to obtain
8 through Tiree. My Lady, there's a thing out on Tiree
9 called "The Stackhouse". It's basically -- again it
10 takes about as much room as this and it's full of things
11 about Tiree, you know, going back 200 years, 300 years
12 and stuff and they keep all sorts of records there.

13 I remember looking through some photographs and
14 a photograph that had this girl's name and it said
15 "boarded out" and when I asked the curator that was
16 there, "Why does it have 'boarded out' here, that's
17 unusual?"

18 "What's that picture number? We'll erase that,
19 we'll take that out."

20 And they were going to erase the fact -- not the
21 photograph, erase the fact that said this girl's name
22 and in brackets "boarded out". And I thought well, it
23 could be two things. It could be that they're trying to
24 protect that girl from being seen as boarded out or
25 they're trying to erase and sweep under the carpet that

1 boarded outs were there.

2 I then, sometimes later, was speaking to another
3 curator there on the telephone and I asked them about
4 the five schools that had closed down, primary schools,
5 and they closed down primarily because in 1975 they
6 stopped sending the children out there, so the schools,
7 they weren't needed the same, and they went down to one
8 school. And I asked what happened to all the
9 documentation, the diaries and the -- you know, and the
10 registers, the daily registers, "Oh, we've got them in
11 a box here in the cupboard."

12 "Can I see them? Can I have access?"

13 "No."

14 "Why not?"

15 "Well, they belong to Argyll and Bute education
16 department, you can't have them."

17 Not a problem. So I went to Argyll and Bute and
18 I said to them, "Do you know you've got documents on the
19 island that are things that we need?" And the archivist
20 there, who was totally on side, he organised their
21 return. And from that, there's at least a dozen people
22 been able to ... sorry, it really hurts me. At least
23 a dozen people have had proof ...

24 Q. Proof that they were in care and they were on Tiree?

25 A. (Witness nodded)

1 Q. I think what you're saying --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- is people couldn't even establish that they --

4 A. They had nothing.

5 Q. -- existed almost.

6 A. They had nothing. It was only small, but it was enough

7 to satisfy the barrier.

8 Q. Yes, okay. I think you say in your statement, 'Illya',

9 that issues around records and recovery of records are

10 ones that you hope the Inquiry will address in due

11 course.

12 A. I do, I do. It's so difficult for them.

13 Q. I think that if we just go on to page 51 of your

14 statement and one of the things that you highlight there

15 at paragraph 265 and following is that you -- as you've

16 already said, you talked about the contract that the

17 guardians had and you say at paragraph 265 that is

18 a different contract to being fostered.

19 A. Absolutely, yeah.

20 Q. You go on at paragraph 266 to say:

21 "Boarding out is classed as fostered but it wasn't

22 the same thing."

23 Can you perhaps give us your thoughts in relation to

24 that?

25 A. Well, it's something again I'm very passionate about and

1 I made it very clear to your team from the get go when
2 I was coming forward that if I was referred to as
3 "fostered", I would terminate my contact with them
4 because it's ... it's a different -- it's a different
5 thing. It's a different ... if I could use -- it's the
6 difference between a Rangers and Celtic top. You're
7 asking me to wear a different top from what I support
8 and it just wasn't going to happen. I'm passionate
9 about it.

10 Because we weren't fostered. We had a zero hour
11 contract. We were the Windrush of the Hebrides.

12 Q. You cover this at the top of page 52 and you say that
13 boarded out -- the best case option for you is that
14 boarded-out people are given a voice and given a mention
15 as a separate entity:

16 "Because we were different. It was a zero hours
17 contract for us, whereas when you're fostered you have
18 some sort of security."

19 So --

20 A. Yeah, we had notice that if we didn't do what we were
21 told, we would be shipped out. You know, we were slave
22 labour. We weren't there to be tolerated for any
23 dissent in any way. It's a different contract.

24 And I have got to -- I don't know if you're going to
25 cover it, but there were boarded-out children who went

1 to the island, had a wonderful time and they were looked
2 after, but they generally were people who went to homes
3 that weren't crofts, so they weren't -- you know, they
4 had a better time because these people were good
5 Christian people who wanted children around them and
6 they generally -- you know, when you reflect on the
7 people that I know that -- shall we say the small amount
8 that had a good time, they were generally in homes
9 rather than in crofts. And they stayed, you know, to be
10 quite successful on the island, but still boarded out.

11 MS INNES: Okay, 'Illya'. Now we have your whole statement
12 and as well as your oral evidence you know that we're
13 taking on board what you've said in your statement.
14 I know that you've spent a significant amount of time
15 making sure that you were happy with your statement and
16 that it covered the relevant ground. That, together
17 with the oral evidence that you've given today, covers
18 everything that I want to ask you about and obviously,
19 as I say, part of that is your statement.

20 I don't have any more questions for you just now.

21 There are no applications for questions, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications that
23 haven't been made yet?

24 'Illya', that does complete all the questions we
25 have for you today.

1 On the point you make about boarding out as opposed
2 to foster care, can I assure you I'm well aware of that.
3 I don't know if you know, but earlier on in this case
4 study Lynn Abrams, who I know you refer to in your
5 statement, gave evidence.

6 We're very well aware of her work and the research
7 she's done into the history of boarding out, which dates
8 back to the beginning of the 19th century and reflected
9 those Victorian issues right through to the time when
10 a policy shift -- if I can put it that way -- began to
11 take place from about the mid 20th century, looking at
12 what we recognise today as foster care, which is,
13 I know, a different creature. And there are
14 specialities of boarding out that stand alone. I know
15 that. I've heard it from other witnesses, I've read
16 about it.

17 That being so, it may seem a bit puzzling why we put
18 these together in one case study, but sometimes we do
19 that because of a relationship between types of care.
20 Because of, as in this case, the interest in how
21 historically society has moved and how policy has moved
22 over this alternative to institutional care, if I can
23 put it that way, because obviously we've been hearing
24 about institutional care as well.

25 It does not for one moment mean that we are not very

1 interested in boarding out and very well aware of what
2 it meant to be boarded out that was unique to that form
3 of being in care.
4 A. Yes. Thank you.
5 LADY SMITH: So I hope that reassures you.
6 A. Yes, I -- I think I was made aware of, you know, the
7 things that you've said with speaking to a particular
8 lady.
9 LADY SMITH: Yes.
10 A. And I'm comfortable that, you know, you know full well
11 that we were -- we were a different -- different from
12 the others, you know. Not different in a good or a bad
13 way, but just different.
14 LADY SMITH: Indeed. And being sent away to another world,
15 which in some ways bears comparison with the child
16 migrant scheme, interestingly, and we'll be thinking
17 more about that.
18 A. I've read a lot about the BHC, the British Home Children
19 in Canada, and the hundreds of people who went there and
20 never survived. It's just criminal. It makes what we
21 went through fall into a small pond, because their stuff
22 is -- is unbelievable.
23 LADY SMITH: Well, it's not small for small children who are
24 being used to do adult work --
25 A. No, no.

1 LADY SMITH: -- and it happened in Australia as well.

2 A. Oh absolutely, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Can I also assure you that your point on

4 records is not lost on me. It's not the first time

5 I have heard in a case study about difficulties in

6 getting hold of records and what it means to somebody,

7 to many people, to not just get proof that they were

8 where they thought they were, in circumstances legally

9 that they thought they were, but to some of them it

10 gives them a feeling of being reassured that they

11 actually exist. I have heard that from some applicants

12 saying once they could see their own story about their

13 own existence and that part of their life when they were

14 children, they felt that they became a person who

15 existed in a better, stronger human way than they had

16 before, when they had this sense of vacuum in their

17 heads otherwise.

18 I also want to thank you. You've done so much work

19 to bring your account to us of your experiences, which

20 of course covers your siblings' experiences and other

21 people's experiences that you are aware of as well.

22 Your statement, so carefully put together and

23 checked, is valuable evidence for me but so is you

24 coming here and having given evidence this afternoon.

25 It's made it come alive and I'm really grateful to you

1 for that.

2 A. It's been my pleasure.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 I'm now able to let you go. I wish you well and

5 I very much hope you can get some rest and respite for

6 the rest of today and maybe even the weekend. Thank

7 you.

8 A. Thank you, ma'am. Thank you.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: One matter that won't come as a surprise, it's

11 a reminder that some names and links were mentioned

12 which are covered by my general restriction order.

13 They're the ones relating, of course, to

14 EGY [REDACTED], who was quite often mentioned in that

15 evidence, and there may have been the odd mention of

16 other children who were boarded out on Tiree. So please

17 don't repeat those outside this room.

18 That takes me to next week, Ms Innes.

19 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady.

20 We'll be starting on Tuesday next week again with

21 more evidence from applicants and read-in evidence as

22 well.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 I wish you all a good weekend in the meantime and

25 I'll be sitting again on Tuesday morning.

1 (4.10 pm)
2 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
3 Tuesday, 14 June 2022)
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