

1 Tuesday, 5 July 2022

2 (10.00 am)

3 Housekeeping

4 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to another week of our  
5 evidential hearings in the foster care and boarding-out  
6 case study.

7 Before I invite Ms Innes to introduce the first  
8 witness for today, there are just one or two things I'd  
9 like to take this opportunity to say about current  
10 progress in the Inquiry and where we're planning to go  
11 next.

12 As you know, because you're here with an interest in  
13 the foster care and boarding-out case study, this set of  
14 hearings is ongoing and we will continue with evidence  
15 until the end of next week, so that's until 15 July.

16 We'll then have a break and resume in the middle of  
17 August, and the plan is then to carry on certainly into  
18 October. It's possible we may spill into November, but  
19 we'll keep people up to date on the finalisation of  
20 those dates.

21 So that's where we are with this case study.

22 A word then about our psychology of abusers  
23 round-table that took place in March. There is now on  
24 the website a set of papers from the experts who  
25 participated in that round-table, as some of you may

1 already have noticed. So anybody who is interested in  
2 reading the papers that they have provided to us, the  
3 papers are there.

4 My findings in relation to the round-table  
5 discussions are also ready and they will be published on  
6 the website quite soon if you want to look out for that.  
7 In the usual way, there will be a press release alerting  
8 people to the date of publication.

9 The third thing I want to mention is in relation to  
10 phase 8 and our case study looking into residential  
11 accommodation for young offenders and children and young  
12 persons in need of care and protection. There will be  
13 a detailed press release about this at 10.30 this  
14 morning, but just to touch on the essentials that are  
15 going to be covered in that press release now.

16 What's going to happen is that commencing in the  
17 second half of 2023, public hearings into the abuse of  
18 children in residential accommodation for young  
19 offenders and children and young persons in need of care  
20 and protection will begin.

21 The focus of the case study is residential  
22 accommodation used by the state between 1930 and 2014 to  
23 accommodate young offenders under the age of 18 and any  
24 children and young persons under 18 awaiting trial, and  
25 also children and young persons under 18 in need of care

1 and protection.

2 It's an area of residential care that we have  
3 required to investigate given the wide-ranging terms of  
4 our terms of reference, and this investigation has been  
5 ongoing throughout the life of the Inquiry to date, and  
6 many relevant statements have already been provided by  
7 applicants in relation to this subject matter.

8 The case study will essentially look at residential  
9 establishments in Scotland that were used as approved  
10 schools, as List D schools, as secure accommodation, as  
11 remand homes and as assessment centres, and also borstal  
12 institutions, remand institutions, detention centres and  
13 young offenders' institutions that were run by the  
14 Scottish Prison Service.

15 As I've said, many people have already come forward,  
16 particularly people who were residents in these  
17 institutions, but I would encourage anybody with  
18 relevant information to please get in touch with our  
19 witness support team as soon as possible. We're  
20 particularly keen to hear from any person who has  
21 evidence or information about abuse between 1930 and  
22 2014, so that includes former staff, managers, anybody  
23 involved in inspections, and of course former residents.

24 I hope that's a helpful outline of what anyone who  
25 wants to read more about it can read at 10.30 this

1 morning.

2 That's all I'm going to say about future planning

3 just now, so can I turn to Ms Innes to introduce what's

4 happening this morning?

5 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady. We're starting with an oral

6 witness this morning. 'Lynda' was committed to the care

7 of the county of Ayr on [REDACTED] 1967. She was placed

8 with carers in Kilwinning at some point between then and

9 1969. She left them when she was about 17, so

10 approximately 1982.

11 No records have been recovered by the Inquiry, other

12 than some records which 'Lynda' herself had obtained

13 from North Ayrshire with the assistance of Birthlink.

14 It is understood that North Ayrshire Council is the

15 relevant successor.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 'Lynda' (sworn)

18 LADY SMITH: 'Lynda', first practical thing is you have the

19 microphone --

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: -- switched on? Yes, I can see the red light,

22 and I'd ask you if you can try and stay in a good

23 position for that because we need to hear you through

24 the microphone, through the sound system.

25 A. Okay.

1 LADY SMITH: Also, that red folder that's on the surface in  
2 front of you has your statement in it --  
3 A. Yes.  
4 LADY SMITH: -- the one you signed. You'll be taken to that  
5 in a minute or two. But we'll also bring the statement  
6 up on screen and go to the relevant parts of it as we go  
7 through your evidence with you. You might find it  
8 helpful to use either or neither of these. It's up to  
9 you.  
10 A. Okay.  
11 LADY SMITH: Separately from that, 'Lynda', I want to assure  
12 you, I know that what we're asking you to do this  
13 morning can be challenging. It's quite a difficult  
14 thing to be asked to come speak in public about your  
15 childhood, particularly about events that were  
16 distressing and may still be distressing, and events, as  
17 you talk about them, which may provoke emotions that  
18 take you by surprise.  
19 I quite understand that. I do understand. I know  
20 it's hard. I know you may want a break, you may want to  
21 pause. You may just want to get through it.  
22 A. I just want to get through.  
23 LADY SMITH: But if there's anything that's troubling you at  
24 all, let me know if there's anything we can do to make  
25 the passage through this next hour and a half or so

1 easier we'll try and help you, all right?

2 A. Okay. Thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Innes and she'll take it

4 from there.

5 MS INNES: Thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: Actually, if I could just say one thing before

7 we start, I think this room is quite warm this morning.

8 If anybody can bring the temperature down a bit.

9 Do you think so, 'Lynda'?

10 A. Yes, that would be good, thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Bring it down a degree or two, that would be

12 helpful. Thank you.

13 Questions from Ms Innes

14 MS INNES: Now, 'Lynda', we understand that you were born in

15 Irvine in 1965.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I'm going to ask you to look at your statement, please.

18 We give it the reference WIT.001.002.2045. If we go to

19 the last page of that, page 19, at paragraph 133 we see

20 that it says there:

21 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

22 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

23 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

24 true."

25 You signed that statement, I think, on

1        23 October 2018.

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   Thank you.   If we go back to the beginning of your

4        statement, please, you tell us there a little of your

5        family at paragraph 2, and you talk about your parents

6        and you say that you had four brothers?

7    A.   Yes.

8    Q.   So twins who were older than you?

9    A.   Yes.

10   Q.   And your brother [REDACTED] who was a year older than you?

11   A.   Yes.

12   Q.   And you also say that you had a younger brother, but he

13        was adopted?

14   A.   Yes.

15   Q.   Okay.   You also know that your mother had another baby

16        daughter, I think before you were born, but she had

17        died.   Is that right?

18   A.   Yes.

19   Q.   You think that she was born maybe between 1959 and 1963,

20        you say.

21   A.   (Witness nods)

22   Q.   Okay.   Have you found that out from your own research or

23        from information given to you by your brothers?

24   A.   It was information from social work records that was in

25        there.

1 Q. Okay. You say that your understanding is that you lived  
2 with your mother until you were about 10 months old and  
3 then --

4 A. I don't know exactly, because I've had two sets of  
5 paperwork from social work and both of them were  
6 different. There was some information that was not in  
7 one that was in the other.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. So the information I just got now is I was maybe  
10 a couple of days and then I was taken into hospital.  
11 I don't know exactly, couldn't tell you.

12 Q. Okay. If we go over the page to page 2, you say that  
13 you know that you were taken into Hazeldene Children's  
14 Home.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you think that your brother [REDACTED] was taken there  
17 with you?

18 A. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

19 Q. Okay. Is that something that you had a memory of or --

20 A. Yes. I remember that.

21 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 6 that you know that from  
22 your records that you and [REDACTED] were placed with  
23 a foster family and it didn't work out?

24 A. From the records, I think we were placed with two or  
25 three before we went to the family [REDACTED] FKB/FKE

1 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 7 that you were placed  
2 with the FKB/FKE family in 1967.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You went there with [REDACTED] is that right?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Do you know where your older brothers were at the time?

7 A. I think they were in Burnside --

8 Q. In a home?

9 A. -- Home, in Irvine.

10 Q. Okay. And you said that your younger brother was  
11 adopted?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. At paragraph 8 you tell us that you don't have any  
14 initial memories of going to the FKB/FKE because  
15 of course you were very young when you went there.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You tell us that they lived on a particular street in  
18 Kilwinning and then you tell us a little bit about them.  
19 You say that your memory is they were in their 50s?

20 A. I think they were in their 50s, yeah. They were quite  
21 old.

22 Q. You say they had five grown-up children of their own who  
23 had left home?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And then in addition to that, they also had adopted

1 children?

2 A. They had adopted I think two other females and they had

3 also left.

4 Q. Okay. And you say that there were also other foster

5 children in the house?

6 A. I think another two boys, yes.

7 Q. Two boys. Were they older than you?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think you tell us a little bit about them later on in

10 your statement and your memory is that one went to join

11 the Air Force, I think?

12 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

13 Q. Okay. At paragraph 10 you say that the FKB/FKE had

14 their biological granddaughter staying with them as

15 well?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. She was a year younger than you?

18 A. Yes, she was.

19 Q. Was she there the whole time that you lived there, can

20 you remember?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you know if she'd lived there since she'd been born

23 or do you know anything about that?

24 A. I couldn't tell you, no.

25 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 10 that at least at the

1       beginning of your time there, there were the two older  
2       foster boys, there was the granddaughter and yourself  
3       and your brother.  
4   A.   (Witness nods)  
5   Q.   If we go over the page, you tell us a little bit about  
6       the house. You shared a room with the granddaughter?  
7   A.   Yes.  
8   Q.   Was that the case for the whole time that you lived  
9       there or did you --  
10  A.   For the majority of the time until my older brother  
11       moved out and then I got his room.  
12  Q.   Okay. When you say your older brother, do you mean --  
13  A.   [REDACTED]  
14  Q.   [REDACTED] okay. So the FKB/FKE had their own room and  
15       then do you think that [REDACTED] shared a room with the  
16       other two boys or --  
17  A.   I think they were gone by that time. I don't think they  
18       were there that long.  
19  Q.   Okay, did they come back to visit, can you remember?  
20  A.   No.  
21  Q.   Then at paragraph 13 you say that there was a living  
22       room, kitchen, dining room, cubbyhole under the stairs  
23       in the downstairs of the house.  
24  A.   Mm-hmm.  
25  Q.   Okay. You say at paragraph 14 that you called the

1           FKB/FKE   mum and dad.

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   I don't think you can remember how that came about?

4   A.   (Witness shakes head)

5           No.

6   Q.   Did you have an understanding that they weren't in fact

7           your parents?

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   How did you learn that, can you remember?

10  A.   I think from school because the granddaughter, she had

11           their name and I had of course my mother's name. So the

12           other kids kind of made fun of that at school. So

13           that's how I found out.

14  Q.   Okay. You say that the granddaughter called them gran

15           and grandad as well?

16  A.   (Witness nods)

17  Q.   You say at paragraph 15 -- I think you've been talking

18           up to now perhaps about the first house that you lived

19           in, is that right, and then you moved to another house?

20  A.   Yeah.

21  Q.   Was it similar, the other house that they moved to, or

22           was it a --

23  A.   I think the other house was -- yeah, it was kind of

24           similar, yeah.

25  Q.   So similar kind of accommodation --

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. -- and sleeping arrangements?

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. Okay. You say that you can remember that initially

5 Mrs FKE didn't work, but then there came a time where

6 she started to work in a cafe?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was that when you were a bit older?

9 A. I'd say maybe 12/13.

10 Q. Okay. You go on to tell us a bit of what life was like

11 in the house with the FKB/FKE and at paragraph 17 you

12 talk about not being able to choose what to wear.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Did that happen for the whole time that you lived there

15 or did that change as you got older?

16 A. It changed as I got older and I started buying my own

17 clothes.

18 Q. You also say that you and [REDACTED] had to wear the same

19 outfit?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How long did that go on for?

22 A. Until I started buying my own clothes.

23 Q. Okay. Did you have any thoughts about that at the time,

24 being dressed the same as the granddaughter?

25 A. I don't think it really bothered me that much.

1 Q. Okay. Then over the page at page 4 and paragraph 18,  
2 you say that when you were younger, Mrs FKE would  
3 make breakfast.  
4 A. Mm-hmm.  
5 Q. But then when you were about 10, you say that you  
6 started having to make them breakfast?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Is that Mr and Mrs FKB/FKE  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. You describe that at paragraph 19 and you say that you,  
11 the granddaughter and your brother all had to do that.  
12 A. Mm-hmm, yes.  
13 Q. So did the FKB/FKE stop making breakfast altogether?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. You then talk about what you would do perhaps in the  
16 evenings. What happened when you came home from school?  
17 A. Well, we done our homework and any chores that had to be  
18 done was done, and we had dinner. And, yeah, we sat on  
19 the couch and we watched whatever he was watching on TV.  
20 Q. Okay. Can you remember if you were able to go outside  
21 after you'd had your dinner or not?  
22 A. Yes, we could.  
23 Q. At paragraph 21, you refer to your relationship with the  
24 granddaughter. How did you get on with her?  
25 A. We didn't get on too well.

1 Q. Was that always the case?

2 A. It was always the case, yeah.

3 Q. After you left the FKB/FKE was she somebody that you

4 kept in touch with or not?

5 A. No.

6 Q. If we go down to paragraph 25, you talk about baths.

7 I think initially you had a bath once a week.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And it was at a set time?

10 A. It was on a Sunday.

11 Q. Okay. You said there was a bathroom in the house, so

12 I assume that was where the bath was?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You say that that changed when you were a teenager, that

15 you were able to have your own baths and you could

16 decide when you wanted to have a bath --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- but it was still once a week?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you have privacy when you were using the bathroom?

21 A. Yes, yes.

22 Q. In the next section you tell us about food and you

23 say -- you've already told us about breakfast. You talk

24 about meal times. What were meal times in the house

25 like?

1 A. We sat at the table but we weren't allowed to talk. We  
2 had to eat what was given to us and if we didn't eat it,  
3 we got it until we did eat it the next day.

4 Q. You say that in paragraph 29, you say it would be heated  
5 up and given to you again?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Then you say if you didn't eat it then, you would get  
8 threatened with being beaten?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say this happened to you, your brother and to the  
11 granddaughter?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. You saw that happening to all of you?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When you say that you had to sit quietly, were the  
16 FKB/FKE speaking to one another over the dinner table?

17 A. They spoke, but we weren't allowed to speak.

18 Q. If you did speak, what happened?

19 A. We didn't speak. We just knew not to speak.

20 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 28 that you would get  
21 punished if you made any noise.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What sort of punishment?

24 A. Either with a hand or with a belt.

25 Q. We'll come back to that again in a moment.

1           In the next section you talk about school and at  
2       paragraph 31 you talk about what you've already  
3       mentioned about having different names from the  
4       granddaughter, different surnames. How did you get on  
5       at school?

6   A. Not very good.

7   Q. In what way?

8   A. I just wasn't concentrated in school. I -- I don't  
9       know, I just -- by going by the school reports that  
10      I had from the social work papers, I didn't do good in  
11      school. I wasn't interested in school.

12   Q. If we go on over the page and page 6 at paragraph 34,  
13      you say that you were picked on for what you wore at  
14      school --

15   A. Yeah.

16   Q. -- and you were in old-fashioned clothes in comparison?

17   A. Yeah.

18   Q. Did the granddaughter get the same sort of treatment  
19      from other children as you did or not?

20   A. No, no.

21   Q. At paragraph 36 you say that you were reserved and  
22      quiet. You had some friends, but not many.

23   A. Mm-hmm.

24   Q. Was that the case both in primary and secondary school?

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. You say at the end of that paragraph:  
2 "School didn't do anything to make my life easier or  
3 try to find out what was going on."  
4 A. Exactly.  
5 Q. Can you explain that a little bit further?  
6 A. When I was at secondary school, I was aggressive,  
7 rebellious. I knew I didn't fit in at school. I didn't  
8 feel comfortable at school. I didn't feel good about  
9 myself. And -- yeah.  
10 Q. The teachers didn't speak to you about that --  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. -- or ask what was going on at home?  
13 A. No.  
14 Q. If we go on over the page to page 7, you talk about some  
15 of the things that you had to do at the weekends.  
16 A. Mm-hmm.  
17 Q. You say that you had to clean the whole house?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Would Mrs FKE also be doing that or was it just the  
20 three of you?  
21 A. It would be the three of us.  
22 Q. You talk about the various chores that you had to do.  
23 You say at paragraph 42:  
24 "Mrs FKE used to come into our bedroom and check  
25 if it was clean. If she didn't think our cupboards were

1        neat enough, she would empty all our clothes onto the  
2        floor ..."

3    A.    Yes.

4    Q.    You'd have to put it back and then she'd inspect it  
5        again?

6    A.    Yes.

7    Q.    How often did that sort of thing happen?

8    A.    Not too often because, you know, you learn not to do it.  
9        You learn to keep it clean.

10   Q.    You say that you weren't allowed to go out to play until  
11        you'd done all the cleaning?

12   A.    Yes.

13   Q.    Did she check it before you were allowed out?

14   A.    Yes.

15   Q.    I see. At paragraph 44 you say you didn't get any  
16        pocket money or any praise for doing the chores?

17   A.    No.

18   Q.    She didn't say thank you for doing that?

19   A.    No.

20   Q.    Then you talk about going outside to play. You didn't  
21        have any toys or books or anything?

22   A.    No, not many, no.

23   Q.    If we go on over the page, at paragraph 47 you say that  
24        you got a Saturday job, I think, when you were 14?

25   A.    Yes.

1 Q. Were you able to keep the money from that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Other than that, prior to having that job, did you get

4 pocket money from the FKB/FKE

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 49 that sometimes you would

7 go and help with children, the children of their adopted

8 daughter?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that something that you would be paid for, you know,

11 to babysit them?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. When you say "we", would all three of you go or would it

14 be one --

15 A. It would be mostly me, but sometimes

16 Q. You talk about going on trips to visit Mrs FKE

17 mother --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- and you have some good memories of that?

20 A. Yes, it was nice, yeah.

21 Q. You also talk at paragraph 52 about some good memories

22 of trips that you went to on holiday?

23 A. Yes. They had a caravan and sometimes we'd go in the

24 caravan and it was nice.

25 Q. Okay. In terms of social work visits, can you remember

1       any social worker coming to see you?

2   A.   Maybe about three or four times, the social worker.

3   Q.   Three or four times in the whole time that you lived

4       there?

5   A.   (Witness nods)

6   Q.   Okay.

7   A.   That I can remember.

8   Q.   That you can remember, okay.  What can you remember

9       about the social worker that came to see you?  Was it

10      always the same person or do you have memories of

11      different people coming?

12  A.   Different people.  It was a woman when I was younger,

13      and then as I got older there was a man.

14  Q.   If we go on over the page, please, to the top of page 9,

15      did you know in advance that the social worker would be

16      coming?

17  A.   Yes.

18  Q.   How did you know in advance?

19  A.   Because we were told.

20  Q.   Were you told anything more than, "Social worker's

21      coming to see you"?

22  A.   We were told not to speak.

23  Q.   Not to speak at all?

24  A.   Not to answer any questions, yes.

25  Q.   When the social worker came, did you see them in the

1 house?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Would one of the FKB/FKE be there when you saw them?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So Mr or Mrs or both?

6 A. Mrs.

7 Q. Okay. Would you and your brother see the social worker

8 at the same time?

9 A. No.

10 Q. So you'd have separate --

11 A. Separate times.

12 Q. Okay. Would the social worker be in the house and then

13 you would be called in separately to speak to them?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. All right, I see, okay. When you saw the social worker,

16 can you remember them asking you things? Can you

17 remember them asking anything?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Can you remember saying anything to the social worker

20 about how you were getting on?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You say that you don't remember ever seeing a social

23 worker on your own?

24 A. No.

25 Q. At paragraph 58 you talk about an occasion when a social

1           worker came to visit you after knowing that you had been  
2           raped.

3    A.   Yes.

4    Q.   You say you were 15 years old at the time?

5    A.   Yes.

6    Q.   You tell us later on in your statement that some people  
7           were convicted, I think, of raping you --

8    A.   Yes.

9    Q.   -- after you'd been to a disco?

10   A.   Yes.

11   Q.   Is that the incident that you're referring to?

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   What did the social worker speak to you about after  
14           that?

15   A.   He just spoke to me about basically the birds and the  
16           bees, when a woman's supposed to be with a man and how's  
17           supposed to happen, when it's supposed to happen.

18   Q.   Can you remember any feelings that you had about that  
19           conversation at that time?

20   A.   I think I was angry at the time.

21   Q.   Can you remember a social worker offering you any  
22           support or --

23   A.   No.

24   Q.   -- you being referred to any counselling or anything at  
25           that time?

1 A. No.

2 LADY SMITH: That would have taken place about 1982,  
3 'Lynda', would it?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Can you remember what sort of age the social  
6 worker was?

7 A. I'd say maybe late 40s.

8 LADY SMITH: From your description, it doesn't sound as  
9 though it was somebody who understood how a 15-year-old  
10 might feel?

11 A. No, definitely not.

12 MS INNES: Do you know if this was a person who you had seen  
13 before?

14 A. I couldn't tell you.

15 Q. You go on at paragraph 59 to mention a memory of seeing  
16 one of your older twin brothers?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you say that you were taken to the children's home?

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. So what happened? Did you go to stay there overnight or  
21 did you go to visit?

22 A. I went to stay there overnight, because my brother, he  
23 wanted to get to know me, but I didn't like it there so  
24 I didn't go back.

25 Q. Other than that time, did you have any other visits with

1       your twin brothers?

2    A.  No.

3    Q.  They didn't come to the house to see you?

4    A.  No.

5    Q.  You didn't exchange any cards or anything like that?

6    A.  No.

7    Q.  Speak on the phone --

8    A.  No.

9    Q.  -- or anything like that?  No.  So your recollection is

10       that you only had that one contact with your older

11       brothers --

12   A.  Yes.

13   Q.  -- during the time that you lived with the FKB/FKE ?

14   A.  Yeah.

15   Q.  Did the same apply to your other brother, [REDACTED] who

16       was living with you?

17   A.  I think when he got a bit older, he had more contact

18       with them.

19   Q.  Okay.  When you say when he got a bit older, do you mean

20       when he was still a child, when he was still living with

21       the FKB/FKE ?

22   A.  When he was like 15, 16.

23   Q.  Right, okay.  What did he do to have contact with them?

24       Did he go to see them or --

25   A.  I think he went to see them.

1 Q. Right, okay.

2 A. He also had contact with my mother.

3 Q. Okay. When did he have contact with your mother, can

4 you remember? Was that when you were a child?

5 A. I think also when he was 15/16. I don't know exactly.

6 Q. Okay. Did you have any contact with your mother during

7 your childhood?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you know why that was?

10 A. (Pause)

11 Q. It's okay.

12 A. I'm sorry. (Pause) Because I hated her.

13 Q. Is that because of what you were told about her?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was it the FKB/FKE that told you about her or was it the

16 social workers that told you about her?

17 A. The FKB/FKE

18 Q. Can you remember the social workers ever telling you

19 about her?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay, right.

22 If we can move on from there, you talk about

23 birthdays and Christmas and you say that you remember

24 Christmas being a nice day. You can't remember any

25 birthday being celebrated in the house?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Not the granddaughter's?

3 A. (Witness shakes head)

4 Q. Not the FKB/FKE own birthdays?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. If we can move on to page 10 and paragraph 69,

7 you start talking about some of the abuse that you

8 suffered.

9 You've already told us about being threatened with

10 the belt.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 Q. What kind of belt was it? Was it --

13 A. It was the kind of belt they used in the school when you

14 got punished at school.

15 Q. I think you say over the page at paragraph 71 that it

16 was there in the room hanging above the fireplace?

17 A. It was at the side of the fireplace, it hung there.

18 Q. In the living room?

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 LADY SMITH: Was it fringed at one end?

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: The old Scottish tawse?

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS INNES: You say that all of you got the belt?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So you saw [REDACTED] and the granddaughter --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- getting the belt too? Okay. But you think that you

5 got it more than they did?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What would happen for Mr FKB [REDACTED] to hit you with the

8 belt?

9 A. If we were in the living room and he was watching

10 something on the telly and we spoke or laughed or moved,

11 then we would get it.

12 Q. Would he hit you once or more than once?

13 A. More than once.

14 Q. Whereabouts would he hit you?

15 A. Anywhere, really.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. That he could reach.

18 Q. If we go on over the page to paragraph 73, you talk

19 about him belting you.

20 A. Legs, backside, yeah.

21 Q. So sort of all over your body?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. This would also happen if there were any complaints from

24 school?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How would these be reported to him? Would the school  
2 phone him or would it come through Mrs FKE ?  
3 A. I think it came through Mrs FKE .  
4 Q. Did Mrs FKE ever use the belt or hit you?  
5 A. No.  
6 Q. Was she aware that Mr FKB was hitting you?  
7 A. Yes, she was.  
8 Q. Did she ever step in to stop him doing that or not?  
9 A. No.  
10 Q. Over the time that you lived there, how long did that go  
11 on for? Did it carry on for the whole time that you  
12 lived there or did it stop when you were a bit older?  
13 A. I think it stopped when we got a bit older, yeah.  
14 Q. Did the same apply to your brother and to the  
15 granddaughter when they got a bit older too?  
16 A. Mm-hmm.  
17 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 74 about things that  
18 Mr FKB would say to you.  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. If you feel able to tell us about the sorts of things  
21 that he would say to you?  
22 A. He would just say I was stupid and I was never going to  
23 amount to anything. He would compare me with other  
24 people that had been successful in life. I was born  
25 with an eye problem and he always made fun of that, made

1       me feel bad because of that, called me names. Yeah,  
2       just that. And about my mother constantly.

3   Q. You say that there, that he talked about your mother and  
4       said that you would be just like her and --

5   A. Yeah.

6   Q. -- suchlike, okay. You say at the bottom of this page  
7       that he used every excuse to put you down, it happened  
8       often.

9   A. Yes, it happened often.

10  Q. Did he say the same sorts of things to your brother?

11  A. No. No.

12  Q. What about the granddaughter?

13  A. No.

14  Q. No, okay.

15       If you go on, please, to page 12 and paragraph 78,  
16       you say that you were so restricted that you didn't even  
17       ask if kids could come round?

18  A. No, we weren't allowed.

19  Q. Did they say it wasn't allowed?

20  A. Yes.

21  Q. Did they give any reason why you weren't allowed to have  
22       friends to the house?

23  A. No. We didn't ask questions.

24  Q. Okay. You say you weren't allowed to have an opinion.

25  A. No.

1 Q. So there was no discussion about anything?

2 A. No, none.

3 Q. In the next section, at paragraphs 79 to 81, you say

4 that you are almost certain that you were sexually

5 abused by Mr FKB

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What can you tell us about what?

8 A. I don't know to exactly what extent, but I can remember

9 being in my bed, sitting -- it was night, it was dark,

10 and I know he was there at the side of my bed.

11 Q. You say at paragraph 81 that you didn't know exactly

12 what had happened?

13 A. No.

14 Q. But you know something happened?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You also say that you think it happened frequently?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that your sense, thinking back to that time?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You also tell us at paragraph 82 that you were raped,

21 I think, by the husband of the FKB/FKE adopted

22 daughter?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So you've already told us that you sometimes did

25 babysitting for the children.

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. Was that when this happened?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You say that you think he was about 10 years older than

5 you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Can you remember how old you were at the time?

8 A. 14?

9 Q. Did you feel able to tell anyone what had happened?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Why did you not feel able to tell anyone?

12 A. Because that's the way it was and when I lived there, we

13 couldn't talk, we weren't allowed to talk. So I didn't

14 feel I could tell anybody anything about that. And

15 I think -- thinking back now as to how it was, I think

16 that's why he done it, because he knew I couldn't speak

17 up.

18 Q. Then at paragraph 83 you tell us about the incident that

19 we've already mentioned --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- which was just before you were 16. You tell us,

22 I think, later on that three men were convicted in

23 respect of that.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. It went to court.

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. Did you have to go to court and give evidence?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If we go on over the page, please, what was the reaction

5 of the FKB/FKE to this?

6 A. On the night where it happened, Mrs FKE she took me

7 to the hospital to get checked and she was supportive

8 that day, that night. Afterwards, she wasn't very

9 supportive because they got abuse from the family

10 members of the men that were convicted and they were

11 harassed and they couldn't take that harassment.

12 Q. Okay. What about Mr FKB? Did he speak to you about

13 what had happened or --

14 A. He just again talked about my mother, that I was going

15 down the same path as my mother, I was going to be

16 exactly the same as her.

17 Q. Okay. After that happened, did you leave the FKB/FKE?

18 A. Not right away, but maybe a year afterwards. Not even

19 a year.

20 Q. At the bottom of page 13, you talk about leaving school

21 after that happened --

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. -- and getting a job. Then you say that you left when

24 you were about 17. Your brother left when he was about

25 16?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So had he already gone?

3 A. He'd already gone.

4 Q. At paragraph 90 you talk about the day that you left.

5 You only had a plastic carrier bag.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Had you put your things together or had the FKB/FKE

8 helped you to --

9 A. No, I did that.

10 Q. Did you go without telling them that you were going?

11 A. No, they knew I was going.

12 Q. Where did you go to?

13 A. I went to one of my brothers.

14 Q. You say that you can't remember any social work

15 involvement in arranging you leaving?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you get any help from the social work department

18 about moving from the FKB/FKE to living after that.

19 A. No, no.

20 Q. Did you get any help from the social work department in

21 finding a job or --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. So that -- I think you mentioned that there was

24 a -- they helped you find a job with a store?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Right. You say at paragraph 86, on page 13, that you  
2 never reported the physical abuse by FKB Is  
3 that right?  
4 A. No.  
5 Q. And you've never reported it to the police since?  
6 A. In 2018 I made the report.  
7 Q. Okay. So in 2018 you made a report in respect of the  
8 physical abuse?  
9 A. From FKB from the rape, yes.  
10 Q. And the rape by the son-in-law?  
11 A. That's the one that was reported in 2018.  
12 Q. Okay, right. Was there a police investigation that  
13 followed that report or not?  
14 A. No.  
15 Q. Why not?  
16 A. I didn't want to do that, because his wife was one of  
17 the adopted daughters and she was really nice to me, she  
18 was like a sister to me, and I didn't want to do that to  
19 her. I didn't want to disrupt her family.  
20 Q. Why did you make the report to the police?  
21 A. Because I was -- I had a counsellor, Gary, from Future  
22 Pathways, and we spoke about it and he recommended me to  
23 do it.  
24 Q. Do you feel that it helped you making that report to the  
25 police?

1 A. Yes, it did.

2 Q. In what way did it help you?

3 A. It helped me, because then at least the police know that

4 he's capable of this and he has grandchildren and he has

5 children of his own, and -- you know, he's somebody that

6 needs to be monitored.

7 Q. Okay, thank you.

8 If we go on to page 16, please, you talk about your

9 life after you were in care, but if we move on to

10 page 16 and to the impact of your time in care, and you

11 tell us that it's affected your whole life. I wonder if

12 I can ask you some questions about this.

13 A. Sure.

14 Q. How did your time in care affect your relationship with

15 your brothers?

16 A. My relationship with them wasn't good. I just didn't

17 feel that connection with them. I didn't feel

18 a connection to anybody, actually.

19 Q. Did that apply to your twin brothers and to the brother

20 that lived with you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 109 that you felt like you

23 never really fitted in.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is that something that you connect to your time in care?

1 A. Yes, definitely.

2 Q. That feeling of not fitting in?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. I think you mention that about that was your feeling at  
5 school as well, for example.

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 Q. You say that you withdrew from your older brothers even  
8 further when you left Scotland?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say that you talk to your brother [REDACTED] and your  
11 brother [REDACTED] now, but there will always be a distance  
12 there?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You've already referred to not having contact with your  
15 mother.

16 A. (Witness nods)

17 Q. At paragraph 113 you tell us about that. You say that  
18 you never met her at all?

19 A. I met her one time.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Just briefly.

22 Q. When was that? Was that when you were an adult?

23 A. I think when I was 16.

24 Q. Are you able to tell us about your memory of that  
25 meeting with her?

1 A. It wasn't very pleasant. My brother wanted that.  
2 I think my mother wanted to meet me and I met her maybe  
3 for 10 minutes and that was enough for me.  
4 Q. Okay. You talk about your feelings towards her and you  
5 say that you hated her for the situation that she'd put  
6 you in.  
7 A. I hated her for the situation she put me in. I also  
8 hated her because of what the FKB/FKE told me about her.  
9 It wasn't until later on in life that I got my records  
10 and I found out what had actually happened to her in her  
11 past --  
12 Q. Okay.  
13 A. -- and I got to understand why she was the way she was.  
14 Q. You say that you discovered that she suffered from  
15 mental illness?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. That didn't accord with what you had been told by the  
18 FKB/FKE ?  
19 A. No.  
20 Q. Is that something that you think that you should have  
21 been told at the time?  
22 A. Yes. Yes. If they hadn't spoken about my mother the  
23 way they did my relationship might have been different  
24 with her.  
25 Q. Do you think that you should have been given that

1 information by the social work department?

2 A. Definitely.

3 Q. You also say at paragraph 115 that you were trying to

4 get information about your father?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you get any information about him?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How were you able to do that?

9 A. I came here to Edinburgh and I went to the records and

10 I done some follow up, but I didn't get very far because

11 I didn't have a lot of information, so I hired a company

12 to get that information for me.

13 Q. Was your father mentioned during your childhood, can you

14 remember?

15 A. No.

16 Q. No, okay. Did your brothers have any relationship with

17 your father?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. What do you feel about that lack of information

20 about your father?

21 A. Devastated. I think this is information that should be

22 given to every child when they come a certain age.

23 I think foster care and social workers they should have

24 this information or try their best to get this

25 information. I think it's something when you turn 18

1       that you should have.

2   Q.   Okay.  You talk about the impact on yourself as well,  
3       and I think particularly at paragraph 121 you say that  
4       you have no identity.

5   A.   No.

6   Q.   Can you expand on that a little bit, please?

7   A.   Well, I don't know my own mother, I don't know my own  
8       father, I didn't relate to the **FKB/FKE**, so I feel as if  
9       I don't have a family whatsoever.  I don't think it  
10       really bothered me when I was living here in Scotland,  
11       but when I moved to Germany I made friends and people  
12       talk about their families and their cousins and their  
13       mothers and their fathers and their grandparents and  
14       then it just started to dawn on me: oh, I never had any  
15       of that.  Why didn't I have any of that?  Why don't  
16       I have this information?  It really did hit me pretty  
17       hard.  And then when my daughters got older and they  
18       started asking questions that I couldn't answer, then it  
19       hit me really hard.

20  Q.   You talk here about you don't have anybody that can tell  
21       you what you were like at a child --

22  A.   No.

23  Q.   -- and you don't have photographs?

24  A.   No.

25  Q.   You mentioned your children there.  How has what

1       happened to you affected your relationship with your  
2       children?

3    A.   With my youngest daughter, we have a very close  
4       relationship. My oldest one, it's on and off. She also  
5       suffers from anxiety and blames that on me. My youngest  
6       one does also. I grew up with no self-esteem, no  
7       self-worth, and today it's still the same, and I passed  
8       that on to my daughters and, yeah, it's had a big  
9       impact.

10   Q.   I think you feel that this impact was avoidable.

11   A.   Yes.

12   Q.   Can you explain that a little bit further, please?

13   A.   I feel if I had some more information about my parents,  
14       whether good or bad, it would have made me feel better  
15       about myself. At least I would have known where I come  
16       from. You know, I could have got to know my mother and  
17       maybe some family members from her or got some  
18       information about my dad, but I grew up not knowing  
19       nothing, not knowing where I came from, where I belonged  
20       to.

21       I would go to doctors in Germany, they'd want family  
22       history. I couldn't tell them nothing. I couldn't tell  
23       them nothing, no medical records, I had nothing.  
24       I couldn't tell them about families that have any kind  
25       of diseases or health problems. I have no information.

1       Absolutely nothing. My daughters would ask me  
2       questions, I couldn't tell them nothing. They'd ask me  
3       questions about when I was:  
4             "Do you have pictures?"  
5             "No."  
6             "How were you when you were a child? Was I like you  
7       when I was a child?"  
8             "I don't know."  
9             I couldn't answer nothing.  
10    Q. In terms of the memories that you have of speaking to  
11       social workers when you were living with the FKB/FKE do  
12       you think that could have been dealt with differently?  
13    A. Yes.  
14    Q. Again, can you expand on that? What do you think could  
15       have been done?  
16    A. I think maybe they could have been trained better to  
17       realise that a child is not speaking up when it's  
18       supposed to speak up or look for signs that that child  
19       is disturbed or has problems or is not speaking up for  
20       itself or watch the foster parents when they're with  
21       that child, see how they react, see how they look at  
22       that child while they're in their presence.  
23    Q. You mentioned already that at school things weren't  
24       picked up either, so --  
25    A. No.

1 Q. I suppose one of the things might have been that maybe  
2 teachers might have picked up and they should have  
3 shared that with the social work department.  
4 A. Definitely.  
5 Q. If we can go on to the next page, please, page 18, and  
6 the bottom half of the page. You've told us a little  
7 bit about your records. I think you've had some  
8 difficulty in finding your records; is that right?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. You were told first of all there were no records?  
11 A. Yes. I contacted Ayr County Council in Irvine and asked  
12 for my records and they told me they couldn't find the  
13 records. I stayed on them and they told me they would  
14 try the archives in Glasgow, which they did, and then  
15 I did get my records. But it took a long time.  
16 Q. Then you mentioned that there were two sets of records  
17 that you got and they were different.  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Can you explain that?  
20 A. I got one set of records and the first set I got, there  
21 wasn't so much information about my mother in there.  
22 There was more about the FKB/FKE and my school reports  
23 and -- but the majority of it was allowances that  
24 Mrs FKE had applied for.  
25 Q. Okay, so just sort of financial information?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Then the second set of records was more about your  
3 mother?

4 A. Is more about my mother, yeah.

5 Q. How did you feel about the records when you saw them?

6 A. It was quite hurtful to read them. The first set of  
7 records, when I got them, it just really confirmed what  
8 I felt, and that is that the Walkers took me into care  
9 for financial benefit, not for my well-being. And yeah.

10 Q. Again, if we just go on over the page, please, you talk  
11 there --

12 LADY SMITH: 'Lynda', if you don't want to say anything more  
13 about this, it's absolutely fine, but I'm interested in  
14 you saying that once you read your records it confirmed,  
15 as you already thought, that the reason that the FKB/FKE  
16 took you in was for their own financial benefit.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: How did reading the records confirm your  
19 feelings about that?

20 A. Because it felt to me there was more information in  
21 there about the allowances that she was applying for  
22 than what there was about me.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you. That makes sense.

24 MS INNES: If we look at the final page, please, you  
25 mentioned there the report that you've already spoken

1           about by the -- the report in relation to the  
2           son-in-law.  
3   A.   Mm-hmm.  
4   Q.   Then under "Other information", you give some  
5           reflections or hopes and you say that you hope that  
6           social work and schools are more aware now. Does that  
7           go back to the things that you were talking about --  
8   A.   Yes, yes.  
9   Q.   -- that you weren't saying anything and that should have  
10          been picked up?  
11   A.   (Witness nods)  
12   Q.   Or at school, I think you said particularly in secondary  
13          you were aggressive?  
14   A.   Yes, I was aggressive, yes.  
15   Q.   You say that you feel a blind eye was turned when you  
16          were a child?  
17   A.   Yes.  
18   Q.   From your memory of looking at the records, did that  
19          confirm what you thought --  
20   A.   Yes.  
21   Q.   -- or not?  
22          How did it confirm?  
23   A.   Just confirmed to me that Mrs FKE she turned a blind  
24          eye. She could have done something about it. And I'm  
25          sure the schools and the social work, they saw -- there

1       were signs, there must have been signs, and they were  
2       ignored. I feel they were ignored.

3   Q. How do you say that Mrs FKE turned a blind eye?

4   A. She saw what was happening. She saw it. She was there.  
5       She witnessed it and she done nothing about it.

6   Q. Okay. I think you say that the time that she spoke to  
7       you after the rape was the first time that she'd hugged  
8       you?

9   A. Yes.

10  Q. You had no memory --

11  A. No.

12  Q. -- of her ever hugging you before?

13  A. No.

14  Q. So there was no affection?

15  A. No, there was no nice words, there was no hugging, there  
16       was no affection. No, none of that. Definitely not.

17  Q. Okay. Is there anything else that you've reflected on  
18       in relation to any failures by Social Services in  
19       respect of what happened or have you already covered it  
20       in your evidence?

21  A. I've already covered it.

22  MS INNES: Thank you, 'Lynda', I don't have any more  
23       questions for you, and there are no applications,  
24       my Lady.

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

1 applications for questions?

2 'Lynda', that does complete all the questions we  
3 have for you this morning. I just want to thank you,  
4 though, for engaging with us as you have done, we  
5 haven't looked at everything in your statement, but it  
6 is part of your evidence, I've read it, and it's rich in  
7 detail that really helps with what we're learning about  
8 here and it certainly enhances my learning and  
9 understanding of what foster care can turn out to be.

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 LADY SMITH: I appreciate that you've said a couple of  
12 things also, one troubling, you say you don't feel good  
13 about yourself, you've never felt good about yourself.  
14 Well, let me tell you, you should certainly feel good  
15 about having come here, having got in touch, having done  
16 what you've done in providing your statement and coming  
17 here today. A lot of effort and hard work has gone into  
18 that --

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: -- I can see, to add value to what we're doing.  
21 So please, if nothing else, give yourself a pat on the  
22 back for doing that.

23 I'm also very struck by you saying you don't feel  
24 that you have an identity. If I may say, that's very  
25 well put and I can well understand how a child put into

1 foster care in circumstances like yours, who is then  
2 given no information about themselves, their own  
3 background, could well end up like that.  
4 A. Yes.  
5 LADY SMITH: I hope you're able to go forward carrying on  
6 working for a better future --  
7 A. Yes.  
8 LADY SMITH: -- in your life. You have every reason to do  
9 that. And always remember that you did something very  
10 important by coming here and it's greatly appreciated.  
11 Thank you for that.  
12 A. Thank you for listening.  
13 LADY SMITH: I'm able to let you go.  
14 (The witness withdrew)  
15 LADY SMITH: There were a number of names used during  
16 'Lynda's' evidence, the FKB/FKE both of the FKB/FKE who  
17 were foster carers, and FKF and some of the  
18 other children in the foster home. Those, as anyone who  
19 is following my general restriction order will  
20 appreciate, are all protected by that order so they  
21 can't be used outside this room.  
22 Ms Innes, what are we going to do now?  
23 MS INNES: My Lady, we have time for a read-in before the  
24 morning break. If I might be excused, Ms Rattray will  
25 deal with the read-in.

1 LADY SMITH: Certainly.

2 Ms Rattray.

3 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

4 'Patricia' (read)

5 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the first read-in this morning is

6 a statement of an applicant who wishes to remain

7 anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Patricia'.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS RATTRAY: Her statement is at WIT.001.002.5045.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS RATTRAY: 'Patricia' was placed by Strathclyde Regional

12 Council in a foster placement with [REDACTED] and

13 MTB [REDACTED] in Glasgow from [REDACTED] 1980 until 1983,

14 when she was discharged from care at the age of 18. The

15 current responsible authority is Glasgow City Council.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS RATTRAY: From paragraphs 4 to 9 of her statement,

18 'Patricia' speaks of her life before care. Her family

19 was Roman Catholic. Her dad was violent to her mum.

20 Her mum left. The children were told that their mum was

21 dead. 'Patricia' and her older sister were left to look

22 after their younger siblings when their dad was at work.

23 Social workers became involved. One of 'Patricia's'

24 younger sisters was taken by their mum and so 'Patricia'

25 realised that her mum was not dead. Her older sister

1 ran away and married a Protestant man. 'Patricia' said  
2 that the first time they were taken into care was when  
3 her dad was done for shoplifting.

4 From paragraphs 10 to 26, 'Patricia' tells of her  
5 experiences in Ailsa Children's Home in Glasgow. She  
6 then spent two days in Eglinton Children's Home before  
7 being returned to her dad with her younger brother and  
8 sister.

9 From paragraphs 29 to 36, 'Patricia' speaks of her  
10 time at home with her dad. She says that she and her  
11 two younger siblings were sexually abused by their dad  
12 and two of his friends, who she names, and a third man  
13 who was a policeman, whose name she does not remember.  
14 She says the social workers were visiting all the time  
15 but did not notice anything.

16 She says she reported the abuse to her social  
17 worker, Catriona Neil, who she says wanted to send them  
18 back home to their dad. However, the senior social  
19 worker, Marion Duncan, said no and 'Patricia' and her  
20 siblings were put into Eglinton Children's Home.

21 From paragraphs 37 to 91, 'Patricia' describes her  
22 experiences in Eglinton Children's Home. Although in  
23 the same home, the siblings were split up within the  
24 home. She says she experienced physical and emotional  
25 abuse there. She says that whilst there, she was

1       prescribed Valium at the age of 12.

2       Moving now to paragraph 88 on page 15, where  
3       'Patricia' speaks of a member of the domestic staff she  
4       met while she was at Eglinton:

5       '██████████' was the ██████████ at the home.  
6       She came to me and said I reminded her of herself when  
7       she was a teenager. ██████████ would give me cigarettes  
8       and stuff like that. She would explain to me what  
9       I needed to do to get out of there. She said she wanted  
10      to foster me but wasn't allowed to because she worked  
11      there and it was against the rules. She told me I had  
12      to get out of the home if I wanted her to foster me, but  
13      first I needed to see if I liked her husband.

14      ██████████ would send me out to meet her husband,  
15      MTB ██████████ His real name was MTB ██████████ I thought he was  
16      a nice man."

17      From paragraphs 89 to 111, 'Patricia' describes  
18      moving from Eglinton to the Robertson Assessment Centre  
19      and then to Dr Guthrie's School in Edinburgh.

20      Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21      Secondary Institutions - to b ██████████ Moving now to paragraph 112 where

22      'Patricia' speaks about foster care:

23      "I went to a children's panel in Glasgow after five  
24      months of being in Dr Guthrie's. My social worker took  
25      me to Glasgow for it. That was when I found out that

1 I was being fostered.

2 My dad was at the children's panel because he had to  
3 sign the papers. [REDACTED] and MTB [REDACTED] who were  
4 fostering me, were also there. My father said he  
5 wouldn't sign the papers unless he got a guarantee that  
6 I went to a Catholic school. He got the guarantee,  
7 signed the papers and left. I was fostered out.

8 I was 14 when I moved in with [REDACTED] and MTB [REDACTED]  
9 They lived in Dumbarton. They were only in their 30s  
10 themselves. I was told to change my name to  
11 'Patricia' MTB-SPO [REDACTED] which I did.

12 When I went into the house, I went upstairs and saw  
13 my bedroom. It was gorgeous. It was like a wee  
14 princess room. It was the first proper bedroom I'd ever  
15 had. They didn't have children of their own so there  
16 were no other kids in the house. It was just me and  
17 them two. I felt welcomed by them. I knew I was going  
18 to Notre Dame School in Dumbarton.

19 MTB [REDACTED] used to do the ironing. He would iron my  
20 pants and bra too. I had started wearing a little  
21 starter bra. I thought it was weird. I felt weird when  
22 [REDACTED] was at work and he was there. Something didn't  
23 feel right and I didn't feel comfortable.

24 MTB [REDACTED] used to ask me to come and sit in his lap.  
25 I was 14 and you just didn't do that. Things like that

1       made me shy away from MTB       I told       and she  
2       said it was just because he hadn't had a child and  
3       wanted to be a daddy to me. I said I had a dad. He  
4       might have been a bastard, but I had a dad.

5       MTB       would also want to come into the bathroom and  
6       wash my hair when I was having a bath. That was a no no  
7       for me and I told       but she said it was okay.

8       Then he started touching me in places he shouldn't  
9       have been touching me. I kept telling him to stop and  
10      that it wasn't right, but he kept doing it. He then  
11      started to kiss me. It was a proper grown man slobbery  
12      kiss all over me. It wasn't nice at all. Then he  
13      started putting his hand down his trousers to play with  
14      his thing.

15      This would happen when       was at work. She  
16      was still working at Eglinton Home.

17      When       would go to the bingo, I would be in  
18      bed because I had school the next morning. MTB       would  
19      come into the bed beside me and start cuddling into me.  
20      He would start kissing me and kissing my body. He would  
21      put his fingers inside me.

22      I told       what he was doing but she said I was  
23      making it up. I started to run away and I kept running  
24      away. The police would always bring me back. I told  
25      Catriona Neil the social worker I didn't want to stay

1 with [REDACTED] and MTB [REDACTED] and what he was doing to me.  
2 She said they were a nice family and that Christian  
3 families don't do that and that I should think myself  
4 lucky and not be so ungrateful.

5 It just kept go on so I started to reject MTB [REDACTED] and  
6 started being destructive. They still wouldn't put me  
7 in care. I kept telling MTB [REDACTED] to stop touching me and  
8 I didn't want to touch him. He would say that he was  
9 going to tell my real dad, and the people who sexually  
10 abused me, where I lived. I think that's why he got  
11 away with doing it to me. He wouldn't stop abusing me  
12 so I kept running away.

13 I was with the MTB-SPO [REDACTED] for about a year before I was  
14 eventually put into the care of Cardross Assessment  
15 Centre.

16 I was 15 when I went to Cardross. I was there for  
17 quite a while. My sister phoned while I was in there.  
18 She'd gone back to my father and she told me my father  
19 had touched her again. I had told my father not to  
20 touch her. I ran away from Cardross. I was going to  
21 steal MTB [REDACTED]'s car. I knew MTB [REDACTED] left his car keys  
22 underneath the bonnet of his car. I went to the house  
23 and waited until they were sleeping. Something made him  
24 go out to the car that night and I got found. I was  
25 taken back to Cardross. I was still on the Valium at

1       this point.

2       I was sent back to live with the MTB-SPO

3       I put all my anger and everything I had into my  
4       education. I did well at school. Nobody was going to  
5       believe me when I told them about the abuse. I was  
6       never going to get away from them. I saw no way out.

7       I told Catriona Neil about the sexual abuse that was  
8       happening at home, at the hands of my dad and other men.  
9       She still put me back to my dad after knowing that.

10       When I was moved from Glasgow to Kelvindale, I did  
11       tell Catriona Neil what MTB was doing to me and she  
12       said 'Christians don't do that'. I told her three to  
13       four times and I was dismissed every time. It's not  
14       right that a social worker can dismiss you like that.

15       I went to Glasgow University and studied law. I got  
16       my own flat in Broomhill. I still couldn't get away  
17       from MTB I had given a set of keys  
18       to my flat at Broomhill but MTB would use them and  
19       come in after his night shift at work. He would let  
20       himself in and get into bed beside me. I was 18 years  
21       old and still couldn't get away from him.

22       I felt as though I had been given the Valium for so  
23       long that they could get me to do whatever they wanted  
24       to do. I wasn't enjoying my course at university.  
25       I might have enjoyed it better if I never had MTB on

1 my back. I applied to Edinburgh to do nursing. I had  
2 read a lot about Valium and what it could do and wanted  
3 to come off it before going to Edinburgh.

4 I came off the Valium before going to Edinburgh.  
5 I was very jittery at first when I got to Edinburgh.  
6 I had to go to my doctor in Grangemouth and tell him the  
7 situation. I told him I had been reliant on Valium  
8 since I was 12 years old. He gave me a drug that  
9 off-balanced the Valium. He helped me. I got there.

10 I did my nursing and then I specialised in  
11 psychiatric nursing."

12 From paragraphs 138 to 144, 'Patricia' speaks more  
13 of her life after care. Moving to paragraph 145 on  
14 page 23:

15 "My younger brother ended up in foster care with  
16 a minister. He didn't like it and ran away constantly.  
17 He ended up staying with my dad, which was the worst  
18 place he could have gone to. He ended up on drugs and  
19 was in Polmont by the time he was 17 years old. **Secondary In**  
20 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**. Catriona Neil  
21 was the boss there at the time. She managed to find me  
22 and tell me my brother was there. I can't believe she  
23 still wasn't managing to protect him.

24 My younger brother had three kids. He came to stay  
25 with me for a while when he split up from his partner.

1 My younger brother was bipolar. He committed suicide  
2 when he was 41 years old. He couldn't take any more.  
3 Catriona Neil phoned me and told me, which is now I know  
4 she works in Polmont. That's all I want to say about my  
5 younger brother's story. Let him lie in peace now."

6 Now to paragraph 152 on page 25 where 'Patricia'  
7 speaks about impact.

8 "I got postnatal depression and all my bad memories  
9 started to come back to me. I have been diagnosed with  
10 post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. I was  
11 not able to leave my house for 20 years. I am still not  
12 able to go out. I get flashbacks.

13 My agoraphobia and depression has rubbed off on my  
14 son. My son is autistic and has ADHD. He also has  
15 agoraphobia and depression. He lives with me and  
16 doesn't go out.

17 I wasn't able to be affectionate with my kids until  
18 they were older, yet I breastfed them both. I just  
19 found it very hard to show them something that I wasn't  
20 shown myself. I was very protective of them. My kids  
21 weren't allowed to go to the shop on their own until  
22 they were 15 years old. They said I was too  
23 overprotective.

24 The social workers put me in care to get me away  
25 from my dad and the sexual abuse. I think they knew

1        what was going on and separated us to see if we would  
2        talk. I lost all contact with my family. I had 72  
3        family members as a child. I now have 17 family members  
4        who I have managed to find.

5            This life has made me the most miserable bitch  
6        I have ever known anyone to be. Inside I am crying  
7        every single day of my life. I am looking for answers  
8        but I don't think I am going to get any.

9            I smile when I am with my daughter. I smile with my  
10       mouth, and I cry with my eyes. That's the only way  
11       I can explain my life.

12           Cath from Open Secret counselled me over the phone  
13       for four years. I never met her and just spoke to her  
14       over the phone.

15           I didn't leave the house until last year.  
16       I eventually managed to go up to the Open Secret office  
17       in Stirling. It's not been easy. I have had a lot of  
18       psychiatric treatment and cognitive behaviour therapy.  
19       I am currently having eye movement desensitisation and  
20       reprocessing treatment. It has been quite effective.  
21       I have been told the next step in my treatment, if  
22       anything else happens, will be electric shock therapy.

23           I have recently managed to obtain some of my social  
24       work records through Open Secret. There's a lot missing  
25       in them. They mention when I went to a children's panel

1 and what homes I went to, but there's no information  
2 about what went on at panels or in the homes. There is  
3 nothing about the social work visits to my dad's house  
4 either.

5 My mum is mentioned a lot in the records, which is  
6 strange as my mum wasn't in my life. I think they may  
7 have got me confused with my sister, who stayed with my  
8 mum. My father isn't mentioned at all in my records.

9 I'm going to try and get the rest of my records.

10 I reported the men who sexually abused me when  
11 I lived with my dad in Drumchapel. I reported them to  
12 the police a few years ago and I think it was at Partick  
13 police station. The police took the two men in for  
14 questioning and they denied it.

15 My older sister stuck up for the two men. She  
16 wasn't abused by them and they helped her when she ran  
17 away. My younger sister, who was abused, wouldn't speak  
18 to the police or be a witness, so the men got away with  
19 it.

20 I also reported the policeman who was involved in  
21 Drumchapel, but the police said that policemen don't do  
22 things like that. The police were not very good and  
23 didn't handle it very well. When they phoned my younger  
24 sister, who lives in England now, they weren't very nice  
25 to her. She won't talk to the police.

1 I complained to the police about MTB at the  
2 same time. I know that the police have been to see him  
3 and taken him in for questioning. He denied any abuse.  
4 He is still alive and has two kids now who are older,  
5 and it is likely he has grand kids."

6 Now to paragraph 172:

7 "I have a feeling that MTB might sue me for  
8 defamation or something if the police go to his door  
9 again, but I think let him. I have nothing anyway.  
10 He's taken all he can from me and left me with memories  
11 that I will never forget. All I have is memories and  
12 they are not so good.

13 I hope the Inquiry will make things better for other  
14 children. I hope that when kids and families are put  
15 into care, that they have things explained to them.  
16 I hope that siblings are never pulled apart from each  
17 other because it is the worst thing that people can do  
18 to them.

19 Every child should have things explained to them, no  
20 matter how old they are. They are much more streetwise  
21 now and can understand things. They should be involved  
22 in meetings about them.

23 I have no objection to my witness statement being  
24 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are



1 remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Helen'.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS RATTRAY: Her statement is at WIT.001.001.8919.

4 'Helen' was boarded out by Dundee Corporation, now  
5 Dundee City Council, to five foster placements.

6 The first was to Mrs [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] from  
7 [REDACTED] 1963 to [REDACTED] 1963.

8 The second was to Mrs [REDACTED] in Dundee, from  
9 [REDACTED] 1963 to [REDACTED] 1964.

10 The third was to Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in Dundee. From  
11 [REDACTED] 1964 to [REDACTED] 1964.

12 The fourth was to Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in Glasgow, from  
13 [REDACTED] 1964 to [REDACTED] 1966 and again from  
14 [REDACTED] 1967 to [REDACTED] 1968. Between those two  
15 periods, 'Helen' was in the children's shelter in  
16 Dundee, apparently because Mrs [REDACTED] was in ill health.

17 After the end of the second placement, 'Helen' was  
18 admitted to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock.

19 The fifth foster placement was to a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] [LWE-LWF]  
20 in Kilmaurs, from [REDACTED] 1970 to [REDACTED] 1973.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Helen'. I was born in 1961. My  
23 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

24 I have a daughter and a son, though my son died  
25 a year ago. I have a grandson who I brought up and is

1 17. I am widowed. I have not worked for at least 16  
2 years.

3 I have an older sister, though we have different  
4 dads. My full older brothers, though, have both since  
5 passed away. One brother was older than me and we were  
6 together throughout our time in care.

7 I have two other half siblings, those being  
8 a brother and sister. My half-brother has since passed  
9 away.

10 The first thing I recall is being in a cot in The  
11 Shelter in Dundee. I have vague memories of being in  
12 the house of a lady who our gran paid to look after us.  
13 It may be that I was there shortly before going into the  
14 shelter.

15 My father was an alcoholic and he and my mum split  
16 up. They had an argument and my mum took me and my  
17 older brother up to the street my dad lived in and left  
18 us there. Apparently I was two years old at the time.  
19 Whatever happened, we ended up in the shelter.

20 I am not sure how long we stayed in the shelter, but  
21 I definitely started primary school when I was there.  
22 After we left the shelter, me and my brother went to  
23 stay with a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in Knightswood, Glasgow.

24 Again, I'm not sure how long we stayed there, but  
25 I recall going to a primary school there and making my

1 first communion. The [REDACTED] had children of their own,  
2 a son and a daughter as well as another son whose name  
3 I don't remember.

4 I only have good memories of my time there, though  
5 years later my brother told me he had been sexually  
6 abused by the son whose name I don't recall. I don't  
7 recall how old I was when we left there, but me and my  
8 brother were taken to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock.

9 Years later, Mrs [REDACTED] told me that the reason we  
10 were moved from her care was because she had fallen ill  
11 with bad health and was no longer able to look after  
12 us."

13 From paragraphs 11 to 50, 'Helen' speaks of her  
14 experiences at Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. Moving now  
15 to paragraph 51 on page 8:

16 "I think I was in Nazareth House for about four  
17 years. I think it was not long after my brother had run  
18 away that mine and his pictures were put in the  
19 Kilmarnock Standard advertising for foster parents.

20 Mrs [LWE] her first name was [LWE] came into the  
21 parlour in the home. She was a big obese woman and  
22 I remember being scared of her. She looked elderly to  
23 me. She took both me and my brother back to her house  
24 in Kilmaurs, though I don't recall what number or what  
25 year that was.

1           She didn't look like a mother figure to me.  
2           I hadn't seen anybody that size before and she terrified  
3           me. We hadn't been out with her or her husband before  
4           she took us to her house.

5           I think we stayed with Mr and Mrs **LWE-LWF** for two or  
6           three years, and when we left I was still in primary 7,  
7           just ready to go to secondary school.

8           **LWE-LWF** were at least in their 40s,  
9           maybe older. They had four children. Two were  
10          daughters who were much older than us and were already  
11          married and had left the house. They had two sons. One  
12          worked away from home but would come back now and then,  
13          and another son who was a year older than me and still  
14          stayed at home.

15          I had a room to myself while my brother shared  
16          a room with their younger son.

17          I would get up for school at about 8 am and get  
18          washed and dressed for school. I went by bus to school,  
19          which was called Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I always  
20          stayed at school for lunch. I would get back home from  
21          school at about 4 pm then I would have tea and go out  
22          and play with my friends. I would be in bed for about  
23          8 pm.

24          I can't remember what the food was like, but I don't  
25          recall anything bad about it. Certainly, unlike in

1 Nazareth House, there was no force feeding.

2 I seem to recall that I got to go for a bath on my  
3 own whenever I wanted.

4 They always gave me second-hand, old-fashioned  
5 clothes. I have no recollection of going to buy new  
6 clothes and always felt like I was dressed like an old  
7 lady.

8 I had a school uniform but don't know who bought it.  
9 I didn't have any party dresses or nice girly clothes.  
10 I just remember being embarrassed by what I wore.

11 I remember that I went to see the school dentist  
12 a few times but I have no recollection of Mr and  
13 Mrs **LWE-LWF** ever taking me to a dentist or a doctor.

14 I loved going to the local school because it got me  
15 away from what was happening at home. It's possible  
16 that, at school, I could have been described as  
17 an attention-seeker, but then again maybe I was just  
18 being a child.

19 I recall going to Ayr a few times. One of the  
20 daughters lived in Saltcoats and we went there a few  
21 times. I used to enjoy that. During the school  
22 holidays I went to Hurleford in Kilmarnock where the  
23 other daughter stayed and that was really good. I just  
24 remember having so much freedom when I was there and not  
25 wanting to go back to Kilmaurs.

1 I don't really remember much about birthdays and  
2 Christmas other than I always wanted a new Chopper bike.  
3 I think I went on about it so much that they eventually  
4 bought me a second-hand bike, though not a Chopper. The  
5 son who worked away from home taught me to ride it.  
6 I loved that.

7 Social workers were the only people who visited me  
8 and my brother. My brother was quite a handful and mum,  
9 as Mrs **LWE** insisted we call her, used to call the  
10 social work regularly about him. I hated calling her  
11 mum as I always thought she was too old to be one.

12 It was still Gwen Chapman who was our social worker.  
13 I have to say that she was lovely and I actually asked  
14 her once if she could be my mum. I remember her saying  
15 years later that was all I used to go on about, wanting  
16 a mum. It was often Gwen who came round when Mrs **LWE**  
17 called about my brother.

18 Gwen would take me and my brother out in her car for  
19 a run when she visited and would talk to us. I don't  
20 ever recall telling her what was happening in the house  
21 and I think that went back to me telling the teacher in  
22 my other school only for the nuns to find out what I had  
23 told her.

24 Mrs **LWE** would shout and maybe give me a slap if  
25 I wet the bed and would maybe not let me buy a comic,

1 but that's all I recall about bed-wetting. Also,  
2 I still had the habit I had in Nazareth House of trying  
3 to hide the fact that I had wet the bed and it may be  
4 that it was the fact I tried to hide it that annoyed  
5 Mrs **LWE**

6 I recall that the **LWE-LWF** used to order magazines for  
7 me but I don't recall being given money.

8 I had friends at school and then had other friends  
9 who lived in the village that I played with. These  
10 friends were never in our house, but I did get to go to  
11 my friends' houses.

12 Mrs **LWE** was strict and manipulative. I was scared  
13 of her sheer size. I also had a built-in fear from my  
14 time in Nazareth House, which probably meant I tried to  
15 keep my head down. I did get a slap from her from time  
16 to time but it was nothing like Nazareth House.

17 She did tend to hit my brother more than she hit me.  
18 There was one time in particular that she disciplined my  
19 brother. He had a paper round and his shoes were  
20 falling apart. Mrs **LWE** gave him a pair of her son's  
21 shoes but my brother refused to wear them.

22 It was snowing at the time and my brother did the  
23 paper round in his bare feet. This really embarrassed  
24 Mrs **LWE** I didn't see what she did to my brother but  
25 I could hear him screaming.

1 I was sexually abused by Mr LWF and their younger  
2 son. What used to happen was that Mrs LWE would go to  
3 her slimming club once a week, leaving Mr LWF to look  
4 after us.

5 He would ask me to sit on his knee and I would only  
6 have a nightie on. I was only a wee lassie and I found  
7 it strange that he wanted me to sit on his knee as he  
8 didn't do it at any other time. However, I was scared  
9 to say no so I would sit on his knee.

10 He would touch me on my private parts. I knew it  
11 was wrong, what he was doing, but I was too scared to  
12 tell the social worker about it. This happened more or  
13 less every week throughout my time in that house. He  
14 didn't penetrate me in any way, but it was terrifying.

15 Their younger son was the worst. I had a bedroom of  
16 my own and I used to go to bed after Coronation Street  
17 was finished. What would happen is that I would be in  
18 my bed and he would come into my room.

19 The first couple of times he came into my room  
20 I didn't think anything of it. However, on one occasion  
21 I was in my bed and he came in and he said my name.  
22 I turned round and saw he was standing there with his  
23 penis hanging out.

24 He told me to touch his penis, which I did, but  
25 I was screaming as I did so. My brother came running

1       into the room and by this time the younger son had put  
2       his penis away and zipped himself up. He denied  
3       anything had happened. This then happened on a regular  
4       basis.

5             My brother was thereafter watching the younger son,  
6       who realised this. What the younger son then did was  
7       that he would go to my room before Coronation Street  
8       finished and would be waiting on me coming into my room.

9             When I went to my room, the younger son would have  
10       his penis out and would jump on me. He never raped me  
11       but he tried to. Every time he did it, I would scream  
12       the house down and my brother would come to the rescue.

13            If the younger son's parents heard me screaming then  
14       they certainly didn't do anything about it though  
15       I recall Mrs **LWE** calling the social worker about my  
16       brother because he wrecked the bedroom.

17            I remember Mrs **LWE** on the phone to the social  
18       worker saying that they would have to come and take my  
19       brother away. She said she would keep me but they had  
20       to take my brother away.

21            The social worker said that me and my brother were  
22       not to be split up, but the next thing was that the two  
23       of us were taken back to Dundee. I would say that the  
24       incidents of the younger son coming into my room  
25       happened about a couple of times a week throughout my

1       time there.

2           I would add that my brother later told me that the  
3       son who worked away had been sexually abusing him while  
4       we were in that house.

5           It must have been the social work who decided that  
6       we were going back to our parents in Dundee. I didn't  
7       want to go. I knew that what was happening in the  
8       LWE-LWF house was wrong but all my friends were there  
9       and I was in the school netball team.

10          I remember that the whole thing must have happened  
11       very quickly because I was going on a school trip to  
12       Oban that had been planned and I was looking forward to  
13       it. However, I was suddenly told I couldn't go as I was  
14       moving back to Dundee.

15          It was Gwen Chapman who took us to Dundee and  
16       I remember that during the trip she told me we were  
17       going to another set of foster parents. However, just  
18       before we reached Dundee she admitted that she hadn't  
19       been telling us the truth and that we were actually  
20       going to another home that was run by the Salvation  
21       Army.

22          We were only in the Salvation Army home for a short  
23       period and it was fine. Apparently we were there only  
24       to give the social workers time to track down our  
25       parents.

1           When our parents were tracked down, me and my  
2           brother were given a choice of who we wanted to stay  
3           with. My brother said he wanted to stay with my dad and  
4           I chose to stay with my mum.

5           I stayed with my mum from then onwards. I still had  
6           dealings with the social workers until I was 16, but  
7           I was always staying with my mum though life there was  
8           chaotic.

9           My life after care and growing up was a nightmare.  
10          I've been under psychiatrists on and off since I was  
11          a teenager. I've been on antidepressants and sleeping  
12          tablets since I was young.

13          I used to go to an outpatient clinic and had  
14          a psychiatrist who was brilliant. However, she was  
15          quite elderly and retired, and once she did she was  
16          never replaced.

17          After she left, I ended up seeing a variety of  
18          doctors and there was no continuity and it became  
19          a waste of time. I actually got accused of manipulating  
20          the system. I've suffered from agoraphobia and still do  
21          to a point.

22          I've been called a nutter, a psycho and every name  
23          in that sense. I've been called that all my days.  
24          Because of this, I tend to get angry very quickly.

25          I feel that the first 12 years of my life, all those

1 years in care, have ruined my life. It has never left  
2 me. There's not been a day in my life that I haven't  
3 thought about it. I've been ridiculed about it and told  
4 none of it ever happened.

5 I've always felt sorry for myself and have a chip on  
6 my shoulder. I've never had anybody that stuck up for  
7 me other than when I was in one relationship. He stuck  
8 up for me, but when he was good he was good, but when he  
9 was bad he was bad.

10 I seemed to move from one volatile relationship to  
11 another, and I think I was just simply looking for  
12 somebody to love and who would love me in return. I've  
13 never fitted in anywhere and have moved all over Dundee  
14 all my life.

15 I've always felt I was never a good mum as both my  
16 children became heroin addicts and my son has died  
17 through it. I sometimes feel if I hadn't gone through  
18 the care system at a young age I would have made  
19 a better mum and my children wouldn't have taken to  
20 drugs."

21 Moving now to paragraph 106 on page 17:

22 "I hadn't tried to get hold of my records but Future  
23 Pathways are supposed to be helping me to get them.

24 I really think that social workers should be giving  
25 more care as to where they are putting children. They

1       should be doing more checks because that never happened  
2       to us.

3           In fairness to Gwen Chapman, I was always too scared  
4       to tell her what was happening to me so maybe she  
5       couldn't act on it, but surely my brother's behaviour  
6       must have given cause for alarm.

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

11           And 'Helen' signed her statement on 21 May 2018.

12   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13   MS RATTRAY: Now we'll have a further read-in from Ms Innes.

14   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15           Ms Innes, whenever you're ready.

16                           'Jane' (read)

17   MS INNES: My Lady, the next read-in is from an applicant  
18       who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the  
19       pseudonym 'Jane'. Her statement is at WIT.001.002.3250.

20           'Jane' was in two foster placements. The first was  
21       with a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in Glasgow from [REDACTED] 1967,  
22       until she moved to the second placement with Mr and  
23       Mrs FJD/FJF in Motherwell on [REDACTED] 1970, where she  
24       remained until she left to get married when she was 22.  
25       She was discharged from the care at the age of 18 in

1 1982.

2 The original responsible authority was Glasgow  
3 Corporation. At the beginning of 1976, the case was  
4 transferred to the Motherwell Social Work Department of  
5 Strathclyde Regional Council. Records were recovered  
6 from both Glasgow City Council and North Lanarkshire  
7 Council. Given the reorganisation, it would appear that  
8 both North Lanarkshire Council and Glasgow City Council  
9 take some responsibility in respect of 'Jane's' care.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS INNES: "My name is 'Jane'. I was born in 1964. My  
12 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

13 I was born in Glasgow. I have an older brother and  
14 an older sister.

15 I have since found out that the reason my brother  
16 and sister and I were put into care was because my  
17 mother and father took the three of us to a park in  
18 Glasgow and abandoned us there. I was only in a pram at  
19 the time and my sister was a toddler. I think my  
20 brother was about five.

21 I think my brother knew that we had an auntie living  
22 in the vicinity and he took us there. We must have  
23 stayed there for a while before we went into care.  
24 I don't know whether the social work were involved at  
25 that time or not.

1           My brother says he can remember coming to see me at  
2           some point and I had tubes coming out of me. I have no  
3           idea what age I was, but I've had plastic surgery on my  
4           foot because apparently I put a gate through it.  
5           I don't know if I was in hospital for a while at first  
6           and that was maybe when my brother was brought to see  
7           me.

8           It was only when I was between the ages of four and  
9           five that I became aware that something wasn't right,  
10          although I had no idea what. I was in foster care at  
11          that time with a family called [REDACTED] who stayed in  
12          a tenement in Glasgow somewhere.

13          I was on my own with the [REDACTED] family and I thought  
14          that the boys and the girl were my own brothers and  
15          sister. I just adored them. I thought they were my  
16          family and I remember feeling wanted and loved. I don't  
17          remember a great deal about the [REDACTED] family and I'm not  
18          sure what their names were.

19          They were a Catholic family and I remember being  
20          curious about the things they had on the wall that they  
21          dipped their fingers in. I now realise it was holy  
22          water.

23          Another memory I have is of walking up the winding  
24          stairs in the tenement because the brothers were up  
25          there. I got a row and was taken back down because

1 I was so wee.

2 When I was about five and just about to start  
3 school, I was sitting in the living room playing with my  
4 dog when two people knocked on the door. Nothing was  
5 explained to me at all. All Mrs [REDACTED] said was that  
6 I was to go with these two people. I don't know who  
7 they were, whether they were social workers or what.

8 I don't remember exactly what was said, but it was  
9 dark and I was put in the back of a black car and  
10 I never saw the [REDACTED] again. I was absolutely  
11 devastated.

12 I was taken to FJD/FJF [REDACTED] and was  
13 told that was where I was going to live from then on.  
14 They were an older couple, probably in their late 30s at  
15 that time.

16 My older brother and sister were already staying  
17 with the FJD/FJF [REDACTED] They had been fostered first and  
18 then I think social work must have contacted the  
19 FJD/FJF [REDACTED] and said there was another sibling.

20 When I arrived at the FJD/FJF [REDACTED] house,  
21 FJF [REDACTED] took the wee suitcase that I had my  
22 teddy in off me and binned the lot of it. She  
23 immediately stuck me in a bath and told me it was  
24 because the [REDACTED] were filthy. She told me that the  
25 boy and the girl were my brother and sister. I refused

1 to believe her and told her she was lying. I remember  
2 feeling confused and not knowing why this was happening  
3 to me.

4 I referred to them as mother and father, because  
5 I think they asked me to. I certainly never called them  
6 that out of affection or anything and now I refuse to  
7 call them that.

8 I stayed with the FJD/FJF from then until I got  
9 married at the age of 22.

10 At first we lived in Motherwell and in a two-bedroom  
11 flat, I think. We all slept in one room and Mr and  
12 Mrs FJF were in the other. After a couple of years  
13 they got a brand new house in Motherwell and my brother  
14 got his own room.

15 The new house was in two levels, with three bedrooms  
16 and a bathroom upstairs. Downstairs, when you went in  
17 the back door, the kitchen was to the left and the  
18 stairs were to the right. Straight on was a big long  
19 living room, a hall and the front door.

20 I sometimes wonder now if the reason Mrs FJF  
21 took us was to get a brand new house because before they  
22 had been living in a horrible flat.

23 When we were younger, Mrs FJF never worked.  
24 Later on she got part-time jobs. Mr FJD worked  
25 shifts in steelworks.

1           When we moved to the new house, my brother got his  
2           own room and I shared with my sister. We just got  
3           ourselves up in the morning. I don't think Mrs FJF  
4           ever woke us. I don't remember her making breakfast and  
5           as we got older we never saw her in the morning. We had  
6           to get ourselves washed, dressed and ready for school.

7           Other than breakfast, we were well fed by  
8           Mrs FJF. We also got free school lunches because we  
9           were in foster care.

10          At night we all had to be in early and get ourselves  
11          ready for bed. Every night, whether there was school or  
12          not, we all had to be in our beds early. The only times  
13          we were allowed to stay up late was when Mrs FJF was  
14          drunk and we were kept up for entertainment. There was  
15          a lot of drinking done by the FJD/FJF

16          FJF made me wash at the kitchen sink,  
17          even when I got to be a teenager. I was in full view of  
18          the next door neighbour going in and out of the house.  
19          She wouldn't let me use the bathroom, although I don't  
20          know why. I remember doing so even when I was wearing  
21          a bra and FJD was going about. It was  
22          humiliating.

23          At first I went to primary school in Motherwell.  
24          I remember my brother and sister being at the school  
25          there too until they moved up to the high school.

1 FJF never took me to school, my brother  
2 did. When he went to the high school, I used to have to  
3 wait for him walking over when he'd finished his  
4 classes.

5 We would walk home and often have to stand and wait  
6 outside if the FJD/FJF were out. None of us were  
7 allowed a key and we would have to wait outside,  
8 whatever the weather. I think I was about 18 before  
9 I was given a key.

10 After primary, I went to high school in Motherwell.  
11 My sister was already there, my brother was at  
12 a different school. I don't know why he went to  
13 a different school.

14 I was a very average pupil at school, although I did  
15 manage to get my exams. There was no support with our  
16 school work from either of the FJD/FJF she just kept  
17 pressuring me to get a job as soon as I left.

18 The other children knew we were fostered because we  
19 got free meals. I tried to keep it quiet but they found  
20 out and I would get called names or whatever.

21 When we weren't at school, we were sent out to play  
22 in the morning and told not to come back until it was  
23 dinner time. After dinner, we all sat down in the  
24 living room and the telly was muted while they both took  
25 a nap. We just had to sit there quietly and not say

1 a word.

2 I remember going to the Brownies but that was only  
3 when I was wee and I never went to the Girl Guides.  
4 When I got to high school I joined the volleyball team.

5 I wasn't allowed to take my friends back to the  
6 house. She didn't want any other kids there, there were  
7 no sleepovers or anything like that, although she would  
8 allow me to go to my friends' houses for a sleepover.

9 At the weekend, we would all have to sit in the car  
10 outside the pub while Mr and Mrs FJD/FJF were inside  
11 getting drunk. We often sat in the car for hours and  
12 they might sometimes bring us out a juice and a packet  
13 of crisps. Eventually they would come out and  
14 Mr FJD would drive us home drunk. He had to stop  
15 the car all the time so that Mrs FJF could vomit.

16 The FJD/FJF had a caravan and used to take us away  
17 in it for holidays. The holidays were great but the  
18 sleeping arrangements were horrible. There were only  
19 bunk beds for my brother and sister and I had to sleep  
20 with the FJD/FJF. Eventually my brother said he would  
21 sleep in a tent outside so I could get his bunk and that  
22 was better.

23 Mrs FJF made us join the church but she never  
24 walked us there either. It was up to my brother to take  
25 us everywhere. As well as church, we were made to go to

1 Sunday school.

2 Mrs FJF was generous, we had pocket money and  
3 she would buy us clothes and stuff as well. We were  
4 never neglected that way at all.

5 Mrs FJF was obsessive compulsive and the house  
6 was immaculate. Everything had to be perfect and we  
7 were treated like skivvies to keep it that way. We each  
8 got given jobs to do and they had to be done perfectly.  
9 It could be cleaning the bathroom out, or pulling  
10 everything out of the kitchen cupboards and cleaning  
11 them till they were spotless. The living room was the  
12 same, it had to be cleaned from top to bottom.

13 She was so bad that, for example, only two pieces of  
14 toilet roll could be left hanging after we had been to  
15 the toilet. If everything wasn't perfect we would get  
16 it.

17 Birthdays were celebrated, we got cake, cards and  
18 presents. Christmas was too, it was her thing. It was  
19 a bit weird because normally she was this mad woman and  
20 then when it was somebody's birthday or it was  
21 Christmas, she would be all happy. It was like she was  
22 a different person.

23 I was never hospitalised while I was with the  
24 FJD/FJF I remember having a really sore and swollen  
25 finger when I was young. Mrs FJF kept telling me to

1 put it in hot water but eventually she was forced to  
2 take me to the doctor. The poison was travelling right  
3 up my arm and I remember the doctor asking her why she  
4 had waited so long. I got it off her when we left  
5 because the doctor had been angry at her for leaving it  
6 that long.

7 Only very rarely was there any contact with the  
8 social work department. I'm not sure where they came  
9 from, maybe Glasgow. There was no one person that came,  
10 no dedicated social worker or anything. I never knew  
11 any of their names and never even got a phone number to  
12 contact them if I needed to.

13 They possibly visited once a year, but I was  
14 petrified to tell them anything. They only spoke with  
15 Mrs FJF there and I knew that even if I told them  
16 what was happening, they might not have taken us away.  
17 We knew that if they didn't take us, she would know we  
18 had reported her and that would be it.

19 I did think about saying something but I was too  
20 scared. I had no trust in anybody, so why would I trust  
21 the social work?

22 I was never aware of there being any review of our  
23 care at any time.

24 Through time I came to realise that the boy and the  
25 girl were my brother and sister. I got fond of my

1 brother quite quickly but I hated my sister. That  
2 stayed the same through most of my life.

3 My brother left straight away at 16 and my sister  
4 when she was about 16 or 17. As soon as we could leave,  
5 we all did.

6 At no time was there ever any reassurance or a hug  
7 from either Mr or Mrs FJD/FJF None of us was shown any  
8 affection. Their attitude was just that we had to get  
9 on with it. I tried for some affection when I was  
10 young, but she just rebuffed me so I gave up. The only  
11 time I might get a wee cuddle when I was young was when  
12 she was drunk.

13 I had a breakdown at the age of seven when we moved  
14 to the new house. I woke up every morning at the bottom  
15 of the bed howling my eyes out. I could hear Mr and  
16 Mrs FJD/FJF talking, saying they would need to put me  
17 back to the home again, although obviously I had never  
18 been in a home. There were no words of comfort or  
19 reassurance that would make it better for me.

20 My brother spoke to me and told me that he didn't  
21 think I would want to go to a home. He said it wasn't  
22 nice there. I'm not sure where he had been.

23 FJD was actually quite a gentle man.  
24 I would describe him as a silent bystander. Mrs FJF  
25 would tell him to punish us, but he stopped doing it.

1 He never hit me and I can only recall one time when he  
2 hit my brother and sister. I think he just couldn't  
3 tolerate it, but he was obviously doing what she told  
4 him. She then took over, but he never tried to stop  
5 her.

6 I think FJD [REDACTED] was as frightened of his wife  
7 as we were. He told us just to agree with her and do  
8 what she said.

9 I remember very little about my first two years with  
10 the FJD/FJF [REDACTED] although I do remember my brother and  
11 sister screaming and crying in the bedroom. I asked  
12 FJF [REDACTED] what was wrong and she said it was because  
13 FJD [REDACTED] was belting them. She told me that if I was ever  
14 bad, that was what would happen to me. I remember being  
15 pretty scared at the time.

16 Not long after I first went to stay with the  
17 FJD/FJF [REDACTED] I started to wet myself. I don't remember  
18 doing it before at all. Mrs FJF [REDACTED] answer was to  
19 'leather me' and put a nappy on me. She would have me  
20 wearing the nappy with frilly pants on top sticking out  
21 beneath a wee short dress. She told me I would have to  
22 wear that until I stopped peeing myself and that I would  
23 have to go out and play so 'all the other boys and girls  
24 could see me and laugh at me'. She told me I was a 'big  
25 baby' and a 'dirty girl'.

1 All I could do was stand against a wall. I think  
2 I stopped wetting myself pretty quickly after that.

3 Mrs FJF took over the physical punishment and  
4 sometimes it was horrific. She would start off hitting  
5 me with a flat hand but then when her hand got sore she  
6 would move on to a slipper or whatever she could find.  
7 I can remember us all getting hit, but I'm not sure if  
8 I got it more than my brother and sister.

9 One time she burst my nose. She sewed and had made  
10 me a skirt, which she got me to try on. I can't  
11 remember what I said, but I must have annoyed her and  
12 she punched me in the face and burst my nose.

13 I remember one time we were sitting in the car  
14 outside the pub when my brother and sister started  
15 fighting with each other. They were knocking lumps out  
16 of each other so I went into the pub and told the  
17 FJD/FJF They really got it from FJF for  
18 that because she couldn't stay in the pub. She was  
19 really laying into them.

20 FJF always sat next to me at the dinner  
21 table and if I ever said I didn't like anything, she  
22 just smacked me. I would be crying so hard that  
23 I couldn't eat my food. She never force fed me, but she  
24 made me eat things I didn't want to.

25 The more she hit me and wanted to make me cry, the

1 more I was determined not to. I never fought back  
2 though, even when I got older. I was too scared of her.  
3 We were never allowed to shut our bedroom door, even  
4 when I was a teenager, she wanted to keep a constant eye  
5 on me. One time I dared to shut it to get dressed and  
6 FJD walked in. It was innocent, he wasn't  
7 that sort of man. I told him to get out and he  
8 apologised and did so. The next thing, FJF came in  
9 and battered me saying, 'Don't you tell him where he can  
10 go in his own house'.  
11 My brother tried to commit suicide later on when  
12 I was still there. Mrs FJF just said he was  
13 an idiot, she never did anything to reassure or console  
14 me.  
15 The verbal abuse was bad as well. She would tell me  
16 I was useless. She would say that it was no wonder my  
17 mother and father didn't want me. She would tell me  
18 that she and FJD didn't really want me in the first  
19 place and she only really wanted my brother. She would  
20 tell me my mother was in jail because she owed money.  
21 She constantly told me I was worth nothing and she was  
22 as nasty as she could be.  
23 My sister was allowed to wear her hair right down  
24 her back, but Mrs FJF cut mine like a boy. She said  
25 I wasn't pretty enough to have long hair.

1 Even when I was grown up, she continued to abuse me.  
2 Not long before I was due to get married when I was 21,  
3 she told me to go away on holiday with my soon-to-be  
4 husband. When I got back we must have had an argument  
5 about something and she called me a whore for going away  
6 with somebody I wasn't married to. She slapped me so  
7 hard and I remember going out and telling my fiance  
8 later on. He was angry and wanted to speak to her but  
9 I told him not to, I was still so scared of her.

10 I left school at 16 and took a couple of youth  
11 opportunity jobs until I found out that I had got into  
12 nursing. Mrs FJF kept getting on at me to get a job  
13 all the time I was waiting to go on the nursing course.  
14 She wanted me out, basically. I started studying to be  
15 an enrolled nurse at Law Hospital when I was 18 and  
16 stayed in the nurses' home rather than having to stay at  
17 the FJD/FJF.

18 I went back to stay at the FJD/FJF for a short  
19 time after a couple of years because I'd had enough of  
20 the nurses' home.

21 At no time was there any contact from the social  
22 work when I was due to leave. I was never told that  
23 I was no longer in their care or anything like that.

24 I met my husband when I was 21 and we got married  
25 when I was 22. The FJD/FJF came to my wedding and

1 I remember my husband saying on that day that he'd never  
2 seen a mother so happy to get rid of their child.

3 I continued nursing for a couple of years and we had  
4 two sons together. By the time I had my second child  
5 I had stopped nursing. What I would have to pay in  
6 childcare just wouldn't be worth it. There was no way  
7 I could go to Mrs FJF for help looking after them.  
8 She didn't want to have anything to do with my kids.

9 I did tell my sons that the FJD/FJF were their  
10 grandparents but they never had much of a relationship  
11 with them. They never took them anywhere or looked  
12 after them overnight or anything like that.

13 I kept in contact with the FJD/FJF on and off. She  
14 would do something and then I would stop speaking to her  
15 until guilt kicked in and I contacted her again. It was  
16 like I had a set pattern of falling out with her and  
17 then feeling guilty and contacting her again. It was  
18 like I was a moth to a flame.

19 Our relationship ended after I had been on holiday  
20 for two weeks and FJD father, who was  
21 a lovely man, had been taken into hospital. I waited  
22 for a couple of weeks before contacting her after I came  
23 back and it was only when I did that she told me that he  
24 had died. They buried him when I was back in the  
25 country without telling me and I flew off the handle.

1 I told FJF that I was finished with her  
2 and her response was, 'Thank God, I've been trying to  
3 push you away for years'.

4 Originally I did psychiatric nursing and then  
5 I retrained and now I am a state-registered general  
6 nurse.

7 I also now have a granddaughter who is going to be  
8 three soon. She wraps me around her little finger.  
9 I hug her constantly and she is like a medicine to me.

10 I still wonder why our neighbour didn't report  
11 Mrs FJF She must have heard us screaming, we were  
12 getting leathered all the time. I think they were  
13 probably scared of her, everybody was.

14 I never spoke or reported what had happened to me in  
15 foster care to anyone because I was just too petrified.  
16 At the time I couldn't speak to teachers as children are  
17 taught to do today. I got on well with my teachers,  
18 especially when I was in primary 7, but I could never  
19 have mentioned anything to them. I've never reported it  
20 as an adult either.

21 I have never been emotionally stable and I had to  
22 get therapy as an adult after my time in care. I blame  
23 myself for going through that door and leaving the  
24 for the FJD/FJF I thought that if I had kicked  
25 up a fuss, cried and said I wasn't going with them,

1 I could have just stayed. Of course I know now that  
2 I would still have had to go.

3 I stopped talking to FJF when I was  
4 about 30 years old and I started having nightmares.  
5 I was crying all the time. Eventually that eased off,  
6 but then I had a panic attack and for months I wouldn't  
7 eat in front of anybody. I went to my GP, who gave me  
8 some medication and sent me for counselling. I realised  
9 that I must be having flashbacks to my times with the  
10 FJD/FJF

11 Still to this day, despite getting the counselling,  
12 I have a fear of eating in front of anybody. I know  
13 this stems from having to sit at the FJD/FJF dinner  
14 table and getting hit if I didn't like anything. When  
15 I'm nervous, one of the consequences is that I can't eat  
16 in front of people.

17 I stopped socialising for years, because not only  
18 was I abandoned by my real mother and father, but my  
19 next mother and father in my eyes, the FJD/FJF didn't  
20 love me. Then my husband and I were married for 22  
21 years and he walked out on me. In my head I was  
22 worthless and nobody wanted me.

23 I thought about taking my own life, but I'm not  
24 brave enough.

25 My health took a total nosedive and it got to the

1 point that I was off my work for about a year and  
2 I couldn't even get out of bed. About a year ago I was  
3 sent by my friends in occupational therapy to an amazing  
4 counsellor. She has been helping me tremendously.

5 I know that some people who have been abused can go  
6 on to abuse others but I went the other way with my  
7 sons. I was far too soft with them. When they were bad  
8 I tried to hit them, but instead of them being hurt,  
9 I would start crying, so I stopped doing that.

10 I see me in people who are unwell or who are  
11 vulnerable. I go over and above with my caring and  
12 attempts to protect and help them. I don't like to see  
13 anybody like that at all.

14 I have never tried to access my records.

15 All I ever wanted from the FJD/FJF was a cuddle,  
16 some affection and some reassurance that I was going to  
17 be looked after. I know I wasn't her real daughter, but  
18 it is possible to be a nice carer.

19 I was never allowed to build up a relationship with  
20 the FJD/FJF before I was taken away from the  
21 I didn't even know I had a brother and sister.

22 Social work should have had more of an influence and  
23 should have done more to gain my trust. It is important  
24 that there are clear lines of communication for children  
25 in care. I might then have had a pathway to speak to

1 someone. I feel really let down by the social work  
2 department and I hope they have moved on massively.  
3 I sincerely hope that they would not take a child away  
4 as I was from the [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] FJF [REDACTED] had no skills for looking after  
6 children whatsoever. I don't know what sort of vetting  
7 the social work did before someone could become a foster  
8 carer, but she was not fit.

9 Foster carers are equally as important as the  
10 children and social work should be there to assist them  
11 too. They should ensure carers are given proper  
12 training and make sure it's possible for carers to say  
13 they are not coping. Carers should be able to hand  
14 children back without shame or guilt. The emotional  
15 needs of a child are too important to be forgotten.

16 The child should be able to say it's not working as  
17 well, and should have an appointed key worker who they  
18 can contact day or night.

19 I made contact with my brother through his daughter  
20 on Facebook. She was delighted to hear from me and  
21 eventually he and I messaged each other. We never  
22 actually met up though. It was painful to speak about  
23 what had happened. It was like ripping off a bandage.  
24 We still keep in touch every now and then.

25 I contacted my sister through Friends Reunited and

1 we spoke for a brief time as well. I cut her off though  
2 because every time I talk to them it's like reliving  
3 things.

4 Instead of us three siblings being together, what  
5 FJF [REDACTED] did was tear us apart.

6 FJD [REDACTED] is dead now, but I think FJF [REDACTED] is  
7 still alive.

8 I never saw my parents again after they left us in  
9 the park and I've no idea if my mother is still alive or  
10 not. My father is living in York somewhere with a new  
11 family. I think he might still be alive, but he said he  
12 didn't want anything to do with us.

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

17 The statement was signed by 'Jane' on  
18 7 January 2019.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS INNES: Now Ms Rattray has a further read-in.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22 Ms Rattray.

23 'Fergal' (read)

24 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the next statement is of an applicant  
25 who is anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Fergal'.

1 His statement is at WIT-1-000000894.

2 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

3 MS RATTRAY: 'Fergal' was placed in foster care by Glasgow  
4 Corporation, later Strathclyde Regional Council, with  
5 ENZ-SPO [REDACTED] in Galston from [REDACTED] 1975  
6 for the remainder of 'Fergal's' childhood. It appears  
7 from the records recovered from Glasgow that Ayr County  
8 Council supervised the placement on behalf of Glasgow  
9 Corporation. Records also show that in the Strathclyde  
10 Region period, while the Ayrshire office continued to  
11 supervise the placement, the Glasgow North social work  
12 office organised case conferences in respect of  
13 'Fergal', which indicates that Glasgow retained ultimate  
14 responsibility.

15 Accordingly, our understanding is that the current  
16 responsible authority is Glasgow City Council rather  
17 than East Ayrshire Council.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Fergal'. I was born in 1964. My  
20 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21 I was born in Glasgow. My eldest sister has the  
22 same mother and a different father to me. She lived in  
23 my paternal gran's household and is five years older  
24 than me. Next was my second oldest sister, who is now  
25 deceased and was three years older than me. I didn't

1 know she existed until I was 16 years old. She had been  
2 moved to live with my father's side of the family and  
3 nobody mentioned her. Then there's my third sister and  
4 then me. She is one year older than me. Next are my  
5 two brothers who are twins and two years younger than  
6 me. Then there's my youngest brother, who is seven  
7 years younger than me.

8 For the first four years of my life, I grew up in  
9 the Parkhead area of Glasgow. Our full family came from  
10 that neck of the woods. Our father was a perpetual  
11 abuser. He had gambling and alcohol addictions. He  
12 abused our mother so severely that she fell down the  
13 stairs. She had severe injuries and ended up  
14 hospitalised for the rest of her life, which was a short  
15 life after that. Our mother died in 1972 when I was  
16 eight years old because of the injuries.

17 Our father wasn't interested in maintaining five  
18 kids. My maternal gran had her own family who were  
19 still living in her house. My auntie tried to take us  
20 on but we were too big a family. The easiest road to  
21 take in those days was the church. My gran was  
22 a staunch Catholic and through the parish priest and  
23 social work, they came up with a plan to put me, my  
24 sister and my brothers in Nazareth House.

25 I went into Nazareth House when I was four years

1 old. The first time I left Nazareth House was when  
2 I was ten years old. I went into foster care for six  
3 months and then I went back to Nazareth House for six to  
4 nine months. I left again when I was 12 years old and  
5 went back to the same foster carers. I stayed with the  
6 same foster carers until I was 16 years old."

7 From paragraph 6 to 50, 'Fergal' speaks of his  
8 experiences at Nazareth House in Kilmarnock and then  
9 briefly at Nazareth House in Cardonald.

10 Moving to paragraph 66 on page 14:

11 "When I was 11 years old, all the kids that were in  
12 my room got lined up in the hall and the foster family  
13 came and picked me out. I never knew who they were and  
14 had never met them. Then I was told to go and pack my  
15 bags because I was leaving. My brothers and sisters  
16 were there and there was a lot of tears. I was in tears  
17 and I was gutted. A lot of fighting went on because we  
18 were a unit. We had become a unit again in Nazareth  
19 House. Me, my twin brothers and sister all looked out  
20 for each other and especially for our youngest brother  
21 because he was the youngest.

22 When I was told I was going to live with this  
23 family, part of me was shocked. I didn't want to go.  
24 I was grabbed by the nuns and told to go. Sister LGO  
25 told me it was easier to split us up and take one than

1 to take a family of five. I was taken away by the  
2 foster family that day.

3 I can only assume the reason behind me being  
4 fostered. I was led to believe that the foster family  
5 couldn't conceive a child. Mrs [REDACTED] came from  
6 a Catholic family and the route they took was fostering.  
7 There was a financial gain in it as well and they were  
8 paid good money to foster. If Mr ENZ [REDACTED] had met my  
9 father then the two of them would have got on great.  
10 Mr ENZ [REDACTED] was about 5 foot 10 inches tall and had a lean  
11 build. He was in his early 40s when I went to live with  
12 them. I called Mrs [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

13 I stayed in foster care for about six months the  
14 first time and things were great. Mr ENZ [REDACTED] was as nice  
15 as ninepence. I met other members of Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO [REDACTED]  
16 family. [REDACTED] had a lot of brothers and sisters and  
17 they were nice to me. When you were that age and had  
18 already gone through bad experiences then it was the  
19 lesser of two evils. The lesser evil was to be fostered  
20 and I didn't want to go back to Nazareth House.

21 The first day was strange because I went into a town  
22 I never knew existed. I lived in a one-bedroom flat.  
23 There was kitchenette, living room, one bedroom and  
24 toilet. I slept with Mr ENZ [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] slept in the  
25 living room in a fold-down bed. I settled in fine and

1       there were no issues.

2           I was still at primary school. I could wear my own  
3       clothes instead of a uniform. Getting the bus from  
4       Galston to Kilmarnock and being normal, you got looked  
5       at and treated a bit different. I was no longer one of  
6       the Nazy kids and I thought this was great. I saw my  
7       brothers and sisters at school and I didn't like that.

8           I had a social worker by then called Mrs Littlejohn.  
9       Prior to that, we hadn't had a social worker. When  
10      I first moved to Galston, the social worker was there  
11      regularly. I could see her office from the window of  
12      the flat because it was directly across the road.  
13      I could see my social worker every day and go over and  
14      have a chat with her. She was good.

15          Mr ENZ came to school at lunchtime with sweets and  
16      picked me up at school. I thought that was great  
17      because other parents were doing that. I built  
18      a relationship with Mr ENZ rather than because  
19      he was doing all the running. I could go out and play  
20      football at night and do the things normal kids could  
21      do. I was a naive ten-year-old kid who didn't have  
22      a clue about what family life was all about. This was  
23      new to me. I now know that was grooming.

24          Mr ENZ started playing mind games. He'd say that  
25      when I went to see Mrs Littlejohn I wasn't to say that

1 I slept in the same bed as him. I didn't ask why. As  
2 far as social work were aware, I slept in the fold-down  
3 bed and I never told them any differently. Those  
4 questions were asked in the beginning but the social  
5 workers never asked as the years went on.

6 Mr ENZ worked as a labourer all week. At the  
7 weekend he was constantly drinking and being physically  
8 abusive towards [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] took everything he flung  
9 at her. He tried to hit me once and I got him back.  
10 That wasn't nice. Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO were portrayed as  
11 a lovely family. Mrs [REDACTED] was getting money for  
12 fostering. She wasn't going to rock the boat and lose  
13 that income.

14 Mr ENZ was a labourer. He came home and had his  
15 drink during the week. He went out on a Friday after  
16 his work. The Friday would last until Sunday evening.  
17 There was verbal and physical abuse towards [REDACTED]. I'd  
18 never experienced that before. I don't know if I was  
19 put back into care because of that. I've never asked.  
20 Mr ENZ was okay when he wasn't drinking. When he was  
21 drinking, he was nasty.

22 Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO conceived after I'd been in Galston  
23 for about six months. When I was 11 or 12 years old,  
24 I was put back into Nazareth House while [REDACTED] went  
25 through her pregnancy. Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO were having

1       serious marital problems and there was a lot of  
2       fighting. I listened to the arguments day and night.  
3       You can't avoid listening to arguments in a one-bedroom  
4       flat. There were more arguments at the weekend. [REDACTED]  
5       wasn't an alcoholic but Mr ENZ [REDACTED] drank like  
6       an alcoholic.

7       [REDACTED] told me I was going back into Nazareth House.  
8       I didn't want to go and I told them that. I asked  
9       Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO why I was going back. The whole point  
10      was to come out of Nazareth House. I never got  
11      an explanation.

12       I went back to the same routine when I returned to  
13      Nazareth House. There were no problems. I went back to  
14      school. My brothers and sister were grateful to see me,  
15      especially my sister. She struggled in everything and  
16      went to a special needs school. Her education was poor,  
17      her eating was poor and she looked to me to help. They  
18      wanted to see me because I only got ten minutes to see  
19      them at school. They looked up to me because I was the  
20      elder one.

21       I stayed at Nazareth House for six to nine months  
22      until I went back to foster care. I was around 12 years  
23      old. The decision for me to go back was taken by social  
24      work. Sister LGO [REDACTED] took me into her room and  
25      Mrs Littlejohn was there. Sister LGO [REDACTED] told me I was

1       going back to Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO I can't remember my  
2       reaction. I spoke to my brothers and sister but we  
3       didn't understand what was going on. None of us knew  
4       the reason. When the nuns told you to do something, you  
5       did it. There was no point asking for an explanation  
6       because you were just told to do it. I went back to  
7       Galston in [REDACTED].

8           I was about 12 years old when I went back to live in  
9       Galston. The baby was born and I was brought back into  
10      the fold. I stayed for four and a half years. My  
11      relationship with [REDACTED] wasn't the greatest because she  
12      knew what was going on.

13           The sleeping arrangements were the same as they had  
14      been before. I slept with Mr ENZ and [REDACTED] slept with  
15      the baby. I could have a shower or bath when I wanted.

16           I joined the Boys' Brigade and met a lot of good  
17      friends. I continued with that for 30-odd years and  
18      I loved it. There was some normality. I've a great  
19      group of friends that I grew up with in Galston. I had  
20      a free rein to do what I wanted to do.

21           We went to Blackpool on holiday. Holidays were  
22      torture because I hated being around Mr ENZ  
23      I stopped going on holidays with Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO when  
24      I joined the Boys' Brigade. There was a camp the first  
25      two weeks of the summer holidays and that was my out.

1 For two weeks I got away and lived a great life with the  
2 people in my circle of the Boys' Brigade.

3 I went to St Joseph's secondary school in  
4 Kilmarnock. I got the bus to school. I had met friends  
5 and I got on great at school. There was no problem.  
6 I met different people and my confidence got better.  
7 Mr and Mrs **ENZ-SPO** didn't check my school reports or  
8 encourage me to do well at school. I passed my exams  
9 and got seven O-levels and two highers. I got accepted  
10 to go to Glasgow University but I couldn't go. I had no  
11 confidence to go to that sort of place by myself. I was  
12 comfortable in my own group.

13 When I went to visit the doctor, Mr **ENZ** told me to  
14 keep my mouth shut. My gran and my auntie never came  
15 near me. I don't know why and I never asked my gran  
16 that question. No one from Nazareth House kept in  
17 contact with me, apart from the ones that were at  
18 school.

19 I had to go to Mrs Littlejohn's office regularly.  
20 Social work visits were regulated and there was a day  
21 that you'd go and see the social worker. I went by  
22 myself and Mr **ENZ** told me what to say to  
23 Mrs Littlejohn. Mrs Littlejohn had no idea that abuse  
24 was going on because I never said anything.

25 My brothers and sister had gone to John Bosco House

1 in Glasgow at the end of primary school. That was run  
2 by the Salesian priests. I wasn't allowed contact with  
3 them and I didn't see them when I was in foster care for  
4 the second time.

5 My birthday and Christmas were celebrated, but [REDACTED]  
6 treated me totally differently to her son. He was the  
7 blue-eyed boy. I was the wage and an inconvenience.  
8 I don't think Mr ENZ [REDACTED] was well paid and [REDACTED] needed  
9 the money from fostering me.

10 The first six months to a year from all right. The  
11 problem started when [REDACTED] took a job at night. People  
12 have asked me why I didn't say something. There was  
13 always the fear factor that I could be sent back to  
14 Nazareth House at the drop of a hat, through Mr ENZ [REDACTED]  
15 I had two choices, stay in Galston or go back to the  
16 shithole of Nazareth House. I detested Nazareth House.  
17 Mr ENZ [REDACTED] used that against me because he knew about the  
18 torture I'd had there. I'd told him.

19 I went to secondary school and realised it was not  
20 natural for a man and a boy of my age to sleep in the  
21 same bed. I never knew the word 'sex' because you were  
22 sheltered from the word at Nazareth House. You didn't  
23 get sex education in Catholic primary schools. That  
24 only started when you went to secondary school.

25 When [REDACTED] was working, Mr ENZ [REDACTED] was left with me

1 and their son. He was two or three years old. The  
2 first time Mr ENZ abused me, their son was sleeping in  
3 the fold-down bed settee in the living room. I was  
4 about 13 years old. I was never allowed to watch any  
5 violent programmes on the television like The Sweeney.  
6 One night The Sweeney came on and Mr ENZ put the  
7 television off. I said to him that I wanted to see it  
8 and he said I wasn't watching it. I went to my room and  
9 Mr ENZ followed me through. He apologised for  
10 shouting at me.

11 I was lying in the bed and Mr ENZ cuddled me from  
12 the back, as in what's called 'spooning'. I never took  
13 any notice of that until his hand went down inside my  
14 trousers in my groin area. I pushed away. All I got  
15 off Mr ENZ then was him saying it was fine and not to  
16 worry. Nothing else happened.

17 A couple of nights later, a similar thing happened.  
18 I was watching television and Mr ENZ turned it off.  
19 I didn't say anything about it. Mr ENZ took me by the  
20 hand and through to the bed. He lay at the back of me  
21 again and did exactly the same. Then there was  
22 a progression. Mr ENZ would take my hand and put it  
23 on his genitals and rub his genitals.

24 The first time he ejaculated it was all over my hand  
25 and I hadn't a clue what was going on. Mr ENZ told me

1 to go to the toilet and clean up. He said not to worry  
2 about it and it was fine, that was what men do. I never  
3 knew. I hadn't ejaculated and didn't know what it was.

4 That routine continued for a while until it became  
5 violent because I didn't want it any more. Then  
6 Mr ENZ would force himself on top of me and make me do  
7 it. The abuse became sodomising after about a year. It  
8 didn't happen every week, but it happened regularly.  
9 The sodomising didn't go on for long because I stopped  
10 it. I told Mr ENZ it wasn't happening any more. He  
11 kept threatening me but I was older, about 14 or 15  
12 years old. I was becoming a man and I knew what was  
13 right and what was wrong.

14 The more I pushed back and Mr ENZ wasn't getting  
15 what he wanted, the more violent he became towards me.  
16 I pushed back enough that I wasn't getting Mr ENZ  
17 sexual abuse any more. Then I became protective of  
18 because she was getting the brunt of his abuse.  
19 Mr ENZ got more and more angry.

20 When I was 16 years old, Mr and Mrs ENZ-SPO were  
21 separating. was applying for a two-bedroom  
22 council house in Newmills. told me I was coming  
23 with her but said I had to write a letter to the social  
24 work department saying I was going to live on my own.  
25 It was a ruse to the social work department so

1       could get the size of house she wanted, with a bedroom  
2       for her and a bedroom for her son. Her son was primary  
3       school age so social work would not have allowed us to  
4       share a bedroom. The plan was when [REDACTED] got the  
5       two-bedroom house then I would move in with her.

6       Once [REDACTED] got the house, she told me I wasn't  
7       moving in and she left. I had two options, to stay with  
8       Mr ENZ [REDACTED] or to disappear. I had no one to turn to.  
9       I had no contact with my family since the day I left  
10      Nazareth House. I decided to disappear but I couldn't  
11      handle it. I had two weeks on my own, living in  
12      doorways.

13      I went back to Mr ENZ [REDACTED] and stayed for a year and  
14      a bit. That was torture. Mr ENZ [REDACTED] was an angry man.  
15      He wouldn't give me a key to the house because he didn't  
16      trust me with a key. I had to go back to the house when  
17      he was back and go out when he was out. Mr ENZ [REDACTED] lived  
18      like a pauper although he always had enough money to buy  
19      a drink. Social work didn't know I was staying there  
20      and I saw them rarely.

21      I couldn't take any more and when I was about  
22      17 years old I went to stay with a friend in a flat.  
23      Mr ENZ [REDACTED] asked me if I was still going to pay my dig  
24      money. I never got any help from the social work  
25      department. I had to stand on my own two feet from the

1 day I was 16 years old. The social work department were  
2 a disgrace. It was a case of dotting the Is and  
3 crossing the Ts.

4 I met my wife when I was about 18 years old. She  
5 encouraged me to go and live in a bedsit so I did that.  
6 We've been together for 38 years and have one child.  
7 I've worked in the motor trade all my life.

8 When I left school, I became a very reserved person  
9 and wouldn't mix with anybody. I couldn't get rid of  
10 Mr ENZ . I couldn't go into a pub because Mr ENZ  
11 would be there and he was a nasty drunk. I stopped  
12 going out with my friends. Galston is a small community  
13 and there are only four main streets. For a small  
14 community, there are a lot of pubs. You didn't know  
15 what pub Mr ENZ would be in because he never stayed in  
16 one specific pub. If you walked in and he was there,  
17 he'd say, 'Get me a fucking drink'. I couldn't take  
18 that abuse.

19 When I got married I was the same. It wasn't until  
20 I had my breakdown that I started opening up. I started  
21 going out and socialising again and I've never stopped  
22 since. I had a breakdown when I was 26 or 27 years old  
23 when my son had just been born. I wouldn't get out of  
24 bed. I spoke to my mother-in-law and my wife got the  
25 doctor in. The abuse all came out then.

1           Horrible thoughts went through my head when my son  
2           was born. I was protective of him and I still am.  
3           I flung out so much love to my son because I never got  
4           love myself. That should be naturally built into  
5           a parent and that's the way I was. I don't feel hatred  
6           for Nazareth House. Kids back then didn't have any  
7           choice. There was no love in Nazareth House. My boy is  
8           30 years old and I still tell him I love him.

9           I get more angry at the nuns than I do at Mr and  
10          Mrs **ENZ-SPO** I get angry at the social work because they  
11          never took due care. I should have been treated as  
12          a kid and not as a burden. I used to think I was partly  
13          to blame because I kept my mouth shut and told the  
14          social work lies. I made it easier for Mr and Mrs **ENZ-SPO**  
15          because I told the social work department what they  
16          wanted me to.

17          When I went to secondary school and left Nazareth  
18          House, I got lazy. In Nazareth House you had to do your  
19          homework at a specific time. When I left, I thought it  
20          was great that I wasn't there any more. I did different  
21          things at night but my education suffered."

22          And now to paragraph 111 on page 24:

23          "To this day, I still scrub my body when I'm  
24          bathing. I've got the worst back passage because of it.  
25          I have flashbacks every day. I go through in my mind

1        what happened and I can visualise anything I want.  
2        I can tell you the decor, the colour of the carpet and  
3        the colour of the bathroom where Mr ENZ [REDACTED] abused me.  
4        I couldn't say I don't care because that's not true.  
5        I don't care to the extent that it can't hurt me any  
6        more. There's nothing on this planet that could come  
7        close to hurting me any more, apart from the death of  
8        someone close. I've had family bereavement and that's  
9        hard, but it still doesn't come close to the hurt I had.  
10       I've dealt with my hurt and anger."

11                Now moving to paragraph 115 on page 25:

12                "The first person that I spoke to about the abuse  
13        was Dr Black when I had my breakdown. Dr Black  
14        recommended I start therapy. He also suggested going to  
15        the police.

16                When I was going through therapy, I realised that  
17        Mr ENZ [REDACTED] was the person I should be going after. I gave  
18        a statement to the police and they spoke to Mr ENZ [REDACTED]  
19        There was a denial. Mrs [REDACTED] knows about the abuse  
20        now. She says she never knew anything about it at the  
21        time."

22                And now to paragraph 122 on page 26:

23                "I've not tried to get my social work records. Part  
24        of the reason for me not looking for my records is that  
25        I don't want to keep casting it up. The past needs to

1 be shut and I'm not waiting until the day I'm in my  
2 coffin. I want the past shut so I can get some peace of  
3 mind before I die.

4 Treat kids as kids. Give them the respect they are  
5 entitled to, whether they are in care or with their  
6 family. That's all kids want. Let kids grow and  
7 flourish within the rules and regulations of the law.  
8 If a kid wants to be a goth or a punk, let them. When  
9 you take respect away from kids then you get an angry  
10 person."

11 To paragraph 125 on page 27:

12 "I hope the same mistakes aren't made again.  
13 Blaming others won't get me anywhere but if one person  
14 would say 'sorry', then that would be like winning the  
15 lottery.

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

20 'Fergal' signed his statement on 25 January 2022.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes read-ins for today and  
23 we resume again at 2 pm when we have another oral  
24 witness.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1           Just before I rise, some names again have arisen,  
2       the **LWE-LWF** the **FJD/FJF** the  the **ENZ-SPO** they're  
3       all protected by my general protection order and can't  
4       be used outside this room.

5           Thank you. I'll rise now.

6       (12.50 pm)

7                               (The luncheon adjournment)

8       (2.00 pm)

9       LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

10           Ms Innes, we have a witness?

11       MS INNES: We do, my Lady. The next witness is

12           Stewart Wilson. Stewart has waived anonymity.

13           He was in the care of Glasgow Corporation and was  
14       boarded out to Tiree from about 1970 until March 1974.  
15       He went back to Tiree for a second period of boarding  
16       out with the same people, from 6 September 1976 until  
17       2 June 1980.

18       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19                               Stewart Wilson (sworn)

20       A. Hello?

21       LADY SMITH: That sounds great. If you can just keep using  
22       the microphone like that, it will help us.

23           The first question I have for you I hope is an easy  
24       one. How would you like me to address you? I'm happy  
25       with Mr Wilson or Stewart, whatever works?

1 A. Whatever you want.

2 LADY SMITH: Most people seem to be comfortable with their  
3 first name, if that's all right with you?

4 A. Yes, yes, yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Stewart, practicalities. You have a red folder  
6 there. That has your written statement in it that you  
7 signed.

8 A. Right.

9 LADY SMITH: You'll be asked to look at it in a moment. But  
10 if you do want to remind yourself of the text of your  
11 statement, you might find it easier just to use the  
12 screen that's in front of you. We'll be bringing up the  
13 parts that we're looking at as we go through it.

14 A. Yeah, no problem at all.

15 LADY SMITH: But quite separately from all that, can I just  
16 assure you that I do know it's quite a tough thing to  
17 ask somebody to come and talk in public about their  
18 childhood, particularly when the childhood had very  
19 marked difficulties, not to put it too mildly, in it.  
20 It's not easy and I know that it can take people by  
21 surprise how emotional they can become at times. That's  
22 not a problem.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: I do understand. I get that. If, for example,  
25 you wanted a break or a pause or just to soldier through

1 sometimes with the use of the odd tissue as some people  
2 do, that's okay.  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 LADY SMITH: Any queries --  
5 A. No.  
6 LADY SMITH: -- please -- and if anything arises as we're  
7 going through your evidence, just ask.  
8 A. Yes.  
9 LADY SMITH: It's important that we know if there's anything  
10 troubling you and see what we can do about it.  
11 A. No problem at all. Thank you very much.  
12 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, Stewart, I'll hand over to  
13 Ms Innes and she'll take it from there, okay?  
14 A. Thank you.  
15 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.  
16 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.  
17 Questions from Ms Innes  
18 MS INNES: Stewart, we understand that you were born in  
19 1964. Is that right?  
20 A. I was indeed, yes.  
21 Q. If I can turn to your statement, we give it the  
22 reference WIT-1-000000722, and if we go to the final  
23 page of the statement, page 40, paragraph 198 we see  
24 that it says there:  
25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 I understand that you signed the statement on  
5 15 June 2021, is that --

6 A. I did indeed, yes.

7 Q. Can I take you back to the start of your statement,  
8 please, where you tell us something of your family  
9 history.

10 First of all, if we can talk about your mother. You  
11 tell us there at paragraphs 2 and 3, I think, that your  
12 mother was your grandfather's child?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Although not the child of your grandmother?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Was your mother later adopted by your --

17 A. She was, yes, she was legally adopted by my granny.

18 Q. You say that she was brought up with your grandparents'

19 

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. 

22

23 A.

24 Q.

25

1 A. [REDACTED]  
2 Q. [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 A. [REDACTED]  
5 Q. [REDACTED]  
6 A. [REDACTED]  
7 Q. [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 A. [REDACTED]  
10 Q. [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 A. [REDACTED]  
14 Q. [REDACTED]  
15 A. [REDACTED]  
16 Q. [REDACTED]  
17 A. [REDACTED] And my adopted father.  
18 Q. And then he became your adopted father?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. You say that your grandmother and he then legally  
21 adopted you?  
22 A. Yes, they did.  
23 Q. Okay. Did your mother remain in Glasgow or did she go  
24 away?  
25 A. She remained for about a year and then gave me over to

1 my granny.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Who then became my mother. She gave her to me when she

4 was 16 -- when she was 15, 15 and a bit.

5 Q. Okay. You go on to talk about your granny and you say

6 at paragraph 6 that she died in 1968.

7 A. She did, yes.

8 Q. So up until that time -- so you were born in 1964, so

9 for the first four years of your life, you say you think

10 your mother was around perhaps for the first year?

11 A. First year, and then my granny.

12 Q. Then after that you were living with your -- and maybe

13 you were living with your --

14 A. Mum and dad.

15 Q. -- granny throughout and they became your parents, as it

16 were?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 A. [REDACTED]

21 Q. We know that you were taken into care, which we'll come

22 onto in a moment. Did you have any memory [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED] when you lived with your

24 granny?

25 A. Vague memories, if at all. [REDACTED]

1

2 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 6 that after your granny  
3 died, I think the various people in the household seemed  
4 to separate at that point.

5 A. My auntie [REDACTED] who was my granny's sister, she went to  
6 the council to try and take myself [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] and she was told no.

8 Q. You say at paragraph 7 that you remained with your  
9 father?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q.

12

13 A.

14 Q.

15 A.

16 Q.

17

18 A.

19 Q.

20 A.

21 Q.

22 A.

23 Q. Right. So you [REDACTED] were with your  
24 father and then you describe at paragraph 8 that you  
25 were taken from him and put into a home in Barrhead?

1 A. Yes. [REDACTED] put in a home in Barrhead  
2 briefly.  
3 Q. Where did you go from there?  
4 A. At that point my father had come in [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 Q. Right.  
7 A. I was left in the home [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED] I was placed in  
10 Dundonald.  
11 Q. [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 A. [REDACTED]  
14 Q. [REDACTED]  
15 A. [REDACTED]  
16 Q. You tell us that you went to Dundonald Children's Home?  
17 A. Yeah.  
18 Q. If we move on from there to page 6, you tell us at  
19 paragraph 24 that you went into foster care with  
20 a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]?  
21 A. Yeah, that was after Dundonald.  
22 Q. I think you were at Dundonald for about a year or just  
23 under a year?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. During the time that you were at Dundonald, did you have

1       any contact with your family?

2   A.  No.

3   Q.  Then you moved to the [REDACTED] at Dundonald --

4   A.  No, the [REDACTED] were in [REDACTED].

5   Q.  Sorry, that was my mistake.  I was reading two lines

6       together.

7       You moved to the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and you

8       mention I think in your statement there was perhaps

9       a suggestion that you might be adopted by the [REDACTED]?

10  A.  That was the aim of the exercise, but it didn't work out

11       like that.

12  Q.  Why did it not work out like that?

13  A.  It says in my file from my time in care I didn't conform

14       and Mrs [REDACTED] was told in handwritten notes by the

15       social service that that's because she'd spoiled the

16       rod -- or spared the rod, sorry.

17  Q.  Spared the rod and spoiled the child?

18  A.  Yes.

19  Q.  You're saying she was told that by the social work

20       department?

21  A.  Yes.

22  Q.  Okay.  How did you feel like you were getting on in that

23       house?  What were your thoughts about it?

24  A.  I remember that Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] had two daughters.

25       I know she couldn't have any more children so she was

1        looking for a son. I thought I was -- I was never hit,  
2        I was loved, cared for, but ... it didn't work out.  
3        I probably was a wee bit hyper, so I was handed back.  
4    Q.   Okay. Can you remember leaving their home?  
5    A.   Yes.  
6    Q.   What were you told at the time about why you were  
7        leaving or where you were going?  
8    A.   I didn't conform.  
9    Q.   Who told you that?  
10   A.   The social worker.  
11   Q.   Okay. You mention a social worker, Douglas Scott. Is  
12        that the person that you're referring to?  
13   A.   Yes, yes. That's the only social worker I've ever  
14        known.  
15   Q.   Okay. You tell us at the top of page 8 that you went to  
16        Quarriers?  
17   A.   I was briefly in Quarriers while they were doing the  
18        paperwork for me to go elsewhere.  
19   Q.   Okay.  
20   A.   Because Dundonald had already washed their hands of me.  
21   Q.   Did you know that that was the reason you were at  
22        Quarriers or is that your reading of the social work  
23        records at the time?  
24   A.   No, I was just told that it was all my fault that the  
25        adoption hadn't gone through, made to feel guilty.

1 I don't think I was even six. It was put squarely on my  
2 shoulders.

3 Q. What were you told about where you were going to go  
4 next?

5 A. A big happy family place, lots of children, lots of open  
6 space.

7 Q. Did he tell you that you were going to Tiree and that it  
8 was an island?

9 A. No, he didn't tell me where I was going at all.

10 Q. Then you tell us, beginning at paragraph 37, that you  
11 were boarded out to a place in Tiree.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Can you remember the journey?

14 A. Yes, I do. I went from Quarriers to Glasgow Airport and  
15 got put on a wee plane.

16 Q. Did Mr Scott go with you?

17 A. Aye, he was with me.

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

19 A. Never. It was an islander plane, I think there's 14  
20 seats in it. Where you're sitting -- there's no  
21 walkway. You go in one door and go out the other.  
22 Very, very thin. Very noisy. I was petrified.

23 Q. Okay. We'll come back to some of the things that you  
24 tell us in pages 8 and 9 in a moment. If we move on,  
25 please, to page 10, paragraph 43. Can you tell us about

1 meeting the person who was going to be your guardian in  
2 Tiree? You've told us about getting on the plane. What  
3 happened when you got to the other end?

4 A. When we got off the plane in Tiree, I was put in a car.  
5 I now know the distance between the airport and the --  
6 and where I stayed is 7 miles. I didn't have a clue  
7 where I was. Got out the car and get taken into the  
8 kitchen. And Mrs <sup>EVI</sup> [REDACTED] was sitting there in the  
9 kitchen.

10 Q. How did she greet you?

11 A. "Hi, I'm your new mum."

12 And I'm thinking, really? And then she explained to  
13 me I was a bastard, my parents were dead.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. I'm thinking -- she also said my mum was a whore.

16 Q. Was the social worker there when she said all this?

17 A. He was sat right beside her, never said a word.

18 Q. At that point, did you have any sort of concept of who  
19 your mum was? Did you --

20 A. No, none at all.

21 Q. -- think it was Mrs [REDACTED] or did you know that your mum  
22 was somewhere?

23 A. I thought I must have a mum somewhere.

24 Q. Uh-huh.

25 A. But given I'd always been told since I went into care

1       [REDACTED] I was a bastard, I didn't expect  
2       a mum to jump out of the woodwork any time soon.  
3   Q.   You say that since you'd gone into care you'd always  
4       been told that you [REDACTED]  
5   A.   Yes.  
6   Q.   Was that when you were at Dundonald as well?  
7   A.   Yes.  
8   Q.   Who told you that?  
9   A.   The -- I -- I recollect that it was a nun, that she was  
10       the boss.  
11   Q.   Right, okay. And when you were at the [REDACTED] was that  
12       the impression that you were given as well?  
13   A.   My family background wasn't discussed. That's the only  
14       place they didn't -- I think myself, I didn't ask any  
15       questions.  
16   Q.   If we just go back a little in your statement to page 8,  
17       please, and to paragraph 37, you tell us a bit of what  
18       the place that you went to live in Tiree was like. You  
19       describe the house.  
20   A.   Yeah.  
21   Q.   You say it was three bedrooms upstairs, one bedroom  
22       downstairs, toilet, living room, dining room and  
23       a kitchen. Was there an inside bathroom or toilet?  
24   A.   It was an inside one.  
25   Q.   You say the house was warm and comfortable?

1 A. Yeah, because there was a coal fire going all the time.

2 Q. You mentioned Mrs EVI [REDACTED] You mentioned in this

3 paragraph Mr EMY [REDACTED] did you have much to do with

4 Mr EMY [REDACTED] when you lived with them?

5 A. He -- well, given he worked for the -- for [REDACTED] with

6 the [REDACTED] and when he wasn't at [REDACTED] he

7 worked on the croft. Part of the reason I was there was

8 to work on the croft with him. He was also a fisherman.

9 Q. So he had various jobs that he was doing?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So perhaps you're saying he was outdoors a lot of the

12 time and perhaps wasn't at the house?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You say that they had their own daughter, who was a lot

15 older.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say that the daughter had a really bad relationship

18 with Mrs EVI [REDACTED]?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did you find that out?

21 A. They were always cursing and swearing at each other any

22 time she came across.

23 Q. Right, I see. You then go on over the page to talk

24 about the numbers of children that were boarded out --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- with the EMY-EVI over the time. You say that you  
2 found out, at the top of page 9, that they had had in  
3 total 45 boarded-out children with them?

4 A. Yes, from I think between 1956 till I was the last one,  
5 I went back in 1976.

6 Q. You say that would have been pure profit for  
7 Mrs. EVI

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. It wasn't done for love?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Why do you say that?

12 A. There was no love shown, no compassion. We were fed, we  
13 were clothed, we were three to a bed. There was no pat  
14 on the back, there was no ... nothing apart from we  
15 should be grateful that she took us in. That's all it  
16 was.

17 Q. Okay. You say, I think -- is your understanding that  
18 all of the children were placed there by Glasgow --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- Corporation?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is that something that you were conscious of at the time  
23 or is that something that you've learned subsequently?

24 A. I was conscious of the idea that they all came from  
25 Glasgow, because they all -- they all spoke the same as

1 me. That might sound weird, but when I went to primary  
2 school in Tiree, 90 per cent of the class spoke Gaelic.  
3 The relief teachers spoke Gaelic. They could have been  
4 speaking Chinese or Russian, I did not have a clue about  
5 anything. So they would say oh -- most of them had  
6 actually come from -- at one time or another had ended  
7 up in Rhu, in Helensburgh, so from Helensburgh they  
8 transferred to Tiree.

9 Q. You talk about the system of boarding out and then at  
10 paragraph 41 you say that there were 21 children in the  
11 house?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Were there 21 children there all at once?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. You've mentioned that there were, I think, four  
16 bedrooms in the house, three upstairs and one  
17 downstairs?

18 A. One bedroom was always the girls' bedroom, one bedroom  
19 was always their bedroom, so we had two bedrooms between  
20 the rest of the boys. We were top and tail in the beds.

21 Q. You mention various families that were there at the same  
22 time --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- that you were there. Throughout the first period  
25 that you spent there --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- were all of these other children there the whole time  
3 or did they come and go?

4 A. They were there all the time and before I left in 1974,  
5 they were getting older and then leaving.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. But not as whole family units. At -- like [REDACTED] was  
8 too old to be in care so [REDACTED] left, then [REDACTED] left.

9 Q. Okay, so they would leave individually --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- when they were old enough to go and get jobs  
12 somewhere else?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You mention that there was a boy there who was in fact,  
15 you understood, from England?

16 A. That's right, he was born in South Shields.

17 Q. Do you know how he'd ended up on Tiree?

18 A. He's not got a clue either and he has two birth  
19 certificates.

20 Q. Right, is he somebody that you have kept in touch with  
21 or have reconnected --

22 A. Yes, yeah.

23 Q. Then you talk about the girls there in the next  
24 paragraph.

25 If we go over the page to page 10 again, at

1 paragraph 45 you say that there were five people in your  
2 bed.  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 Q. Was there more than one bed in the room?  
5 A. Yeah, there were two beds in the room.  
6 Q. You were in there with other boys?  
7 A. Yeah.  
8 LADY SMITH: What was the age range between the boys?  
9 A. Sorry?  
10 LADY SMITH: The age range between the boys? I was  
11 wondering what it was.  
12 A. When I went there, [REDACTED] was -- [REDACTED] was five, [REDACTED] was  
13 about 16.  
14 LADY SMITH: And you would be about six when you arrived?  
15 A. I was six, yeah.  
16 LADY SMITH: All in the same beds?  
17 A. It was [REDACTED] me, [REDACTED] and -- not [REDACTED] sorry, [REDACTED]  
18 and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is eight years older than me. So  
19 he's about the same as -- aye, so from five to 13.  
20 LADY SMITH: Were these double beds or single beds?  
21 A. Double beds.  
22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
23 MS INNES: Okay. Then you mention -- well, you mention at  
24 paragraph 45 that you had still -- you still peed the  
25 bed.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you said you weren't popular because of that?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You then talk at paragraph 46 about some of the work  
5 that you had to do, and we will come back to that in  
6 a little bit more detail. But you mention there that  
7 you would have a bale strapped to your back --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and you'd have to walk for a mile and a half to  
10 a field to drop it off?

11 A. Yeah, to the first (unclear). Out the house, up to the  
12 barn, bale put on me -- I was about that size -- and to  
13 walk to feed the beasts in the morning before school.

14 Q. Did that start as soon as you got there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did the other boys have to do that?

17 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] done that with me. The older boys would  
18 either muck out the byre or milk the cows in the  
19 morning.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Because it had to be done before breakfast.

22 Q. Right. And was Mr EMY [REDACTED] out or --

23 A. He'd already left to go to the [REDACTED].

24 Q. Right, I see. Was Mrs EVI [REDACTED] doing this work as well  
25 with you or not?

1 A. She was making the porridge.

2 Q. What about the girls? What did they have to do?

3 A. They would be helping in the house. They done all the

4 housework. Boys weren't allowed to do housework.

5 Q. You say at paragraph 47 that all of the children went to

6 bed at 7 pm every night.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you describe being tied into your room?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you explain that, please?

11 A. The handles of the doors were like that, two bits coming

12 out the door and that's the handle, so a bit of rope

13 would be put around that and that would be the top of

14 the bannister, so you couldn't open the door because the

15 rope was there. And because the two rooms -- that was

16 the pink room for the girls and the same with other

17 bedroom, we couldn't get out.

18 LADY SMITH: You were showing me there the two water bottles

19 verticals, these were vertically fixed handles --

20 A. The door handle was shaped like that, ma'am.

21 LADY SMITH: And there would be something tied between the

22 door handles --

23 A. Yes, a rope between the two of them.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS INNES: You say you were woken up at 4.30, so was the

1 door kept in that way all night until she untied them in  
2 the morning?

3 A. Yes, yes, yes.

4 Q. If you wanted to get out of the room in the middle of  
5 the night, if somebody wasn't well or if you needed to  
6 go to the toilet, what would you do?

7 A. Pee out the window. But you couldn't -- it wasn't  
8 a full window, it was like solid and then a wee bit at  
9 the top. So you had to be a contortionist to try and  
10 get to that bit at the top.

11 Q. What if you needed some help during the night, if  
12 somebody wasn't well or somebody had a nightmare or  
13 anything like that?

14 A. No idea. Didn't happen.

15 Q. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: And if there was an emergency like a fire, you  
17 were dependent on the EMY-EVI untying the doors?

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS INNES: You talk then about food that you were given and  
21 you say at the top of page 11 there was a mini trough in  
22 the middle of the table and you would just pile around  
23 it.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Were you standing at the table or sitting down at the

1 table?

2 A. We had a bench on either side and -- when I mean

3 a trough, it was like a big aluminium serving thing. It

4 looked like a trough. And you were given a bit of

5 haddock and a block of homemade butter and the trough in

6 the middle would be full of potatoes. Again that was

7 grown on the croft.

8 Q. You would all just help yourself to as much as you could

9 as quickly as you could, you said?

10 A. Yes, because everybody was trying to do the same.

11 Q. You then talk at paragraph 50 about having a bath on

12 a Sunday and you talk about the bath being one at

13 a time.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Was the bath in the bathroom or was it a bath that was

16 brought into the living room --

17 A. The bath was in the bathroom.

18 Q. And Mrs **EVI** was there in the bathroom?

19 A. She was bathing you.

20 Q. Did that happen --

21 A. Up until I was 13.

22 Q. Right, okay. And then did you get some privacy after

23 that?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay. You talk about healthcare and I just want to ask

1       you at this point about a matter that I think you  
2       discovered from your medical records later in life.

3   A.   Yeah.

4   Q.   I think you discovered that you had a heart defect?

5   A.   I did, yeah. I done the test to join the army at 14.  
6       That was quickly followed by -- to join the army you had  
7       a full medical. I had no medical history. They sent me  
8       to Yorkhill for three days and they confirmed I had  
9       a heart defect and I'd had it from birth. And after  
10      three days in Yorkhill they decided, well, you probably  
11      will grow out of it, and the army then accepted me.

12  Q.   Okay. This was something that was unknown to you until  
13      that time?

14  A.   Correct.

15  Q.   On reflection, do you have any thoughts about that,  
16      given the work that you had to do?

17  A.   Oh, yeah, yeah. I was placed in a house that condoned  
18      hard physical labour. What if my heart had stopped?  
19      What would have happened? Nobody would have known the  
20      cause anyway because nobody had checked to see if I had  
21      anything wrong with me prior to me going there.

22  Q.   Okay. You talk a bit more about the jobs that you had  
23      to do and you say at paragraph 54:  
24                "We were there to work the croft."  
25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. Do you think that was your primary purpose in being  
2 there?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. You say it was a large croft.  
5 A. Yeah.  
6 Q. There were vegetables -- was that vegetables to feed the  
7 animals or to feed --  
8 A. To feed both.  
9 Q. -- people as well?  
10 A. Both the animals and us. That was seven days a week.  
11 We didn't go anywhere unless it was to go and work on  
12 another croft.  
13 Q. And they also had livestock?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. Roughly what numbers of livestock did they have, do you  
16 know?  
17 A. I think at the most they had about 20 cows, 20 cows and  
18 a bull. They had some sheep as well. And while I'd  
19 been away, they'd tried goats and there was about 40  
20 hens.  
21 Q. Did you have to do work -- if we go on over the page,  
22 I think you talk at paragraph 55 about various things  
23 that you had to do connected with the livestock and you  
24 mentioned, for example, mucking out the byre.  
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Is that something that you did as you got older?

2 A. As soon as I was able to avoid a cow kicking you, yeah.

3 Q. Who judged when the time had come that you could

4 avoid --

5 A. Well, there was basically a production line. As [REDACTED]

6 and the bigger ones left, we took their jobs on as well.

7 Because there were cows in the byre, unless it's going

8 to go knee deep in its own filth it has to be done twice

9 a day.

10 Q. You say you also helped at lambing time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What sort of things did you have to do then?

13 A. Either hold the lamb or grab the lamb's -- hold the

14 sheep or grab the lamb's feet to help give birth to it.

15 Q. Would you be doing this on your own, perhaps with

16 Mr [REDACTED] or with other boys?

17 A. No, there would be about three or four of us there.

18 Q. You say you also remember a couple of times a cow died

19 and you had to dig a ditch or a hole for the cow?

20 A. Yeah, dig a hole for the cow. Or a sheep.

21 Q. You talk about digging ditches.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was that in the fields, presumably?

24 A. Yes. I was about that size and the ditch went down

25 that. So the ditch was higher than I was.

1 LADY SMITH: So you were showing us the ditch was not just  
2 your height but deeper?  
3 A. It was higher, yeah. It was deep -- well, yes.  
4 LADY SMITH: And that's your height now?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 LADY SMITH: So as a child there was even more between the  
7 top of your head and the top of the ditch?  
8 A. Yeah.  
9 MS INNES: You say at paragraph 56 if it was dark and you  
10 came home from school, you still had to do your  
11 chores --  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. -- and you remember being sent out with paraffin lamps?  
14 A. Yes. We didn't have electricity in the byre, we had  
15 a Tilley lamp.  
16 Q. As well as working before and after school, you worked  
17 at the weekends as well?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Were there additional jobs to do at the weekends?  
20 A. Well, a croft just isn't Monday to Friday, it's seven  
21 days a week.  
22 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 57 about the girls doing the  
23 inside chores --  
24 A. Yeah.  
25 Q. -- and outside chores if you couldn't cope. So

1 sometimes the girls would come out to help with some of  
2 the --  
3 A. If we -- the biggest thing is if we were baling a field,  
4 if we were cutting hay and then it was creating the  
5 bales, they would come out to help lift the bales onto  
6 the tractor, onto the trailer.  
7 Q. When you say if there was baling going on, would  
8 Mr EMY be doing that with some kind of machinery?  
9 A. He'd be operating the machinery.  
10 Q. What would you be doing? Would you be --  
11 A. Running behind doing everything else.  
12 Q. Right, okay. And then lifting the bales when they were  
13 made, as you've said.  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. Then you say at paragraph 58 that you had the potato  
16 holiday where you would go and dig potatoes and turnips  
17 and that would be not only in your own croft --  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. -- but also in other crofts?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. Were you paid for doing that?  
22 A. No.  
23 Q. Was there any arrangement between the EMY-EVI and other  
24 crofters about exchanging labour for other goods, for  
25 example?

1 A. I think it was just sharing labour.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. And it was a recognised school holiday. Certainly on

4 the west coast, the potato, to get the potato harvest

5 in.

6 Q. Can you remember local children taking part in the

7 potato harvest as well?

8 A. A lot of the local children didn't live at -- didn't

9 have crofts or they had a house that used to be a croft

10 but there was no land attached to it.

11 Q. I see. You talk at paragraph 59 about not getting

12 pocket money or treats.

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. You say that there was an allowance given by Glasgow

15 Corporation but that was never paid to you?

16 A. Yeah. I know that now. I didn't know it then.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I mean we didn't get birthdays or Christmas.

19 Q. Have you found that out from your records or from

20 research --

21 A. Well, from collective memory, because I'm now in contact

22 with basically everybody that went to the same house.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Some been there longer than me.

25 Q. Then you say at the bottom of this page that in terms of

1 clothing, you were given sort of dungarees and heavy  
2 boots for working outside --  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 Q. -- and you say everything that you were given was so  
5 that you could work outside?  
6 A. Yeah.  
7 Q. Did you have school uniform as well?  
8 A. No.  
9 Q. No?  
10 A. That was in the days before school uniform.  
11 Q. Where did the EMY-EVI get clothes for you?  
12 A. From the Corporation.  
13 Q. You've mentioned school already, so on page 13 you say  
14 that you went to a primary school --  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. -- and you say that there were probably about -- and  
17 then you went to a secondary school and I think you then  
18 go -- you're talking about the primary school here where  
19 you say that there were about 40 in the whole school?  
20 A. Yeah, that was from between when I arrived on Tiree  
21 until I left primary 5, being 1974.  
22 Q. Okay.  
23 A. When I came back in 1976, all the primary schools had  
24 been shut and moved to a new one beside the high school.  
25 Q. I see. The first time that you were there, were there

1 a lot of other boarded-out children?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you mentioned Gaelic being spoken.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was that the way in which the local children

6 communicated with one another?

7 A. Yes, and the stand-in teacher.

8 Q. Were there any friendships between the local children

9 and the boarded-out children that you can remember?

10 A. There was, yeah, yeah.

11 Q. Okay. When you say that the stand-in teacher spoke

12 Gaelic --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- did she not teach in English at all?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Right, okay.

17 If we go on to the next page, please, page 14 and

18 paragraph 68, you say that Mrs EVI [REDACTED] wasn't interested

19 in homework.

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did you have any opportunity to do homework at the

22 croft?

23 A. Not really. I'd be given homework and, having children

24 myself, I now know that you come home and do homework

25 and there's time set aside for that. We went straight

1       back on the croft work as soon as we left school.

2   Q.  I think as you've said already, at paragraph 70 you say

3       the croft dominated your lives and you never had time to

4       play?

5   A.  Yeah.

6   Q.  Can you not remember ever going out to play with

7       a football --

8   A.  No.

9   Q.  -- or go to the beach or anything like that?

10  A.  No.

11  Q.  You've mentioned birthdays and Christmas already.  At

12       paragraph 71 you say you knew when your birthday was

13       because they would tell you in school that you were

14       moving up to the next class?

15  A.  Yeah.

16  Q.  Okay.  Then if we go on over the page, please, to

17       page 15, did you ever have any trips off the island when

18       you were living there?

19  A.  Yes, I did.  After I went back, we had a trip to

20       Lochgilphead, I think, just before I joined the army.

21  Q.  We'll come back to that later on.  So that was the

22       second time that you were staying on Tiree?

23  A.  Yes.

24  Q.  The first time that you stayed there, can you remember

25       having any trips off the island?

1 A. No. None at all.

2 Q. You've already talked about [REDACTED] what you  
3 had been told about your mother, that she was dead,  
4 I think.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. During the time that you were on Tiree the first time,  
7 did you have any contact with [REDACTED] your  
8 mother?

9 A. None at all.

10 Q. Anybody talk to you about them?

11 A. None at all.

12 Q. You say at paragraph 77 that you think that this was the  
13 same for other boarded-out children that were living  
14 there?

15 A. Contact was deliberately cut for other people. I know  
16 one example was [REDACTED] who was there with me,  
17 his father was sending up presents. The presents  
18 weren't handed over and contact was cut.

19 Q. Then you've already mentioned there were obviously some  
20 sibling groups that were there.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. So there were other people that were living at the  
23 [REDACTED] EMI-EVI who were with their siblings?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You then go on at the bottom of this page to talk about

1       any visits that you remember. Can you remember Mr Scott  
2       coming to see you again?

3   A. Yes. I'd been in Tiree for about a year and it was  
4       a scheduled visit. It's the only one I can remember.  
5       He came across and individually took us all into the  
6       kitchen and, "How are you?" blah, blah, blah, "Are you  
7       doing anything?" I said -- and I burst out crying.  
8       I said, "I hate it", and I took my top off and my back  
9       was black and blue, and he sort of went, "Oh, how did  
10      that happen?" And I said, "Well, it wasn't me that done  
11      it", and I said, "I want off, I want to go back to where  
12      I came from", and he says he'd pass it up the chain and  
13      it shouldn't be too long before I was away.

14         I then left, somebody else went in, done the talk,  
15      whatever it was, and then I seen at the end of it he  
16      spoke to **EVI** and the minute his car left I got  
17      battered again. So I thought: I'm not saying anything  
18      to anyone.

19   Q. Did he in fact take steps to move you, do you know?

20   A. No, I was there for another three years.

21   Q. From seeing your records, was there any record of what  
22      you had said to him during that conversation?

23   A. It says in my records I was moved because I was  
24      a disruptive influence in school. There was nothing  
25      about the home. Given I was one of the smallest in

1 school.

2 Q. Was there any record of that conversation that you can  
3 remember having with him when you showed him the marks  
4 on your back?

5 A. No. It was supposed to be a confidential chat between  
6 me and him.

7 Q. How did you know it was supposed to be confidential?

8 A. Well you assume it is going to be -- if you've been  
9 appointed a social worker or a carer or whatever and  
10 they take the time to speak one to one -- because being  
11 a boarded out, no one actually looked you in the eye and  
12 gave you the time of day. For somebody to do that, you  
13 think maybe. Now, Douglas Scott had been my social  
14 worker since Dundonald and I opened up and after the  
15 opening up I got battered so I thought, well, I'm not  
16 opening up again, and I never did.

17 Q. So up until that time -- you say you opened up to him,  
18 did you open up to him because you felt you could trust  
19 him --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- because you'd seen him in the years previous?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. But then because of what happened, did that change your  
24 view of him?

25 A. That's about the only time I can remember him coming up.

1 He was supposed -- having checked what was supposed to  
2 have happened, he was supposed to go up every year and  
3 every year he was supposed to -- according to what's  
4 supposed to happen, he's supposed to go to the doctor to  
5 see if you have any unexplained injuries, go to the  
6 school, find out how your attendance, your attitude,  
7 et cetera. In my case, to find out you're still peeing  
8 the bed or blah, blah, blah. None of that was done. It  
9 was a talk with EVI [REDACTED] me, and then he bobbled(?)  
10 me anyway and then left.

11 Q. That's your memory of the last time that you saw him on  
12 Tیره --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- in terms of any visits?

15 Moving on, at paragraph 83 on page 16 you talk about  
16 bed-wetting. What was Mrs EVI [REDACTED] reaction to that?

17 A. Harsh. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I'd have to strip the  
18 bed, wash it in cold water while being told how dirty  
19 I was and then put it on the line for the -- for the  
20 wind to dry it.

21 Q. Then you go on in the next section to describe some of  
22 the abuse that you suffered when you were living with  
23 the EMY-EVI [REDACTED] You describe Mrs EVI [REDACTED] hitting you with  
24 a bulls-halter?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You describe that that's about an inch-thick bit of  
2 rope?  
3 A. Yeah, it's what you put on the muzzle for a bull, to  
4 move a bull.  
5 LADY SMITH: As you say in your statement, that's the sort  
6 of rope that would go through a ring on the bull's  
7 nose --  
8 A. Yes.  
9 LADY SMITH: -- to make it move?  
10 A. Yeah. And it's got metal on it.  
11 MS INNES: Is it a metal end to the --  
12 A. No, it's got metal rings for it to loop around.  
13 Q. Okay. Did she have that in the house that she would  
14 hit --  
15 A. No, it was in the byre.  
16 Q. Is that where she hit you, would she --  
17 A. Just outside the byre, until she was tired.  
18 Q. You say that you were hit by bits of wood, anything she  
19 could lay her hands on?  
20 A. Yeah.  
21 Q. You say it was her that did that --  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. -- it always happened when Mr EMY wasn't there?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. Do you think it happened when he wasn't there so that he

1       wouldn't see it or did he just not happen to be there  
2       because he was working?

3   A.   I think it was so he didn't see it. He probably knew it  
4       went on.

5   Q.   Okay. And he didn't hit you?

6   A.   No.

7   Q.   You say at paragraph 85 that it was mostly you and  
8       another boy who were hit by Mrs **EVI**

9   A.   Yeah.

10  Q.   So you were aware that somebody else was getting -- was  
11       it the same treatment as you were getting?

12  A.   Yeah.

13  Q.   Did you see him being hit?

14  A.   Yes, frequently.

15       About the same boy, he was diagnosed dyslexic in his  
16       50s. I can remember in Tiree dyslexia wasn't discussed,  
17       or if it was even known when he was in school. But he  
18       was called thick because he couldn't understand what his  
19       homework was supposed to be. So when he'd come in to  
20       try and get homework done, he'd get battered again for  
21       being thick. So it was reinforced to him at all times.

22  Q.   You say that there would be all sorts of things that she  
23       would hit you for. So, for example, not calling her  
24       mum?

25  A.   Yeah.

1 Q. In paragraph 87 you say:  
2 "I never cried and that made the punishments worse."  
3 A. Yeah. It's the only thing I could do. I knew I was  
4 going to get battered, but I refused to give her the  
5 satisfaction of me crying.  
6 Q. Did that mean that -- from what you say here, that she  
7 kept on going?  
8 A. Yeah. She'd get tired of hitting me.  
9 Q. Right, okay. You say you were always looking over your  
10 shoulder. At paragraph 88:  
11 "There was no one to turn to at the time ..."  
12 A. There wasn't.  
13 Q. You talk about it being a small island community --  
14 A. Yeah.  
15 Q. -- and everybody knowing everybody else.  
16 A. Everybody's related to everybody.  
17 Q. Did that have an impact on you feeling that there were  
18 people --  
19 A. Yeah, we were very, very isolated. We'd get no visitors  
20 to the house. The only social interaction I had was at  
21 school.  
22 Q. At paragraph 89 you say that they were alcoholics, the  
23 EMY-EVI  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. Were they sort of drinking every day or every evening or

1       every weekend? Sort of what was that like?

2   A. They had been alcoholics prior to me going there. They

3       still liked a good drink when I was there, and hence the

4       reason we were locked at 7 o'clock at night. But it

5       wasn't a -- it wasn't all the time. To my knowledge.

6       It happened prior to me going there. I think I arrived

7       at a time that they'd maybe -- still liked a drink, but

8       they weren't so frequent in doing it. But yeah, they

9       still had parties.

10   LADY SMITH: What was it that they drank? Do you remember?

11   A. Whisky.

12   MS INNES: You go on at paragraphs 90, 91 and 92 to tell us

13       about an incident that took place where a piece of fruit

14       went missing in the house, an orange?

15   A. Yes.

16   Q. You say that she was looking for somebody to blame and

17       effectively she blamed you --

18   A. Yeah.

19   Q. -- even although you hadn't taken it.

20   A. Yeah.

21   Q. What did she do?

22   A. We'd been out working in the field. There was a western

23       on and Mr EMY loved westerns. So we all came back

24       in, there was about 12 of us. The coal fire was on.

25       I was melting. If I was on the sofa, that way is to the

1 toilet, I went to the toilet. That way is to the  
2 kitchen. Nobody left the sitting room.

3 So she came up at some stage and says, "Who's left  
4 the room?" And of course everybody went me, because,  
5 yes, I did leave the room but I went that way.

6 So she grabbed me by the neck and took me down to  
7 the kitchen, turned the cooker on and said, "I want the  
8 orange", I said, "What orange?" And then she placed my  
9 head on the cooker and I had three rings burnt onto my  
10 head. But because I was trying to stop myself, when  
11 I was -- after she burned my head, she placed my hands  
12 on the rings.

13 Q. Did that burn your fingers as well, or your hands?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Were you given any treatment for those burns?

16 A. No. None at all.

17 Q. Did you go to school the next day?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Were the marks from what had happened visible?

20 A. Yes, they were very visible.

21 Q. Did anyone ask you at school about them?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So who was that? Was that the teacher or other pupils?

24 A. The teacher, Dolly Cameron, and people in school with  
25 me.

1 Q. What did you say when they asked you about them?

2 A. What could I say?

3 Q. Did you tell them what had happened?

4 A. Yes, I told them, but given I was a boarded out, what

5 was the point?

6 Q. From what you say, was nothing done about that then?

7 A. No, nothing was done, nothing at all.

8 LADY SMITH: Stewart, what type of cooker did she have?

9 A. It was an electric one with four three rings.

10 LADY SMITH: You were drawing with your fingers. Was it the

11 one that had radiant rings that went round and round?

12 A. Yes, yes.

13 MS INNES: Then you tell us about another incident that

14 happened at school, I think with the stand-in teacher?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You say at paragraph 94 that you would get your knuckles

17 rapped because you couldn't understand it?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And there was an incident with another boy who lived in

20 the EMY-EVI house with you, I think?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. The boy who had come from England originally?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You say that he was trying to get the teacher's

25 attention to go to the toilet --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- and because he couldn't ask in Gaelic, she ignored  
3 him?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then perhaps you tried to step in or --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. As a result of this, you say at paragraph 95 that  
8 Mrs **EVI** was phoned?

9 A. Yeah, she was phoned, she came down in the Land Rover.

10 Q. What happened then?

11 A. Well, she had a bamboo cane, everybody else was put out  
12 the class. The school was probably from about from the  
13 wall behind the lady to where the purple walls for the  
14 double doors are. We were all in the one class, one  
15 room with wee partitions, so everybody was just cleared  
16 out. And **EVI** whipped me around that room.

17 Q. You say that you've been reminded about this -- sorry,  
18 you say you think this was a good 15 or 20 minutes that  
19 this went on for?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You've been reminded about this more recently by  
22 somebody that had seen it happen?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. At page 19 at paragraph 97, you refer there to what you  
25 said earlier in your evidence, that you were said to be

1 a disruptive influence in school and in the house. You  
2 think that refers to that incident, the disruption?

3 A. It was shortly after that.

4 Q. You then tell us that you left the placement with the  
5 EMY-EVI at that point. Did anyone give you warning  
6 that you were going to be leaving?

7 A. No. What they said was Mr EMY because he was in  
8 the [REDACTED] was going on a course in Glasgow, and  
9 we would treat it as a family holiday. We'd never had  
10 a family holiday. So I was to go with EMY to  
11 Glasgow and EVI and [REDACTED] would follow the next  
12 day.

13 So we got on the plane, got to Glasgow Airport, got  
14 a taxi from Glasgow Airport to Govan, [REDACTED] and  
15 arrived at [REDACTED] where I'd never been before  
16 in my life, knocked on the door, and this old gentleman  
17 with a walking stick, "Oh, hello, EMY", "Hi EZY",  
18 "Aye, just come in". And EMY said to me, "Stay on the  
19 sofa, I'll be back in a couple of hours", and left.

20 Q. Did he come back?

21 A. No, but I seen him two years later.

22 Q. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 A. [REDACTED]

25 Q. Was there anybody else living in that house with him?

1 A. Yes. His daughter [REDACTED] his son -- in fact, two sons.  
2 I'm just trying to remember their names. I can't  
3 remember -- there was also his I think mother-in-law or  
4 sister.  
5 Q. Right. Did you see the social worker at the time of the  
6 move?  
7 A. No. No.  
8 Q. After you went to stay with EZY [REDACTED] can you remember  
9 Mr Scott coming to visit you there?  
10 A. No. I seen Mr Scott when I started to make a regular  
11 appearance at the ... the children's panel.  
12 Q. That's when he appeared on the scene again?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 A. [REDACTED]  
17 Q. You told us earlier in your evidence that [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] had in fact gone to live with him?  
19 A. That's right. [REDACTED] had just left his house.  
20 Q. So when you got there, she had just left?  
21 A. Yes, to move three streets down.  
22 Q. Okay. Were you told that [REDACTED]  
23 A. No.  
24 Q. -- had just left?  
25 A. No.

1 Q. Were you told that somebody called [REDACTED] had lived in  
2 the house?  
3 A. No.  
4 Q. Were you told anything about your family at that point?  
5 A. No.  
6 Q. Did EZY [REDACTED] introduce himself as EZY [REDACTED] and say,  
7 "I'm EZY [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
8 A. No.  
9 Q. Did you come to learn that he was EZY [REDACTED] ?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. Was that during the time that you lived with him?  
12 A. Yeah.  
13 Q. How did you find that out?  
14 A. Through his youngest son, [REDACTED]  
15 Q. What did he tell you?  
16 A. Who then left the house and moved up to Huntly in  
17 Aberdeenshire. He happened to let it slip that I was  
18 actually staying with EZY [REDACTED]  
19 Q. What had you been calling EZY [REDACTED] ?  
20 A. EZY [REDACTED] I was told to call him EZY [REDACTED] .  
21 Q. Then you say that [REDACTED] let it slip --  
22 A. Yeah.  
23 Q. -- that he was EZY [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 A. [REDACTED]

1 Q. [REDACTED]

2 A. [REDACTED]

3 Q. Okay. Then did there come a point when you did meet

4 [REDACTED] while you were living with EY [REDACTED]?

5 A. Yes, and it's ... I was -- my best friend in primary

6 school in [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. And we were playing up -- running up and down the

9 scaffold in front of their tenement and [REDACTED] happened

10 to look up and she says, "[REDACTED] who's with you?" And

11 [REDACTED] went, "Oh, that's Stewart" and she addressed me and

12 she said, "What's your full name?"

13 I said, "Stewart Wilson. Why?"

14 She says:

15 "Where are you staying?"

16 "I'm not telling, I never seen you before in my  
17 life."

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 Q. [REDACTED]  
2 A. [REDACTED]  
3 Q. Did you go home and say to EZY [REDACTED] "I met this woman  
4 who says ..."  
5 A. Yeah, I was told she was a lunatic.  
6 MS INNES: Okay. Right. It's just after 3 o'clock.  
7 I wonder if that might be an appropriate time for  
8 a break, my Lady.  
9 LADY SMITH: Stewart, we usually take a short break in the  
10 middle of the afternoon. Would it work for you if I did  
11 that now.  
12 A. Yes, that works for me. Thank you very much.  
13 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.  
14 (3.04 pm)  
15 (A short break)  
16 (3.14 pm)  
17 LADY SMITH: Are you okay if we carry on now, Stewart?  
18 A. Yes, I'm fine, thank you.  
19 LADY SMITH: Thanks very much.  
20 Ms Innes.  
21 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.  
22 If we can look, please, at page 22 of your  
23 statement, paragraph 113, you say there that EZY [REDACTED]  
24 was strict and he was cantankerous with his stick and  
25 you remember him hitting you with his stick on occasion.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You say that your recollection is that you know that it  
3 wasn't warranted on the second time.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And you reacted to that, I think. You say that you told  
6 him to sleep with one eye open.

7 A. I did, yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: That would be quite difficult to do, I think,  
9 Stewart, but I can see what you meant. Thank you.

10 MS INNES: Then you've mentioned already if we go to the  
11 bottom of the page, please, paragraph 115, you mention  
12 that you'd begun to run with a gang, I think, and as  
13 a result of that you were appearing in front of  
14 children's panels?

15 A. Yeah, I did, aye.

16 Q. That's when Douglas Scott came back on the scene?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then after that you were moved to an assessment  
19 centre and then to Auldhouse Boys' Home?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Then if we move on, please, to page 26, you say at  
22 paragraph 131 that you went back to Tiree to the  
23 EMY-EVI How did it come become that you went back to  
24 live with them?

25 A. I'd been up -- I'd been in front of the children's panel

1 obviously one -- one more time than was probably -- it  
2 was becoming a habit, to be in front of the children's  
3 panel. But yes, I was running with a gang. Because at  
4 the time I thought -- well, I didn't think, I knew we  
5 all understood each other. There was a connection with  
6 the gang as well. [REDACTED] had run  
7 with it, [REDACTED] had run with it, so they sort of  
8 looked out for me and after me as well.

9 Douglas Scott had appeared again and said -- I was  
10 12, I think, and he says a lifeline had been organised  
11 for me to go back to Tiree and it was either Tiree or  
12 a List D School and the picture he painted was I'd be  
13 locked up with bars on the window until I was 21 or  
14 I could go to Tiree and conform.

15 What was going through my mind was I just had to  
16 reach 16. Rightly or wrongly I thought at 16 I could  
17 make up my own mind, I could -- I wouldn't be answerable  
18 to anybody. So I jumped at Tiree.

19 Q. Okay. And you went back to stay with the [REDACTED] EMY-EVI  
20 again.

21 A. I did.

22 Q. You say it was the same set up than before, but there  
23 were fewer children there this time?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Were some of the same children still there?

1 A. Yes, some of them were, yes.

2 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that you went in  
3 September 1976?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And that you're aware that you were the last child to go  
6 from Glasgow to Tiree?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How do you know that?

9 A. Because from my file -- from my file from my time in  
10 care, Oban social work had stepped in. I never met  
11 them, but the letters in my file make it very clear that  
12 **EVI** was very strict, physical violence wasn't  
13 condoned at all by Oban, and they were asking questions.

14 Q. Okay. We'll come back to that a wee bit again in  
15 a moment.

16 You went back to the **EMY-EVI** and you say that you  
17 had to do chores again like you had to, you had to work  
18 on the croft like before --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- but you were older --

21 A. I was physically able to do most of what I was asked to  
22 do.

23 Q. Yes, so you mentioned the involvement of Oban over the  
24 page at page 27 in paragraph 136, where you say that the  
25 social worker from Oban was very critical of the way

1       that Mrs **EVI** handled you?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   But you say that you now know from your file that

4       Douglas Scott had been investigated by the Corporation?

5   A.   Yes, he was investigated and sacked.

6   Q.   Right.  What information were you able to find out about

7       that?

8   A.   Just that somebody had asked a question about me --

9       a lot of my file was redacted, but reading between the

10      lines, I wasn't the only -- the person who made the

11      complaint or the issue with Douglas Scott wasn't just

12      using me as a reference.

13   Q.   Right.  What was the reference to you about?  Was it to

14      do with the time that you spent on Tiree?  Was it --

15   A.   I think it was the overall package.

16   Q.   Okay.  You say that you understand that he'd been

17      personally taking children to Tiree and dropping them

18      off with people who were ill-trained, not vetted?

19   A.   Yeah.  Nobody in Tiree was ... I'm trying to think of

20      the word ... checked out properly if they were -- if

21      they were the right people to foster children.  The fact

22      they had a croft shouldn't even come into it.

23   Q.   Okay.  If we go on over the page, please, to page 28,

24      you say that there was still violence.

25   A.   Yes.

1 Q. And she would still hit you with the bull-halter?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Even although you were older and bigger at this point?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You also talk about you having eczema and her putting

6 some ointment on it and then that would stain the

7 pillows and you would be battered for that?

8 A. Yeah. I say eczema. It wasn't eczema. It's -- I've

9 since checked that out and it's something to do with

10 nerves, it was a nervous condition. Probably the onset

11 of puberty, my skin just went into overdrive. Her

12 answer to that was to shave my head and use a cattle

13 brush to -- to -- I don't know, brush everything else

14 off and then put Polytar liquid on my head, which was

15 yellow and it smelt disgusting and of course it's going

16 to stain bed clothes, which it did, and then she went

17 nuts again.

18 Q. Then you talk about an incident with Mr EMY at

19 paragraph 139 where he hit you, I think, but your view

20 of this --

21 A. It was completely justified.

22 Q. It was to do with mucking about with a gun?

23 A. Yes. One of the other boys -- because the idea was in

24 my head I was going to join the services. We had guns

25 at the house, we had shotguns and a .22 rifle. None of

1 us ever went near them. We did go out shooting with him  
2 for the occasional duck. He'd do the shooting, we'd  
3 pick up the duck and take it home.

4 The other boy was out -- EMY [REDACTED] was at work,  
5 he took it out and was pretending he was a commando.  
6 I asked for a shot of the gun. He said, "Don't be  
7 stupid", so he put it away. I opened it up and  
8 I proceeded to fire a couple of rounds in the air.

9 He told EMY [REDACTED] EMY [REDACTED] slapped me once. I thought my  
10 head had come off my shoulders. But five minutes later  
11 it was -- he apologised and he explained the danger in  
12 firearms, something that [REDACTED] himself had never  
13 explained to me. And after that we were fine.

14 But yeah, completely justified.

15 Q. Then you tell us about another incident I think that  
16 took place on a school bus. I'm not going to go into  
17 the detail of that.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. But you tell us that that's another occasion, at  
20 paragraph 142, where EVI [REDACTED] went ballistic and  
21 leathered you.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Can I say when I was burnt on the cooker, [REDACTED]  
25 sister [REDACTED] confessed to EVI [REDACTED] about an hour later

1       that she had actually taken the orange.

2   Q.   And what did [REDACTED] do?

3   A.   Nothing to her.

4   Q.   Did she apologise to you?

5   A.   No.

6   Q.   You've already told us that you had planned to go to the

7       army and you had your medical for the army and such

8       like.

9   A.   Yeah.

10  Q.   And you left Tiree. I'm right in thinking you left

11       Tiree to join the army?

12  A.   Yeah.

13  Q.   You say that at paragraph 144 that Mrs [REDACTED] made

14       a big show about taking you to the bank and giving you

15       a savings book?

16  A.   Yeah.

17  Q.   Was that the first that you knew that you had any

18       savings in a bank account?

19  A.   Yeah. A fiver. And then she tried to say to me that

20       since she'd been keeping me all my life, providing for

21       me, I should then set up a savings account to give her

22       money.

23  Q.   Right, okay.

24  A.   Needless to say, I never did.

25  Q.   Okay. And then you went to the army, but I want to ask

1       you -- yes, so at page 30, paragraph 148, you say  
2       there -- I'm so sorry, there was this period from when  
3       you were about 15 and you went to the army until you  
4       were 18.  
5   A.   Yes.  
6   Q.   I think you've discovered later in life that although  
7       you'd gone into the army, you were still supposed to  
8       have somebody from the social work department looking  
9       out for you and looking after you essentially?  
10  A.   Yeah. I didn't know in that case. I didn't know at  
11       that time.  
12  Q.   Did you ever see a social worker after you went to the  
13       army?  
14  A.   No, no.  
15  Q.   You then say at paragraph 148 that there was a reference  
16       to a meeting that was held in the social work department  
17       of Glasgow in November 1981?  
18  A.   Yeah.  
19  Q.   During that meeting, they discussed telling you who your  
20       family were and where they were --  
21  A.   Yes.  
22  Q.   -- and the agreement of that meeting was that it would  
23       be done on your 18th birthday?  
24  A.   That's right, by which time I would have been in Cyprus.  
25  Q.   Did anybody ever try to contact you from Glasgow or

1       Strathclyde --

2    A.  No.

3    Q.  -- and tell you --

4    A.  No.

5    Q.  Set up a meeting, give you information --

6    A.  No.  And they didn't do it through the army either.

7    Q.  You told us earlier in your evidence that you were

8       initially told -- or for a long time when you were in

9       care you were told that [REDACTED]

10   A.  [REDACTED]

11   Q.  [REDACTED]

12   [REDACTED]

13   [REDACTED]

14   A.  [REDACTED]

15   Q.  This meeting didn't happen when you were 18?

16   A.  No.

17   Q.  Did you take steps to try to find out more about your

18       family later in life or did somebody contact you?

19   A.  Nobody ever contacted me.

20   Q.  Okay.  So did you carry out your own research to try and

21       find people?

22   A.  Yes.  I've got three children and when my son was --

23       I always said to my son, "We'll go abroad when you're

24       10".  We'd been all over the UK, Haven and things like

25       that, but I said to him, "At 10, you'll have a better

1       idea, you'll have more memories, blah, blah, blah".

2               So I went through life with an adoption certificate.

3       So I went to the hall of records in Edinburgh and there

4       was a nice wee woman who -- I think it was a viewer for

5       things.

6   Q.   The microfiche.

7   A.   Yeah, the microfiche. I explained that I was after

8       a birth certificate. She said, "Go next door, there's

9       a wee slip", I went through and the guy went, "Oh right,

10       no problem at all, give me a minute". So I was with my

11       daughter, I was with one of my daughters, [REDACTED] and he

12       came back with an A3-size envelope with a big court seal

13       on it, "Sealed this day 10 September 1965 by order of

14       the Glasgow Sheriff Court for the attention of

15       Stewart Wilson".

16               And I said to him, "But I'm Stewart Wilson and this

17       has never been -- I've never been advised there was

18       anything for me".

19               I said:

20               "Is there any way of looking at it?"

21               And he said, "I'm going to have to phone to get it

22       unsealed", and he said, "But as soon as I do, I'll open

23       it and you can stand right beside me and we'll photocopy

24       it".

25               He did do that and he then got it sealed again and

1       it went back into the records.

2           Me and my daughter went home. We looked at this and

3       initially I thought I've got an uncle and five aunties.

4       Lots of emotion. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 Q. [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 Q. [REDACTED]

15 A. [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 Q. [REDACTED]

19 A. [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 Q. You mention your mother there. You tell us that you

25       made some enquiries in order to find out about her.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. At paragraph 161 you say that you discovered that she'd  
3 died in Glasgow in 1983 at the age of 34.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And she'd been on medication for depression and --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- you discovered that lots of people that year died  
8 from an accidental overdose of that medication?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So you found this out later in life, so after your  
11 mother had died?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]

17 A. [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]

22 Q. [REDACTED]

23 A. So just process of elimination, we went back to the  
24 family house that we stayed in and I was adopted in was  
25 [REDACTED] which is directly round the corner

1 from [REDACTED]  
2 Q. Where you lived with EZY [REDACTED]  
3 A. Where I lived with EZY [REDACTED]  
4 Q. Okay.  
5 A. [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED] so I found a picture of [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] Then another picture from [REDACTED]. So  
8 I think at the time there must have been 20  
9 [REDACTED] so we sent out emails to about 20 of  
10 them and I got no reply, and then there was a Christmas  
11 I got a reply back from his widow to say the last --  
12 he'd died of a brain tumour. The last eight years of  
13 his life he tried to find me again, but because I'd  
14 disappeared, nobody could. And he'd died six months  
15 previous.  
16 Q. Okay. What are your reflections on the fact that that  
17 happened and you weren't able to see your mother  
18 during -- or know your mother during your childhood and  
19 by the time that you found [REDACTED] he had died?  
20 What are your reflections on that?  
21 A. I've only recently come into possession of a picture of  
22 my mother. My mother had just -- about six months after  
23 giving birth to me, so she's 16. But for 50-odd years  
24 I've been wondering who did I look like? Did I look  
25 like anybody?

1           You've got an idea you've got a mother, but nobody  
2           I was ever placed with or -- as I said earlier on, in my  
3           time in care I was never shown love, compassion or  
4           anything. It was -- most of it was violence. It was  
5           wrong, but if -- I should never have been told -- first  
6           of all, [REDACTED]  
7           [REDACTED] And I should have been given  
8           details -- I know now if you're in care there's  
9           provision put aside for when you either come out of care  
10          or when you're capable of that level of thought, that  
11          yeah, [REDACTED] blah, blah, blah, but  
12          somebody should have made sure that I knew [REDACTED]  
13          [REDACTED] because if they had, even if the social  
14          work had done their job in November 1981 or even when  
15          I was 18, I would have tracked my mother down. I would  
16          have tracked [REDACTED] down. But nobody gave me that  
17          opportunity and that's so wrong.

18       Q. If we can go on, please, to the lessons that you note  
19          should be learned from your experience on page 39.  
20          You'll see these paragraphs are blanked out on the  
21          screen at the top of this page, but I think you talk  
22          there about being disconnected?

23       A. Yeah.

24       Q. [REDACTED]  
25       [REDACTED]

1 A.

2 Q.

3

4 A.

5 Q.

6 A.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15 It is a hard thing to ... to swallow, but I didn't  
16 think there was anything actually wrong with me until  
17 I took the opportunity to see a professional  
18 psychiatrist and the reason I done that -- I don't know  
19 how you want to take this, but I was watching  
20 a Kevin Costner film, Dances with Wolves, have you ever  
21 seen it?

22 Q. A long time ago.

23 A. There's a bit in it, the wolf is obviously following  
24 him, he's riding towards a Sioux village or something  
25 and he stops the horse, gets off the horse and the wolf

1 sort of knocks him off his feet and they play about  
2 a bit. I have seen that film about 200 times but I was  
3 sitting watching it that day and I burst out crying.  
4 And I'm thinking: why?

5 So I ended up going to see a lady who looks like  
6 Judge Judy, which is not -- it's not -- that's  
7 actually -- it's not a criticism. And she was  
8 fantastic. Physically I lived in my head in my frontal  
9 lobe for 54 years and I didn't know it. By doing that,  
10 I couldn't even hug my kids.

11 (Pause)

12 Yes, it probably did make me awkward. But ... not  
13 just the fact I couldn't hug, I couldn't ... I struggle  
14 to give praise, I -- very, very basic things. I'm  
15 a better man now. But my children maintain, "Yeah, dad,  
16 you're a wee bit weird", but I was the most caring and  
17 thoughtful person ... but I can hug now through my ...

18 (Pause)

19 Through my granddaughter.

20 Q. Yes, you mentioned your granddaughter in your statement.

21 LADY SMITH: How old is she now, Stewart?

22 A. Three in [REDACTED]

23 I have another grandchild due in [REDACTED]

24 LADY SMITH: That's wonderful.

25 A. Definitely.

1 LADY SMITH: I don't know whether your lady who looked like  
2 Judge Judy -- I know who you're talking about, not  
3 everybody would know that. I don't know whether she  
4 explained to you that many people who have been through  
5 what you've described about your childhood do find it  
6 difficult to demonstrate love and affection.

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: I've heard that from many people over the years  
9 I've been sitting in this Inquiry.

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: So don't worry about you being the only one.  
12 It happens, I know.

13 A. (Witness nods)

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

15 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

16 I think you say at the end of the paragraph that  
17 we're looking at that one of the issues is there was no  
18 explanation as to how you feel or act in that way.

19 A. No, none.

20 Q. You go on over the page to talk about the stigma  
21 attached to being in care.

22 A. Yeah, very much so.

23 Q. And that you say "boarded outs" is actually a derogatory  
24 term.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Is that right from the term that you were a boarded-out  
2 child, you felt yourself labelled with that?

3 A. I'd actually felt labelled from day 1 in Dundonald. The  
4 only time I wasn't labelled was when I was being put up  
5 for adoption with the [REDACTED] But I didn't fit in with  
6 the [REDACTED]

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. And in my file from my time in care there was  
9 a handwritten letter from Mrs [REDACTED] She says the --  
10 and I don't mean to be derogatory or nasty, but they  
11 were religious people. I was never religious. They  
12 tried everything. We'd go to Bible class and  
13 everything, and I didn't fit in, I'd shout obscenities.  
14 I don't know why. But I didn't fit in to what they  
15 wanted me to be. But there was no punishment, there was  
16 no physical or mental violence, there was nothing. It  
17 was accepted. Just at the end of the day: go back to  
18 where you came from.

19 But it's ... it's got such a big impact that you're  
20 in care, you're automatically -- in my time, you were  
21 already classed as a liar. You were sneaky. You were  
22 devious. Before you even opened your mouth. Different  
23 if you'd been there with siblings, because then you can  
24 bounce off each other, as other family groups were, but  
25 I had nobody to bounce off anything.

1 Q. You say you would get the blame?

2 A. Nine times out of ten.

3 Q. You said that right at the start when you talked about

4 being moved from the [REDACTED] that the impression you

5 were given was it your fault? It had broken down

6 because it was you that was the problem --

7 A. Well, Mr Scott told me that.

8 Q. That attitude, I think you're saying, stayed with you?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. I think in this part where you're talking about lessons

11 to be learned, I guess you would say that a child who is

12 in care shouldn't be treated as a problem --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- or the one who is to blame for what's happened?

15 I think you also talk about children should be listened

16 to.

17 A. Yeah, very much so.

18 Q. Again, from the experience that you told us about of

19 speaking to Mr Scott --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- and that what you said you thought would be treated

22 confidentially and it was immediately reported back.

23 A. Yeah. People made decisions about me and how my life

24 was navigated without even consulting me. I wasn't

25 given -- the only time I was given an option was,

1 "You're going to a List D School, locked up until you're  
2 21, or you go back to Tiree", and I thought: okay,  
3 Tiree. And then that caused chaos at 14 when I done the  
4 army test, because there's also in my file from my time  
5 in care Mrs [REDACTED] was kicking off with the Glasgow  
6 Corporation about the lost money, because she was paid  
7 well to keep me. That I was denying her that money by  
8 leaving at 15.

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. By which time Oban had stepped in and went, "Wind your  
11 neck in", basically.

12 MS INNES: Thank you very much for your evidence, Stewart.

13 Obviously the other things that you say in your  
14 statement that we've not talked about in your oral  
15 evidence today form part of your evidence to the Inquiry  
16 and are taken into account by us --

17 A. Yeah.

18 MS INNES: -- but I don't have any more questions for you  
19 just now. And no applications, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
21 questions?

22 Stewart, that completes the questions we have for  
23 you this afternoon.

24 A. Thank you very much.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much for engaging with us as fully

1       as you have done, both in providing your detailed  
2       written statement --

3   A.   Yeah.

4   LADY SMITH:  -- that has so much helpful information and  
5       evidence in it.

6   A.   Yeah.

7   LADY SMITH:  It's certainly increased my learning and  
8       understanding --

9   A.   Yeah.

10  LADY SMITH:  -- about being boarded out and I understand  
11       exactly what you're saying about the importance of the  
12       difference between boarding out and foster care --

13  A.   Yeah.

14  LADY SMITH:  -- you're not the first person who has  
15       underlined that.

16       Thank you also for your valuable reflections.  They  
17       are carefully thought out, and, if I may say, each one  
18       makes perfect sense given what you've described about  
19       childhood.

20  A.   Yeah.

21  LADY SMITH:  I'm now able to let you go, but please be  
22       assured you've done something that really matters --

23  A.   Thank you very much.

24  LADY SMITH:  -- by coming here to help us.

25  A.   Thank you.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: We've used names during Stewart's evidence: the  
3 [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] other children who were boarded  
4 out, Stewart's own family members, he mentioned quite  
5 a number of their names, for example, [REDACTED] but  
6 there were others. Please do remember that these are  
7 all covered by my general restriction order and are not  
8 to be used outside this room.

9 Stewart's own name, of course, he is content for it  
10 being used because he waived anonymity, but not these  
11 others.

12 Ms Innes?

13 MS INNES: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today.

14 Tomorrow we have three oral witnesses.

15 LADY SMITH: Very well.

16 I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

17 Thank you, all.

18 (3.50 pm)

19 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on  
20 Wednesday, 6 July 2022)

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