

Wednesday, 6 July 2022

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(10.00 am)
LADY SMITH: Good morning. It's the second day this week of oral evidence and, Ms Rattray, I think we have a witness ready for us, yes?

MS RATTRAY: Yes, we do, my Lady.

The first witness this morning is an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Joe'. 'Joe' was in the care of West Lothian County Council. He was placed with the EKR-EKS in West Lothian on [REDACTED] 1971. He lived there until [REDACTED] 1974.

He was in a later foster care placement from [REDACTED] 1980 to [REDACTED] 1981. By this time reorganisation of local government had taken place and the West Lothian division of Lothian Regional Council dealt with Joe's care. West Lothian Council is the relevant successor.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Joe' (affirmed)

LADY SMITH: 'Joe', I don't know how used you are to having to speak into a microphone, but if you can keep in that good position that I think you're in now, that will be really helpful because we need to hear you through the sound system.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: There's a red folder there. That has your
3 written statement in it that you signed and you'll be
4 taken to that in a couple of minutes. You'll also see
5 that we'll bring your statement up on the screens, and
6 as we go to different parts of it, it will go to
7 hopefully the right paragraphs. So you might find it
8 helpful to use the text but you don't have to. They're
9 there if you need to refresh your memory.

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 LADY SMITH: But quite separately from that, 'Joe', please
12 would you understand that I do appreciate it's not easy
13 coming into a public forum to give evidence about your
14 personal life, particularly about difficult, distressing
15 things that happened in childhood. I do know that
16 sometimes people get quite surprised at how their own
17 emotions can take them unawares.

18 I get that and I fully understand you may want
19 a break, you may want to go out of the room for a while,
20 you may just want to pause, or you may be absolutely
21 fine. Everybody has different ways of handling it and
22 I can deal with all of them.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: I just want to assure you that anything that we
25 can do to try and help you give the best evidence you

1 can, we'll endeavour to do that.

2 A. (Witness nods)

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

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

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

8 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

9 Questions from Ms Rattray

10 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, 'Joe'.

11 A. Morning.

12 Q. You've given your statement to the Inquiry and your

13 statement has a reference which we have given it, which

14 is WIT-1-000000678. You'll see that your statement, the

15 first page of it, appears on the screen in front of you.

16 However, to start with I'd like you to look at the

17 hard copy in the red folder, and if you could turn to

18 the back page of your statement in the folder, which is

19 at page 39, I think if you could confirm that you've

20 signed your statement?

21 A. I have, yes.

22 Q. Do you see that the paragraph above your signature,

23 which is numbered 78, you say:

24 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

25 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

3 Is that correct?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Thank you. You can put that to one side just now then.

6 'Joe', what I'm going to do, I'm going to ask you
7 some questions about your statement, and I'll do that in
8 three broad parts.

9 The first part is just some general information,
10 background information, about before you were placed in
11 foster care.

12 The second part will be about your experiences when
13 you were in foster care placements.

14 At the third part we'll move on and I'll ask you
15 about the impact your experiences have had on you and if
16 there are any lessons that we can learn from your
17 experience.

18 At the start of your statement you give us a bit of
19 your background information, 'Joe'. You tell us that
20 you were born in Leith in 1965?

21 A. Correct, yes.

22 Q. Your mum was only 15 when she had you and your
23 understanding is that she put you up for adoption?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. But I think an adoption place wasn't found for you --

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. -- and you tell us that you know from your records that
3 you went straight from the hospital to your first foster
4 family, who you say were Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in
5 Edinburgh?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. I think we understand from your records that this
8 placement was organised through the Church of Scotland?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Perhaps if we turn to page 2 of your statement from
11 paragraph 6, you tell us a little about your experiences
12 with the [REDACTED] You were very young at the time,
13 but do you have any memories of your time at the
14 [REDACTED]?

15 A. Yeah, I have some memories, yeah.

16 Q. Can you tell us about your memories?

17 A. There was a big sister and I was very young. One memory
18 that sticks to me is I was playing in a swing park.
19 Some other kids pushed me off a big swing and my big
20 sister -- shall we say bullied them, for a better word,
21 and basically looked after me. If I'm correct I broke
22 my leg or something, and she carried me back home.

23 Q. When you say about your big sister, this was the
24 daughter of Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. I think you tell us that the [REDACTED] the foster
2 parents, were an older family?

3 A. They were, yeah.

4 Q. What do you remember about them?

5 A. I don't actually have that much memories of the actual
6 parents, apart from -- well, to be honest, I can't
7 actually say for definite. I do remember it was
8 a loving family and that's about it, to be honest.

9 Q. So your memories from there are generally good ones?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. I think you tell us that sadly your foster mum died in
12 1971.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. How old would you have been at that time?

15 A. About five, six.

16 Q. After your foster mum died, you also tell us that your
17 foster sister, who you've spoken about, looked after you
18 for a while.

19 A. Yeah. I know, again through the records, there was --
20 she had other kids. Hence the reason why she couldn't
21 look after me.

22 Q. So she would otherwise have been perhaps a permanent
23 home --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- but she had other children?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You say she had eight other children?

3 A. I can't say for definite, but I know she had kids.

4 Q. Moving from there, you then at paragraph 12 of your
5 statement tell us that you then moved to stay with the
6 **EKR-EKS** family. Whereabouts did the **EKR-EKS** live?

7 A. In Bathgate -- sorry, in Blackburn, West Lothian.

8 Q. What do you remember about that family in terms of who
9 was living in the household?

10 A. In the household there was a mum, a dad and two boys.
11 The two boys -- considering my actual name, there were
12 two boys who had the same names as myself. One was
13 older, one was slightly younger than myself. And the
14 mum was a stay-at-home mum. Dad worked out a lot away.

15 Q. Right. At paragraph 12 you say that you felt that your
16 identity was being taken away from you because of your
17 names and sharing those names.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Can you help to explain that to us?

20 A. I do recall -- I remember a time when the mum was
21 talking to the bigger brother, I was -- shall we say
22 'Joe', which is obviously my name, and then the younger
23 boy, who was 'Joe', he had my middle name. So when she
24 was talking to me, I was 'Joe Bloggs', and that's how it
25 was most of the time.

1 Q. So she would use -- her birth children, she would use
2 their first names to speak with them or to refer to
3 them --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- but she referred to you by both your first name and
6 your surname?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. How did that feel?

9 A. I -- I wasn't conscious of it at the time. Obviously
10 I was aware that I was a foster kid, so I just presumed
11 that that's how it was. As I say, I didn't actually --
12 well, I don't recall feeling awkward at that point.

13 Q. Is it something you've thought about later in life?

14 A. Oh yeah, yeah. Quite a lot.

15 Q. What are your thoughts on that now?

16 A. I just felt my identity was stolen from me. I couldn't
17 be myself because of the boys having my name.

18 Q. And also not just having your name, but the different
19 way in which the foster mother was using your name?

20 A. Yeah, and the fact that there was only sort of a couple
21 of years between us all. We were at school and again
22 everybody was aware of who we were and I was getting
23 called all the names under the sun other than my actual
24 name.

25 Q. So you mentioned being at school. So was being at

1 school a happy experience or from what you're saying it
2 wasn't very happy?

3 A. No. Again, the boys bullied me. My so-called brothers
4 bullied me a lot as well, and having the kids around
5 them supporting them and I didn't have anybody
6 supporting me.

7 Q. It wasn't just your foster brothers bullying you but
8 they had an influence upon other children at school?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. At paragraph 15 of your statement, 'Joe', you start to
11 tell us about a social worker. You mention a social
12 worker called Dylis Wood.

13 What can you tell us about Dylis Wood?

14 A. My impression of Dylis was at that point she was just
15 a young social worker starting out. She was -- what
16 I recall, she was a very nice social worker but looking
17 back on it now, not much experience.

18 But I mean later on in my life she was -- she got
19 more involved with my upbringing as well. But at the
20 time she -- she was -- looking back on it now, I would
21 say an inexperienced social worker.

22 Q. At paragraph 16 I think you talk about what happened
23 when the social worker came to visit.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. What did happen?

1 A. Well, if the parents knew that they were coming, I was
2 cleaned up, I was bathed, I had clean clothes on, the
3 house was tidied up and basically portrayed a loving
4 family. That's if they knew the social worker was
5 coming.

6 Q. So that was -- you know, portraying a loving family was
7 what happened and everyone was cleaned up when the
8 social worker arrived. How was it normally?

9 A. What I recall, it was totally different. I was running
10 about the house in my dirty underwear, if I was wearing
11 anything at all. I don't recall having regular baths.
12 I do recall being shoved into the coal cellar at the
13 back door naked for -- I don't know why. And I do
14 recall having my -- I do recall having my meals put down
15 beside the dog and being forced to eat down beside the
16 dogs.

17 Q. Perhaps at this stage if we move on to paragraph 19 on
18 page 5 of your statement, 'Joe', that's where you tell
19 us about some of the abuse you experienced, you
20 suffered, when you were in the placement. I think at
21 paragraph 19 you mention certain jewellery that your
22 foster mother wore.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Tell us about that.

25 A. Again that was way back in the 1970s and it was big

1 glass rings she had on her hands. I was in the bath and
2 I don't remember exactly how it came about, but she
3 ended up washing me and even today I've got a cut on my
4 groin from that particular night.

5 LADY SMITH: 'Joe', where was the cut?

6 A. On my groin.

7 LADY SMITH: You still have a scar?

8 A. Yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS RATTRAY: You remember that. Can you remember whether
11 she did anything to treat the cut at the time or --

12 A. Apparently it was an accident and she tried to stop
13 the -- or she managed to stop the bleeding, but I wasn't
14 to tell anybody. It was to be our secret.

15 Q. You mentioned something else earlier. I think you tell
16 us about that at paragraph 20 of your statement, 'Joe'.
17 You say that for you personally that family was the
18 worst family of your entire life --

19 A. (Witness nods)

20 Q. -- and you were treated like a dog at times?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Tell us about being treated like a dog.

23 A. Well, as I said, I would have my dinner put into a bowl
24 and I was basically supposed to eat my dinner from the
25 bowl while the rest of the family was sitting at the

1 kitchen table. I was -- I was running about totally
2 naked at times as well. I wasn't allowed to get dressed
3 or anything like that. Just -- it was horrible.

4 Q. The bowl, you mentioned the bowl, when you say they were
5 at the table and you had the bowl, the bowl was actually
6 on the floor?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You go on to tell us about sometimes the family would go
9 away on a day trip and would you go on the day trip too?

10 A. Sometimes. Not other times.

11 Q. What happened when you didn't go?

12 A. I was just left in the house myself.

13 Q. Did that happen often?

14 A. What I recall, yes.

15 Q. You've already told us what you say here, that you have
16 a memory of being naked in the coal cellar at the back
17 of the kitchen, but you don't remember how --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- you got there or why?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. At paragraph 21 you tell us what you've mentioned
22 already about the bullying experience.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And you say that all your toys were taken from you.

25 A. Yeah, what I can recall, yeah.

1 Q. And that the bullying took place at school as well.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. Then the final sentence of paragraph 21 you tell us

4 something that the big brother told you.

5 A. That I wasn't to call mum "mum" or he would batter me.

6 And he did do that in front of his school pals as well.

7 Q. In terms of calling your foster parents mum and dad, was

8 that something that you had wanted to do or something

9 you were told to do, can you remember?

10 A. I feel it's something that I personally would have

11 wanted to do.

12 Q. But the older son of the foster parents didn't like

13 that?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Moving on to paragraph 22 of your statement, 'Joe', you

16 tell us that you have memories of running away.

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. How often did you run away?

19 A. I would say quite a lot. I would run -- at that point

20 there was fields just behind it the house, and I would

21 just probably maybe just hide in there, I mean there was

22 crop or whatever was in the field, or I would go further

23 afield than that, so. I would say I would have run away

24 quite a lot, yeah.

25 Q. Were there any particular events or incidents that led

1 to you running away that you can remember?

2 A. There was one or two occasions where mum and dad would
3 be -- I think I've referred to it in my statement
4 already, where they were having sex and I was standing
5 naked and -- I had to stand and watch them having sex.
6 Next day I have run away, so from that period.

7 Q. Did that type of incident happen --

8 A. Again I would say it happened regular.

9 Q. You also tell us at paragraph 22 that neighbours were
10 aware of you and they used to come out to help look for
11 you.

12 A. Yeah. I mean I do recall going to one neighbour's house
13 on one of the occasions and she was -- she was sweet and
14 she was kind and she did look after me. But obviously
15 I had to end up going back to the family.

16 Q. Do you know whether any of the neighbours reported any
17 of this to perhaps the social work department or anyone
18 else?

19 A. I'm not too sure if I've referred to this in my report,
20 but I know, going through my files, that there was one
21 neighbour who did mention it to the social work.
22 I don't know if she voluntarily gave the information or
23 I think the social worker went looking for information.

24 LADY SMITH: I think if we just go back to paragraph 17 for
25 a moment, that might be what you're talking about at the

1 foot of paragraph 17. You see where you say:

2 "On one occasion the social worker investigated with
3 neighbours and spoke to one of the neighbours."

4 And she said you were regularly being left alone in
5 the house.

6 A. Yeah, that's what I saw.

7 LADY SMITH: You tell me you saw that in your social work
8 records?

9 A. I did see that, yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS RATTRAY: At paragraph 23 on page 6 of your statement,
12 'Joe', you tell us about one particular memory of
13 running away and where you hid.

14 A. Was that when I was hiding in the garage? Yeah.

15 Q. What garage was that?

16 A. That's the family's garage just at the back of the
17 house. It was -- on that occasion I do recall it was
18 sort of late in the year. I was cold, it was wet.
19 I don't know why I ran away on that occasion, but
20 I decided to take shelter and that's where I was, I was
21 in the garage.

22 Q. You say that you overheard your foster dad saying
23 something?

24 A. Yeah. He was standing at the back door and basically he
25 told everybody to, "Stop searching for the little

1 bastard, he'll come home".

2 Q. So he wasn't sounding very concerned?

3 A. No.

4 Q. At paragraph 24 of your statement, you tell us more

5 about the memory that you've mentioned already of being

6 in the house on your own. You tell us that people came

7 to the door, but you weren't allowed to answer the door.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Can you tell us about that?

10 A. One or two occasions it would have been by the postman.

11 The other times there was social workers who came to the

12 door. I went upstairs and looked out the window and saw

13 them walking away from the door and into their car.

14 Q. Who was it that said you weren't to open the door?

15 A. The parents.

16 Q. How were you feeling on those occasions when you were

17 home alone --

18 A. Lonely.

19 Q. -- by yourself?

20 A. Sad. Heartbroken.

21 LADY SMITH: Just to get the age range of your time with

22 these people, you must have been about six years old

23 when you went there?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: And you were there until you were about nine?

1 A. About nine, yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: So you were still a little boy?

3 A. I was.

4 MS RATTRAY: Moving on now to paragraph 25, where you tell
5 us what happened when you left the **EKR-EKS** What do
6 you remember about that?

7 A. My recollection, it was a Friday morning and the social
8 worker, Dylis, showed up unannounced. I was still
9 running about in dirty underwear and vests. And what
10 I recall, the mother of the family made some excuse up
11 why I wasn't at school. By Friday afternoon, I'd been
12 taken away, out of that home.

13 Reading my records, there is a different version of
14 that, so I'm not 100 per cent sure exactly what's what.

15 Q. Then what happened to any belongings you had?

16 A. They were all black bagged, basically black bin bags and
17 just thrown everything in there.

18 Q. That's, I think, an expression you've used elsewhere in
19 your statement about other settings about "black
20 bagged".

21 A. I mean the black bag situation has haunted me throughout
22 my life. Basically just moving from one home to another
23 home to another home, all I had was black bags for my
24 belongings.

25 Q. Bin bags essentially?

1 A. Bin bags, yeah.

2 Q. Did that send you some kind of message about what
3 importance was attached to your belongings?

4 A. They meant nothing. It was just -- just belongings and
5 that's it.

6 Q. You say once again on paragraph 25 that you mention your
7 records and you say that the **EKR-EKS** were told to put
8 photos in with your things for you to take.

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And the social worker had written that there were plenty
11 of photos of the other two boys but hardly any of you.
12 Is that right?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And that she was concerned that you hadn't been at
15 school when she had visited.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. You do mention your records so it might be helpful if we
18 actually looked at some of those records just now,
19 'Joe'.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. If we could turn to another document, which is
22 WLC-000000083, and if we could go to page 5 of that
23 document. If we look at page 5, there's an entry about
24 a third of the way down the page of 27 August 1971, and
25 this is something I think you've referred to in your

1 statement as well.

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. "Called -- no one in, calling card left."

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I think you tell us that you learnt from your records
6 that it seemed to be the social worker was trying to
7 visit on a number of occasions --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- but the door simply wasn't answered?

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 Q. Then I think we see that again immediately below that,
12 on 30 October 1971, and that seems to be the first
13 successful visit after several attempts.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. She says:

16 "After several visits were made to the house
17 I eventually managed to get Mrs EKR and 'Joe' at
18 home today."

19 We see towards the bottom of that entry Mrs EKR
20 requesting several items of clothing:

21 "Which I explained a clothing line would be sent in
22 due course. She also requested that bed clothes be
23 supplied and I questioned whether this would be granted
24 or not but I said I would inform her at a later date and
25 arranged to see her and 'Joe' in approximately four

1 weeks' time."

2 There's some reference to a clothing line being sent
3 and a memo requesting bed clothes.

4 I think in your statement you make a point about the
5 bed clothes. Can you tell us about that?

6 A. I mean I know I did have an issue regarding bed-wetting.
7 To be honest, I can't actually recall exactly about
8 that. But I know there was issues regarding lack of
9 bedding for me.

10 Q. If we turn to page 6 of these notes, which appear to be
11 notes of visits and other notes made by the social
12 worker of the time, we see at the top of the page there
13 is an entry on 22 December 1972, which was a visit, but
14 the social worker didn't see you because you were at
15 school when that social worker was there.

16 Then the next entry at 19 April 1973, once again you
17 aren't there so the social worker there hasn't seen you.

18 LADY SMITH: By that stage, how long is it since the social
19 worker has seen 'Joe'?

20 MS RATTRAY: Well --

21 LADY SMITH: Didn't see him in December, so we're four
22 months on from then.

23 MS RATTRAY: The previous entry was the one we looked at,
24 which was 30 October 1971, which appeared to be the last
25 occasion on which --

1 LADY SMITH: So six months?

2 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Six months this little boy hasn't been seen by
4 the social worker?

5 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS RATTRAY: We see at that entry, going back to that entry
8 on page 6 at 19 April 1973, which is at 19 April --
9 sorry, at the top of the page, there's a home visit:
10 "Situation progressing very much the same. Again
11 did not see 'Joe' as he was at school."
12 But one would have expected the social worker would
13 have been aware of that in advance.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. According to this note:
16 "Mrs EKR talks of 'Joe' with a great deal of
17 affection, although in conversation there is some
18 difficulty since she has a son of her own who is also
19 called [we'll say 'Joe']. She therefore has to refer to
20 'my Joe' and to 'Joe' [and then using your surname].
21 However, there does not appear to be any real problem."
22 Is the view of that social worker. Just to be
23 clear, this is a social worker who pre-dated the social
24 worker you've told us about, Dylis Wood.

25 A. Mm.

1 Q. Then if we move on to an entry at 3 October 1973 about
2 halfway down the page, that once again Mrs EKR is
3 requesting a bedding allowance because you've been
4 enuretic at times.

5 Then we move down to an entry of 6 November 1975 and
6 this appears to be the first occasion that this social
7 worker has met your foster father. It appears that the
8 social worker hasn't met that person before.

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. The comments are that you were there this time, they
11 seem to think the children to be quite a happy bunch,
12 although it says that you tended to sit quietly in
13 a corner.

14 Is that what you remember?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. It goes on to say:

17 "The main problem at the moment appears to be
18 bed-wetting, which is not a regular thing. He on
19 average wets the bed once or twice a week. Mrs EKR
20 finding difficulties now that the weather has changed in
21 washing or changing sheets each day and it's causing her
22 a financial difficulty, she says."

23 At the foot of that it says:

24 "Advised Mrs EKR it is unlikely she'll receive
25 a bedding allowance, but I nevertheless intend to apply

1 for such."

2 That's what that social worker is saying.

3 A. Can I highlight something?

4 Q. Yes, of course.

5 A. I was being accused of bed-wetting, but it wasn't always
6 myself who was doing the bed-wetting. The big brother
7 would come along and relieve himself on top of me. But
8 he knew that it would be me who would get the blame for
9 it.

10 Q. So the big brother, the older son of the foster parents,
11 would come and urinate on your bed?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And on top of you? On you as well?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. When you first told us about that there, you used the
16 word "accused", you were "accused of bed-wetting". Does
17 that reflect at all any memories of you of how your
18 bed-wetting was treated?

19 A. I personally don't recall bed-wetting, personally. It
20 has been -- I know it has been highlighted a few times,
21 but I don't recall actually me physically doing it. As
22 I said, I do recall, for a better word, my brother doing
23 it on me, but I don't actually recall doing it.

24 Q. 'Joe', I'm going to move to the foot of this page. We
25 see that there's a summary dated February 1974. The

1 social worker says:

2 "Have not applied for assistance with bedding and it
3 may now be too late to do so."

4 So we have a social worker who's been asked for help
5 with bedding, says they're going to apply for that
6 allowance and then says, "Well, I haven't done it".

7 A. (Witness nods)

8 Q. Further on it says that apparently you appear to be
9 well, well-integrated with the family:

10 "... although he often has to be referred to as
11 'Joe' plus surname as opposed to 'my Joe', Mrs EKR's
12 own son."

13 It goes on to say some support may soon be necessary
14 from the point of view of your background and
15 self-identification and at this stage we're moving over
16 to page 7 of the record.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. It continues at the top of the page. I think we also
19 see there an entry that this is the point at which the
20 case is then transferred to "D Wood", and I think that's
21 the social worker you've mentioned, Dylis Wood?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Further down this page, near the top of the page,
24 there's an entry of 11 April 1974 which seems to say:

25 "Letter to Mrs EKR apologising for not visiting

1 and arranging home visit on 16 April 1974."

2 I think what we see here is that that visit is
3 announced, it's an announced visit, warning is given.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. The next entry is 16 April 1974, that visit, and it
6 says:

7 "Mrs EKR and all the lads in. The house is well
8 decorated and furnished and Mrs EKR and the lads
9 appear very clean and very well dressed."

10 Does that reflect what you've already told us --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- about preparations made when it was known that
13 a social worker was visiting?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. But from your memories, that wasn't normal life?

16 A. Far from it.

17 Q. In the next paragraph I think we know it's Dylis Wood
18 now goes on to mention certain apparent difficulties
19 that Mrs EKR suggests. I think she's suggesting
20 that it was compulsive stealing, particularly food,
21 which wasn't necessarily eaten but hidden. Do you
22 remember anything about that?

23 A. I would say yeah. I would store food in various places,
24 it's almost when I was running away I had food to eat
25 when I was running away.

1 Q. Okay. And the suggestion is that you'll wet the bed
2 rather than get up to go to the toilet:

3 "It's not a case [she thinks] of him not waking. He
4 has at times gone past the toilet on purpose to urinate
5 into the fireplace of one of the bedrooms."

6 A. From what I recall, that situation is that the fireplace
7 that they're referring to is in the parents' room and
8 I was actually forced to do the toilet there while they
9 were in bed together.

10 Q. When you say you were forced to do that, is it because
11 you had nowhere else to go or because they told you to
12 do that?

13 A. Because they told me to do it. I was standing there
14 totally naked while they were having sex, shall we say,
15 and I wasn't allowed to leave the room.

16 Q. If we move to the next paragraph, we see that
17 Dylis Wood, coming new to this case, has some comments
18 that she makes:

19 "I felt 'Joe' was not seen at all as one of the
20 family. It's an unfortunate and perhaps significant
21 that the **EKR-EKS** child is 'my Joe' and 'Joe' is always
22 referred to as always 'Joe' plus surname. There are
23 plenty of photographs of the **EKR-EKS** boys but none of
24 'Joe'. He is perhaps not withdrawn but certainly
25 appears so within this boisterous extrovert family."

1 So the previous social worker didn't have an issue
2 with the 'my Joe' thing, but there's obviously concern
3 on the part of Dylis Wood?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And she came in and you think she was quite young and
6 inexperienced, but she did spot that there were
7 photographs of everyone else but there weren't
8 photographs of you?

9 A. Correct, yes.

10 Q. And she had concerns about the use of your name?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. If we go to the foot of the page as well, it's still
13 under -- sorry, in fact if we move on -- apologies. If
14 we continue at the second-last paragraph of page 7,
15 Dylis Wood goes on to say:

16 "I suggested that I should meet and talk to 'Joe'
17 and he came into the room. Mrs EKR was not very
18 firm in keeping the other lads out but eventually they
19 were excluded. I then introduced myself to 'Joe' and
20 was dismayed to find him almost immediately bursting
21 into tears. He said this was because I was going to
22 take him away and he gave the reason for thinking that
23 as that Mrs EKR had told him so. As she had earlier
24 denied talking this over with the lad, this only
25 increased my feeling that a great deal of overt

1 rejection was present in this situation. I tried
2 talking to 'Joe' about himself as he'd belonged to
3 another family before and then Mrs EKR interrupted
4 to say that she'd never talked about any of his past
5 life. I felt he was very much in limbo, no history, no
6 future, probably no real sense of identity at all. All
7 the pointers are to a very disturbed backward teenager."

8 So she clearly had concerns about the situation and
9 how that might develop in future for you.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Turning to page 8 of your records and we have a further
12 reflection at the entry of 26 April 1974, the last
13 sentence there where the social worker says:

14 "It was emphasised that my relationship with 'Joe'
15 would be crucial in his adjustment to the next, we
16 hoped, final placement."

17 We will come to it later on, but I think you do tell
18 us later on that this social worker did make some
19 attempts to establish a relationship with you.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. I'll take you to that part of your statement later.

22 The entry here, if we go to the entry of 1 May 1974,
23 and if we turn to the second paragraph of that we have
24 further comments on a visit --

25 LADY SMITH: Just while we're pulling that up, I'm very

1 struck as how these entries are referring to you
2 becoming a teenager, you're approaching adolescence.
3 This is early 1974. You weren't even nine years old.

4 A. No.

5 LADY SMITH: Because I know what month your birthday was.
6 You were not long past your eighth birthday; is that
7 right?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: The records seem to have quite a strong thread
10 of this, which I suppose on the one hand could be
11 applauded as them thinking ahead, but on the other hand
12 showed a failure just to focus on how young you still
13 were at that stage.

14 A. Yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: Mm.

16 I'm sorry, Ms Rattray --

17 MS RATTRAY: Not at all, my Lady, not at all.

18 I'm just looking here, 'Joe', at the entry in the
19 middle of the page of 1 May 1974, the second paragraph,
20 which says:

21 "The three kids were playing upstairs and
22 I suggested to **EKR** that I must get to know 'Joe' well
23 and that I could therefore see him and should I go
24 upstairs and join in their play. She said no and
25 brought the kids down, so we had another rather stilted

1 conversation, with EKR telling her own two lads to
2 shut up because I had come to see 'Joe', not them.
3 'Joe' was obviously very shy at being singled out in
4 this way."

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. I think maybe we see an attempt once again of the social
7 worker to try and get to know you --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- and just to perhaps get down to the child's level and
10 play, but when she asked to do that, the foster mother
11 said no.

12 A. I mean I would say that happened on -- not just with
13 this social worker, but it happened as quite a regular
14 occurrence, I wasn't allowed to interact with other
15 adults.

16 Q. Right. Moving to the entry of 22 May 1974, which
17 I think is towards the foot of the page, and I think
18 it's another visit:

19 EKR greeted me with, 'You'll have to move 'Joe',
20 he's been terrible recently'. He'd stayed out the
21 evening of 7 May from 5 pm until 11.15 pm and after
22 a lot of shouting EKR had discovered him hiding behind
23 the garage of the next-door neighbour."

24 Is this a reference to what you've already told us?

25 A. I would say that must have been a different occasion,

1 because what I do recall when I was hiding in the
2 garage, it was raining outside, it was cold, it was
3 dark. I mean, that could be the same occasion, but not
4 what I recall.

5 Q. It may well have been there has been more than one
6 occasion when you went to hide behind a garage?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. If we turn to page 9 of the records and if we go towards
9 the bottom half of that page there's an entry of
10 29 May 1974. I think this is a reference that you've
11 mentioned previously in your evidence:

12 "Discussion with [a named person] whose mother lives
13 next door to Mrs EKR On Saturday Mrs EKR had
14 arranged to take her two sons to Glasgow shopping and
15 had to arrange something for 'Joe'."

16 So it appeared that you weren't going to be going
17 shopping.

18 A. No.

19 Q. "She tried each next door neighbour, one said they
20 couldn't manage as they were all going out to Bo'ness,
21 but on Mrs EKR saying she'd have to leave 'Joe' on
22 his own, they agreed to take 'Joe' with them to Bo'ness.
23 The neighbour commented that it's fairly frequent for
24 'Joe' to be left unattended."

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. This is a note of what you have already told us, that
2 you remember that some day trips you might have gone but
3 on others --

4 A. Most of them I wouldn't go.

5 Q. -- you didnt and you were left on the house on your own?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. There seems to be other mention of that in the records.
8 At page 10 --

9 LADY SMITH: What if one of these occasions when the family
10 went off on a trip of some sort on their own and you
11 were left in the house it extended over a meal time,
12 what did you do?

13 A. Nothing.

14 LADY SMITH: Was there any food left for you?

15 A. No. Not what I can recall.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
17 Ms Rattray.

18 MS RATTRAY: Moving to page 10 of the record, and halfway
19 down the page there's an entry of 10 July 1974 and
20 underneath that there are two entries that say "Later".
21 At the second "Later" there's talk of the social worker
22 taking you on a trip to the zoo.

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 Q. It says:
25 "'Joe' and I went off to the zoo."

1 At the end of that longer paragraph -- before that,
2 there is mention about food and you seemed to be
3 starving and you were very hungry and you'd only had
4 a bowl of soup. Then the social worker says:

5 "I'm not sure whether 'Joe' doesn't find the biggest
6 treat having something to eat rather than any trip."

7 What's your memories of that?

8 A. Any trips I went on, I always made sure that I had
9 something to eat from the social worker. Didn't matter
10 who the social worker was, I always managed to get food
11 out of them, because I wasn't getting fed in the house.
12 Or if I was given food, I was basically limited what
13 I was having. I knew, as young as I was, basically
14 I could twist the social workers around my little finger
15 to get food.

16 Q. Is that a reflection that there were times in the foster
17 home that you were hungry?

18 A. Oh yeah. I mean, as I said, what I recall, the food for
19 me was limited. I only got what was left after the
20 family had eaten at times.

21 Q. If we move finally on this record to page 11 and at the
22 foot of the page there there's an entry dated
23 7 July 1974, about the last third of that page, and
24 underneath that it says "Later":

25 "Home visit to tell Mrs. EKR I couldn't call

1 Wednesday so would call Thursday to take 'Joe' to the
2 zoo."

3 So it looks like another zoo trip has been arranged.
4 Then there's an entry about a Mr Sperber, who I think
5 was a psychologist you were perhaps seeing at that time
6 and he's doing a psychological report and wanted to
7 arrange an appointment. And the social worker said that
8 she would let Mr EKS know.

9 Then we have an entry of 4 July 1974:

10 "Home visit. I waited from 10.15 to 10.45 but there
11 was no sign of the EKR-EKS or of 'Joe'. I put a note
12 through the door asking what had happened, saying that
13 I was annoyed as letting 'Joe' down over the visit to
14 the zoo and saying there was an appointment for him that
15 afternoon with [the psychologist]."

16 Then the next entry is an entry of 5 July 1974:

17 "Rang [the psychologist]. 'Joe' and Mrs EKR did
18 not turn up. I explained what had happened and said
19 I didn't know the situation."

20 Is that something you can help us with at all? Do
21 you remember being promised a visit and it not
22 happening?

23 A. I was promised quite a lot of visits and most of them
24 didn't happen. I mean, that's -- that particular issue
25 is not just with that particular family, that's been

1 throughout my life, basically.

2 Q. Really? Okay.

3 'Joe', I'm going to go back to your statement now
4 and you've told us about you then left the [REDACTED] and
5 we know from your statement that you then moved to
6 Wallhouse Children's Home in Torphichen, and although
7 we're not looking at the detail of that today, because
8 today we're focusing on foster care, there is reference
9 on page 10 of your statement -- the statement itself
10 will not tell us very much, because it's redacted
11 because we're not looking at that section, but what
12 I want to take out of that is at paragraph 38 you do
13 tell us when you were here at Wallhouse you had to go
14 into the office and "strip off for them to see the marks
15 on my body and Margaret [the worker there] did her best
16 to protect my modesty. There were a lot of marks on my
17 body from the [REDACTED] family so they had to record the
18 marks".

19 What marks are you referring to and how did those
20 marks --

21 A. Well, one of the marks that they were, shall we say,
22 interested in was the one I referred to, was the groin,
23 but I was also covered in bruises.

24 Q. How did you get those bruises?

25 A. Living in the house. Simple as that. The brothers

1 would batter me. I was hurt by the mum and dad
2 occasionally. Just basically living in the house.

3 Q. You have spoken about the brothers and you say that you
4 were hurt by the mum and dad occasionally. What did
5 they do to hurt you?

6 A. Slapped me. I do recall getting my hair pulled on
7 occasions. Just -- looking back on it now, I would say
8 totally abused me.

9 Q. How often did that happen, do you remember?

10 A. Fairly regular.

11 Q. Was it every day? Was it every week or once a month?

12 A. Definitely every week.

13 Q. In your statement you tell us that you were at Wallhouse
14 Children's Home and then you moved to an Abelour family
15 unit in Cumbernauld. I'm going to take you to page 23
16 of your statement, paragraph -- at some stage in your
17 statement the numbering has gone a bit awry, because
18 we're now back starting from 1 onwards. Although we're
19 at page 23 of your statement, you can see we have lower
20 numbering of paragraphs.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. At paragraph 7 you mention Dylis Wood again. We've
23 heard from the records that she was talking about
24 building a relationship with you and so forth and
25 Dylis Wood came back into your life. What happened

1 then?

2 A. It was deemed that I should have had a respectable,
3 responsible adult in my life and Dylis stepped up and
4 became that person.

5 She basically became my guardian, in a sense. She
6 took me on trips. She -- basically, looking back on it,
7 what I would say is a possible sort of mother figure for
8 me.

9 Q. I think you tell her that she also brought her husband
10 on board so that you had a family to go to --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- and you describe that as being a wonderful period of
13 time for you?

14 A. It was, yeah. To be honest, I'm actually Dylis's two
15 kids' godfather, although I've lost touch with them all
16 now, but I was there when her two kids were born as
17 well.

18 Q. At this stage, 'Joe', we're going to move to another
19 foster placement, so if we turn to page 27 of your
20 statement, you speak about you were at the Abelour
21 family unit in Cumbernauld and you were leaving there.
22 At paragraph 24 you say that you were moved on to
23 another family, who were the [REDACTED] in Livingston,
24 and you moved there in [REDACTED] 1980. What was the
25 [REDACTED] family like?

1 A. I would say at that point they were a pretty loving
2 family. They were close and I was taken into the
3 family, as I would expect anybody to be taken into --
4 there was a mum and dad, big sister. I would have been
5 the next oldest one, I had a sister and a little
6 brother, possibly two little brothers, and a wee sister,
7 and we were really close.

8 Q. What about the house you were living in with the
9 [REDACTED] what was that like?

10 A. I was -- it was a nice family home. A bit of a mess,
11 but a bit of a mess with all of the kids' stuff lying;
12 about. It was clean. It was a loving house.

13 Q. Whereabouts did you sleep? Did you have your own room
14 or share a room or --

15 A. I shared it with my brother. We were in bunk beds and
16 our room was full of boys' toys. In my opinion there
17 was -- I enjoyed that period.

18 LADY SMITH: Do you remember what the toys were?

19 A. Action Men, Action Men's tanks, helicopters, stuff like
20 that.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS RATTRAY: At paragraph 27 you say the [REDACTED] were
23 a typical family. What do you mean by that? In what
24 way did you think they were typical.

25 A. It was clear that the mum and dad loved their kids,

1 their kids loved them, they respected each other. Big
2 sister was a bit mouthy to my mum and dad, but they
3 managed -- they can control that. My little brother and
4 sisters were just in and out of everybody's houses.
5 They had a fence brought in. We ate our dinner wherever
6 we could eat our dinner. It was just fun.

7 Q. You mentioned at paragraph 29 that there was at one
8 stage a plan to adopt you, but then that didn't happen.
9 Can you tell us what happened?

10 A. Yeah. As I said it was a loving family but my little
11 sister was round about the same age as myself, what
12 I recall, and it was starting to get where she -- it
13 appeared that I was taking the limelight away from her
14 and she was getting a wee bit jealous and things started
15 to go wrong from that point. Basically money was going
16 from purses, food was going missing, and I seemed to be
17 getting the blame all the time about it.

18 We are discussing -- I do recall this. We were
19 discussing being fostered -- sorry, not fostered,
20 adopted, because the dad had a job over in South Africa
21 and the only way I was going to remain with the family
22 was if I was adopted to move with them and I was more
23 than happy to go with them.

24 Q. But you then mention money going missing from a purse
25 and you were accused of stealing the money and you tell

1 us from that point on you didn't feel safe in the house
2 and so you called a halt to the adoption?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. And then you were moved at your own request?

5 A. Yeah. I suppose I was going back to how I was treated
6 with the EKR-EKS I didn't want to go down that road
7 again.

8 Q. I think you say that it was later discovered that it was
9 the sister --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- your age who had taken the money and she was rather
12 jealous, she was getting jealous?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You say she won. That was how you felt at the time.
15 And you say:

16 "I think my upbringing was such that I didn't
17 believe I belonged to a family, families weren't for me
18 and I deserved to be in care."

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. Can you help us to understand your feelings there?

21 A. Well, I'd been -- obviously that's me being in three
22 families at that point and two of them failed and
23 I couldn't understand why it failed. I just had to put
24 it down to it was me who wasn't designed to fit in
25 a family. And there's no -- there wasn't anything else

1 for it, but to go into care.

2 Q. So you were left feeling that there was something wrong

3 with you, that you were in some way at fault --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- rather than there being any fault or something wrong

6 with those who were supposed to be taking care of you?

7 A. Yeah. I mean it doesn't help the fact that throughout

8 my childhood I had "mongol" followed me, that was

9 declared in the paperwork ... but all the documents said

10 the word "mongol" or "spastic" in my paperwork, and

11 I had to -- I look back now, I'm sure that had a massive

12 impact on how things were for me as well.

13 Q. If I understand the position correctly from your

14 records -- and please correct me if I'm wrong -- I think

15 there might be reference to your mother, who was young

16 at the time, there were complications in her birth and

17 I think forceps had to be used?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And you might have been injured as a baby?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. As a newborn baby, but then these words, "mongol" and

22 "spastic", were being used in your records?

23 A. Yeah, on a regular basis.

24 Q. What do you think of those words?

25 A. Well, I think it was -- sorry -- I think they are

1 actually disgusting, personally. I've -- as I said,
2 I genuinely believe having them on my records has made
3 a massive impact on my -- on my life. I mean, I know --
4 we're not discussing that, but I know there was talk of
5 me -- that I couldn't be fostered because of them
6 phrases.

7 Q. I think from your records at the outset the suggestion
8 is they couldn't find prospective adopters --

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. -- because they were using those kind of words.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 Q. And they've kind of haunted your life?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. In fact, you do tell us about that later on in your
15 statement and we'll turn to that now in relation to
16 impact.

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. Going to that third section that I spoke about at the
19 start, 'Joe'.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. If we could turn to page 36 of your statement, here you
22 speak about the impact your experiences in care have had
23 upon you during your life.

24 At paragraph 64 you explain -- are there any issues
25 about your memories of the foster care placements that

1 you're telling us about here?

2 A. I mean, when I made this statement, I wasn't -- I didn't
3 have my full records, so these were just from the top of
4 my head and I feel they were -- I wasn't 100 per cent
5 sure if they were accurate or not. And I actually
6 thought it was just stories that I was coming up with,
7 that I made up for myself just to make me feel better.

8 But looking back throughout my records now, I accept
9 that my experiences that I've talked about are accurate,
10 even though it's not recorded.

11 Q. If I understand what you're saying, you had certain
12 memories and you were almost doubting your own
13 memories --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- but then you read your records and you thought: no,
16 there's truth in your memory?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. At paragraph 65, with some exceptions of people who have
19 been significant in your life in care, including
20 Dylis Wood, the social worker, you say that you've had
21 no one to guide you through life. Can you tell us about
22 that?

23 A. Well, I mean I'm a father now myself and I spent my
24 early days as being a father guiding my son to play
25 football, to do father and son things. I was never

1 given that opportunity. I was never taught how to
2 shave. I was never taught how to play football. I was
3 never -- I didn't have a mother to show love either way.
4 That does -- that has had an impact on my adulthood as
5 well. I can find love but I can't hold onto love,
6 because I don't know how to do it.

7 Q. I know you mentioned your wife and you say that today
8 you cannot fault your wife. You found her and she is
9 the rock of your life?

10 A. She is, yeah, yeah. I mean, it helps the fact that
11 I can talk to her because she works in care herself now.
12 In fact, she actually works in sort of the same
13 environment that we referred to and she can understand
14 where I'm coming from, and as far as she's concerned
15 things have not changed from -- sorry. Things haven't
16 changed from when I was in care to how she's got to do
17 it. It's not because she doesn't want to change it; the
18 system doesn't allow it. And that's pretty hard to
19 handle.

20 Q. Moving to paragraph 66 of your statement, 'Joe', you
21 mention about friendship and that you don't have any
22 childhood friends. You say that you know that not
23 everyone has childhood friends, but you never had the
24 opportunity to have childhood friends.

25 A. I can change that slightly now, because I have got a --

1 I've found a friend on Facebook from my time when I was
2 in Cumbernauld, we were chatting(?), but in general, no.
3 It's a horrible thought where ... looking around at
4 people that I know, they can go out with their childhood
5 friends, they can talk about their past, they can laugh
6 about falling off their bikes when they were trying to
7 go or that time when they went on school trips. I don't
8 have that pleasure. I don't -- I can only go with the
9 memories that I've got and I can't share it with
10 anybody.

11 Q. You don't have any childhood shared memories that you
12 can reflect on?

13 A. No. Not that I -- not memories that I would openly talk
14 about. Nothing to give me a smile in my soul.

15 Q. At paragraph 67 you tell us about your own job and you
16 come back to the issue of the black bin bags. Tell us
17 what happened here.

18 A. Well, I am a care worker with a care company and on this
19 occasion that we refer to here, I had to pack up
20 an elderly man's belongings because he was going into
21 a care home, and I was told by my manager to just black
22 bag him. That's one thing -- that's one thing I told
23 him I would never ever do. I would never ever black bag
24 anybody, and I had to explain why, and I was actually
25 given money to go and buy a couple of cases, because

1 there was no way I was ever going to black bag him.

2 Q. So it's a practice that continues in care settings?

3 A. Yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: What happened? Did somebody produce a bag --

5 A. I was given allowance to go and buy a couple of cases.

6 LADY SMITH: Good. Thank you.

7 MS RATTRAY: Moving to the question of records, 'Joe', we've

8 looked at some of your records but at paragraphs 72 and

9 73 you tell us that you recovered records on two

10 separate occasions and you noticed that they contained

11 different information and that the redactions were

12 different. Tell us about that.

13 A. Well, the first files that I got was one of -- roughly

14 maybe about 50 pages and nothing was marked out on them,

15 on them pages. All the names were visible, locations,

16 everything. Then I realised there must have been more

17 paperwork considering I've been in care all my life, so

18 I reapplied and I got massive paperwork back and almost

19 every single name was removed. I mean, I'm still trying

20 to work out why I can manage to get one paperwork with

21 names and dates and that there, and other paperwork

22 everything was removed.

23 Q. At paragraph 74 you make the point that you've already

24 told us about, that in your records you were classified

25 as mongol at birth and you take issue obviously with the

1 terms and the language that was used of mongol and
2 spastic in your records.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. And that's been there throughout and that's impacted
5 upon perhaps decisions that were made in relation to
6 care?

7 A. Yeah. I mean even when I was -- I think maybe round
8 about 15 in my paperwork I was still classified as
9 a child with mongol features. I mean I think I can --
10 I think anybody in here can see I don't have mongol
11 features, but for some reason or other back then I did
12 have. I don't understand how they can come out with
13 that.

14 Q. At paragraph 75, when asked about lessons to be learned,
15 I think you make mention that children need someone to
16 trust and to open up to.

17 A. Mm.

18 I mean every child is an individual. We all need
19 someone to turn to. I didn't have that person when
20 I was growing up. Whether it's just for a little cuddle
21 or even a big hug or (unclear), you need someone to tell
22 them the least stupidest little thing. You also need
23 someone to show you the way in life. You need someone
24 to show you how to love people, and I didn't have that.

25 Q. We speak about referring to a social worker as being

1 people that you could speak to, but do you have in mind
2 someone other than a social worker that could be
3 a person that a child would be able to open up to and
4 speak to and provide guidance, perhaps?

5 A. I've -- when it comes to social workers, I've -- I --
6 sorry. In my role in life at the moment, I'm a care
7 worker and my outlook on life with individuals is yes,
8 I've got rules and regulations that I've got to follow,
9 but I'm working with individuals and so rules are not --
10 are not broken, but they're not, shall we say, rigid.
11 Whereas social workers, I feel, they've got -- their
12 rules are too rigid and they will never cross the line.
13 Even today I deal with social workers in my role and
14 things have to be set to stone.

15 We are dealing with individual people. We are
16 dealing with individual lives and they have got their
17 own feelings, their own thoughts. Get them to tell you
18 what they want.

19 Q. Turning to the last matter I'm going to ask you about,
20 'Joe', and that's in relation to photographs of you
21 during your childhood. Tell us about the importance of
22 photographs.

23 A. I have only got two photographs of my childhood, and one
24 I'm actually hidden behind a pillar with a bunch of
25 other kids in front of me. The other one is actually

1 with the [REDACTED] For a 55-year-old guy, having two
2 photographs of my childhood, that's a disgrace.

3 I know that there was photographs previously but
4 because of other children in homes or care settings
5 I lost them all. As I say, a 55-year-old guy having two
6 photographs, it's horrible.

7 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, 'Joe'. That concludes my questions
8 for you.

9 My Lady, I'm not aware of any applications for
10 questions.

11 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
12 questions?

13 'Joe', I can confirm that completes all the
14 questions we have for you this morning but I don't want
15 you to go without my thanking you so much for your
16 engagement with the Inquiry, both for your detailed
17 written statement, which of course I've read and is part
18 of your evidence, but you've made so much come alive
19 this morning by talking to us as openly and frankly as
20 you can, and what you've described must have been tough
21 to face up to talking about. I fully understand that.
22 But doing it has added real value to the work we're
23 doing here and I hope you go away realising you've done
24 that, you've contributed something important. I'm
25 really grateful to you.

1 A. My pleasure.

2 LADY SMITH: Do go and I hope the rest of the day's a bit
3 more restful than we've made the morning for you. Thank
4 you.

5 A. Thank you.

6 (The witness withdrew)

7 LADY SMITH: We've used some names during Joe's evidence,
8 including the [REDACTED] the EKR-EKS members of their
9 families, the applicant's own name at one point, and the
10 [REDACTED] family. They of course are covered by my
11 general restriction order and they're not to be
12 identified outside this room.

13 I think it's now time for the morning break, yes,
14 Ms Rattray?

15 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. The next oral witness is
16 scheduled for 11.45.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. We'll take the break now.
18 (11.26 am)

19 (A short break)

20 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

21 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we have another oral witness and the
22 oral witness is an applicant who wishes to remain
23 anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Anthea'.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS RATTRAY: 'Anthea' was in the care of Dundee Corporation,

1 then Tayside Regional Council, and she was boarded out
2 by them with foster carers, the FJH/FJI in Fife on
3 ██████████ 1975.

4 She lived there until she was removed on
5 ██████████ 1981. However, it's understood that the
6 predecessors of Dundee City Council maintained
7 responsibility for her placement and for the carers,
8 accordingly Dundee City Council is the responsible
9 authority.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 Could we try to bring the temperature down a little?

12 It's suddenly got much warmer. Thank you.

13 'Anthea' (affirmed)

14 LADY SMITH: 'Anthea', I don't know how used you are to
15 microphones, but we require to hear you through the
16 sound system, if you can stay in a good position for the
17 microphone. You don't need to be too close to it.

18 A. Is that okay?

19 LADY SMITH: That's great, yes, thank you.

20 You'll see there's a red folder there. That has
21 your written statement in it that you signed and you'll
22 be taken to that in a minute or two. We'll also bring
23 your statement up on screen, you'll see the beginning of
24 it is now there, and go to the different parts of it
25 that we want to ask you about in the course of your

1 evidence. You might find it helpful to have that text
2 in front of you. You don't have to look at it, but it's
3 there if it would be useful to you.

4 A. Yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: But 'Anthea', quite separately from that,
6 I want to begin by assuring you that I know we're asking
7 you to do something quite difficult and challenging,
8 coming into public and talking about your own personal
9 life and in particular the difficulties in your life as
10 a child. I wouldn't be at all surprised if you find
11 that at times your emotions do take you aback. That's
12 absolutely okay.

13 A. (Witness nods)

14 LADY SMITH: If you want a break or just want to pause,
15 anything that would help you, just let me know, let us
16 know, and we'll do what we can to ease the pathway of
17 you giving your evidence so that you can give the best
18 evidence possible.

19 If it works for you, it works for me, whatever it
20 is.

21 A. Okay.

22 LADY SMITH: That's the key, okay?

23 A. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Rattray
25 and she'll take it from there. All right?

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 Questions from Ms Rattray

4 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, 'Anthea'.

5 A. Good morning.

6 Q. 'Anthea', you have signed a statement for the Inquiry
7 and I'm going to give that statement a reference, which
8 is WIT.001.001.9399. You'll see that that will appear
9 on the screen in front of you.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. First of all, I'd like to take you to the paper copy,
12 which is in that red folder beside you. I'm going to
13 ask you to go to the back page, the final page of your
14 statement, which is page 28 of your statement.

15 A. Do you know what, I've not brought my glasses through.

16 Q. I will read it. All I want to do is to check with you,
17 'Anthea', whether you have in fact signed your
18 statement.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Yes, you have signed your statement. You say at
21 paragraph 180 above the signature that you have no
22 objection to your witness statement being published as
23 part of the evidence to the Inquiry and you believe the
24 facts stated in your witness statement are true.

25 A. Yes, that's true.

1 Q. That's fine. You can put that to one side.

2 A. Right.

3 Q. If you want to use that paper copy that's fine, but

4 otherwise your statement will appear on the screen.

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: 'Anthea', can you read the screen without your

7 glasses? If not, we can get them for you.

8 A. I probably need them, yeah, is it okay if I go and get

9 them, please?

10 LADY SMITH: You can go and get them or would you like our

11 people to get them for you? You probably know where

12 they are better.

13 A. They're just in my bag.

14 LADY SMITH: Are you okay with us going into your bag?

15 A. Yeah.

16 LADY SMITH: Right, okay, thanks.

17 We'll get those and we'll just make a little

18 progress meantime with one or two straightforward

19 matters.

20 MS RATTRAY: Yes. At this point, 'Anthea', I'm going to ask

21 you questions about your statement in three broad parts.

22 The first part is just a little bit of background

23 information about you.

24 The second part is about your experiences in foster

25 care.

1 The third part is matters about the impact your
2 experiences have had upon you and any lessons that we
3 can learn from you and your experiences.

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 Q. Perhaps you can get your glasses now and then we'll
6 continue.

7 A. Thank you.

8 Q. Just in the first part, which is some general
9 background, which I'll really summarise from what you
10 tell us in your statement, is that you tell us that you
11 were born in 1966?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you have two sisters and a brother?

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 Q. And one sister is older than you and then you have
16 a sister and brother who are younger than you; is that
17 right?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. In terms of memories of going into care, I think from
20 paragraph 7 of your statement on page 2 you say that you
21 remember being taken to the Children's Shelter in
22 Dundee?

23 A. Yeah, Paradise Road, yeah.

24 Q. Is there anything in particular you remember about that?

25 A. I just remember lots of younger babies in it, that's all

1 my memory of. But I remember as well getting a bath.

2 That's probably the significant things I remember.

3 Q. Turning to page 3 of your statement and paragraph 11,
4 after the Children's Shelter I think you were initially
5 placed in a foster care placement, you tell us, with the

6

7 We don't have their name from records that we've
8 looked at, it does look as though this was possibly from
9 [REDACTED] 1974 to [REDACTED] 1975, we think from the
10 records, anyway.

11 A. Yeah. Probably that was the dates, but I'm not really
12 sure, but it was in [REDACTED] and I went to school there
13 and [REDACTED] was the name of the school. That's what
14 I remember.

15 Q. What do you remember generally about your experience
16 with the [REDACTED]?

17 A. Well, I was there at that time with my older sister and
18 we were treated like ... princesses. She used to make
19 us clothes and just ... they were really good to us.

20 Q. They were kind people?

21 A. Mm.

22 Q. I think you say that they used to buy you things and
23 they treated you and your older sister like their own?

24 A. Yeah. Definitely.

25 Q. She used to make dresses, as you say.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You refer to the older girls. So did the [REDACTED] have
3 children themselves?

4 A. Yeah, they had two -- I think two older daughters and
5 one younger. I remember one of their names was [REDACTED]
6 and the younger one was [REDACTED].

7 Q. I think you tell us that the older girls took you
8 everywhere.

9 A. Yeah, yeah, they were really good. It was like
10 a family. Everywhere they went, we went with them.

11 Q. You tell us you have memories of your younger sister and
12 brother coming to visit you at the [REDACTED]?

13 A. That's right, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] used to come over and visit
14 us there.

15 Q. Obviously we know that -- and you tell us in your
16 statement at paragraph 20 that the [REDACTED] were
17 short-term foster carers, so you had to leave them.

18 A. (Witness nods)

19 Q. How did you feel about leaving the [REDACTED]?

20 A. Probably excited to be with my brother and sister, but
21 I -- but I would think -- because I knew that we were
22 going to be with them again, but probably at the time
23 thinking, "Oh, another nice place and we will be with
24 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]."

25 Q. As you say, your younger brother and sister had gone to

1 a new foster family and you tell us that that was the
2 FJH/FJI

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. You say although you were sad at leaving the [REDACTED]
5 you were also excited, as you say, about seeing your
6 younger brother and sister again?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. What do you remember about moving from the [REDACTED] to
9 FJH/FJI?

10 A. Moving to a farmhouse. Just remember ... treated like
11 a slave, probably.

12 Q. This is --

13 A. The dirt road -- that's right, a mile up the house. The
14 house was -- you had the road end and you used to go up
15 to the farm, that was like about a dirt track right up
16 to the farmhouse and there was like fields and cows and
17 that.

18 Q. Yes. I think you tell us that FJH/FJI lived on a farm --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- in Cupar in Fife?

21 A. [REDACTED] It was outside -- it
22 wasn't really in Cupar, it was [REDACTED] so it was going
23 towards Newgilston and things. It was like country
24 roads.

25 Q. So it was a rural setting?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Cupar's a country town. Cupar itself is
3 a country town, and [REDACTED] that's [REDACTED] you're
4 talking about?

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: That's just a wee village not far from Cupar,
7 isn't it?

8 A. Yeah.

9 MS RATTRAY: What was the layout of the house like inside?

10 A. So as you went in the front door, you had a bedroom to
11 your left and then it was like a porch, bedroom to your
12 left, a lounge to your right, a bathroom kind of to the
13 left beside the bedroom. And then you went up the
14 stairs, there was one bedroom on the left, one bedroom
15 on the right, and another bedroom before you got to the
16 one on the right. And then in the lounge you went
17 through and there was a kitchen, you went through the
18 lounge and then off of that was a kitchen.

19 Q. You describe a lot of bedrooms. How many people were
20 living in the house and who were the people in the
21 house?

22 A. They had four children of their own. FJG [REDACTED] FJK [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] and then a younger -- she was quite young,
24 a lot younger than us, which was [REDACTED] So they had
25 four of their own family.

1 Q. With the exception of [REDACTED] were they all older than
2 you?

3 A. Yeah, they were all older.

4 Q. Can you remember how much older?

5 A. Not really.

6 Q. At the time you say at paragraph 27 that one of the
7 children of the foster carers, FJG [REDACTED] that she was
8 a good bit older because she left home?

9 A. Yeah. She went to join the army.

10 Q. Right, okay. What about the foster carers? How old
11 were they?

12 A. I looked at them as being old, but I'm not really
13 actually sure of their ages at the time. I wouldn't
14 even know how old the mother is now either.

15 LADY SMITH: Just going back to the number of children,
16 there were four of you from your family.

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: Your older sister who had been in the previous
19 home with you and then your two younger siblings who'd
20 been in a foster home somewhere else? Was that right?

21 A. Before we went into care, yeah, yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: Then the four of you were brought together?

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: And you went to this house, FJH/FJI [REDACTED] and
25 they already had four children living there?

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: So there were eight of you altogether?

3 A. Yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: All right, thank you.

5 MS RATTRAY: You mentioned I think that there were two boys
6 and two girls in [FJH/FJI] family. The older girl was
7 a good bit older because she'd effectively left home, so
8 she was grown up?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You talked about the younger girl being younger than
11 you. What about the two boys you tell us are [FJK]
12 and [REDACTED] how old were they when you arrived?

13 A. Well, they were at school but they were at secondary
14 school because we were at primary school and they would
15 have been in the secondary school, which -- aye, so ...
16 ages is something I'm not really looking at, I'm just
17 looking at the schooling, but we were at the primary
18 school and they were -- they went to the secondary
19 school. So they would have been a bit older.

20 Q. You've already told us that you were born in 1966 and we
21 know that you arrived at [FJH/FJI] in [REDACTED] 1975, so
22 you would have been probably about eight?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. Eight going on nine or something like that? That age?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. At paragraph 30 of your statement, 'Anthea', you tell us
2 a little about the sleeping arrangements. Where did
3 everyone sleep?

4 A. FJK, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the left-hand room up
5 the stair. And then myself, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were in the
6 right-hand room. In the wee room it used to be [REDACTED]
7 and FJG [REDACTED] that shared that room. And then down the
8 stairs in the bedroom down the stairs was the mum and
9 the dad's room.

10 Q. Just to be clear, because we obviously have two people
11 with the same name here.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So essentially you were sharing with your sisters?

14 A. I've got a sister [REDACTED] as well.

15 Q. Yes. And FJG [REDACTED] she was sharing with her
16 younger sister?

17 A. Yeah, but she was not always there, so it would probably
18 have been [REDACTED] room. The younger daughter.

19 Q. What were the bedrooms like? Were they comfortable?

20 A. Well, aye they were comfortable. They were freezing.
21 They had paraffin heaters, but there was loads of covers
22 on the bed. They were just beds, beds in the room, and
23 like a -- what I remember is a wardrobe and like a chest
24 of drawers is what I remember being in the room. But
25 there was three beds in that room.

1 Q. At paragraph 31 of your statement, 'Anthea', you tell us
2 about something to do with socks or pants in bed. Can
3 you tell us what this is about?

4 A. Yeah, we weren't allowed to wear any socks or pants in
5 bed, but we were freezing and if we got caught with
6 them, well, that's when I got hit with a slipper by
7 FJG because we put the socks and the pants
8 on to go to bed.

9 Q. You say that she hit you with the slipper?

10 A. Yeah, she did, because I went to bed and wore them.

11 Q. You had your socks and pants on. What else were you
12 wearing?

13 A. A nightie. Probably a nightie and then covers, but the
14 covers always seemed to be damp. Must have been the
15 condensation when I think about it.

16 Q. When she hit you with the slipper, whereabouts on your
17 body did she hit you?

18 A. My bottom, yeah, bum, bare bum.

19 Q. Your bare bottom?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Was there anyone else there when that happened?

22 A. Probably my sisters, but -- they would have been there
23 because they would have heard it, aye.

24 Q. What about FJH/FJI Did they know anything
25 about this?

1 A. Oh, they weren't there. They were out.

2 Q. Turning to paragraph 32, you talk about being sent to
3 bed quite early.

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 Q. What time was bedtime?

6 A. About 6.30/7.00.

7 Q. Were you all sent to bed at the same time or was there
8 staged bedtimes for different ages --

9 A. We all went up at the same time but we weren't allowed
10 to talk or anything in the room. There was -- we used
11 to get told there was a tape recorder if we talked.

12 Q. Who told you that?

13 A. The mum. The mum and the dad. There was a tape
14 recorder in the room so we could hear what you're saying
15 and you're not allowed to talk, and if you got caught,
16 you sometimes got brought out that room and put in the
17 wee room on your own.

18 Q. The wee room on your own, was that another bedroom?

19 A. Aye, that was a horrific bedroom.

20 Q. At paragraph 33, 'Anthea', you say that you think you
21 wet the bed a few times and your younger sister wet the
22 bed a lot?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. What was your reaction when the bed was wet?

25 A. My reaction, it was fair to say was they used to call us

1 names and everything but they just used to strip the bed
2 and call me names and ...

3 Q. What kind of names were you called?

4 A. They'd call us "dirty" and "pee the bed", just called
5 names at the time.

6 Q. Who was it that called you these names?

7 A. Their family and their other children, but they never
8 used to get into trouble for it.

9 Q. What happened to the wet bed clothing?

10 A. They used to wash it and then go on about it and on
11 about it.

12 Q. Moving now to paragraph 34 where you talk about washing
13 and bathing, were you given any privacy to wash and have
14 a bath?

15 A. No. They used to come in and just do the toilet while
16 we were in the bath.

17 Q. Who was it that used to come in and do the toilet --

18 A. The dad and the sons. Not the mum, but the dad and the
19 sons used to.

20 Q. Did that happen when you first went there or did it
21 happen throughout the period you were there?

22 A. It happened all the time. They always came to use the
23 toilet when you were in the bath and that.

24 Q. You arrived there about the age of eight or nine --

25 A. My memory of arriving there was sitting at a table with

1 them all in the living room. Everyone was at the table.
2 That's the only kind of good memory, sitting at that
3 table, I've got.

4 Q. In terms of the bathroom, people walking into the
5 bathroom, as you got older, as you became a teenager,
6 did you get any privacy then or --

7 A. No. Never got -- you never got any privacy, because you
8 weren't allowed to lock the bathroom door either.

9 Q. At paragraph 35 you speak about remembering when you
10 started your period.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And you didn't know what was happening and what happened
13 to a bag of sanitary towels?

14 A. There was a coal fire and she used to bring them down
15 and -- you cannot keep them in the room and then she
16 used to bring them down and throw them on the coal fire
17 in front of everybody. The mum.

18 Q. You say bring them down and burn them. Were these the
19 used sanitary towels that had been in a bin or
20 something?

21 A. Yeah. They used -- we used to get told to put them in
22 the bag after you finished with them and then she used
23 to tell you to bring them down and throw them in the
24 fire when everybody was sitting there.

25 Q. You say in your statement that the foster mother,

1 FJH used to say something.

2 A. Oh aye, she used to make like comments, yeah, she did.

3 So they all knew when you were on your period.

4 Q. You say at paragraph 36, 'Anthea', that when you look

5 back now, you think it must have been for the sake of

6 FJH the foster father, knowing that you were on

7 your period?

8 A. Definitely.

9 Q. What's your thinking behind that?

10 A. I don't know how I thought that, but I just used to

11 think that she knew but made out she didn't know, so

12 that used to make me think like that, ken? I don't know

13 why that crossed my mind, but I do -- I always used to

14 think that, she's letting -- but who does things like

15 that anyway? Looking back, it's a bit ...

16 LADY SMITH: You're talking about a time when your periods

17 had just started, a time when it can be acutely

18 embarrassing as you get used to dealing with them.

19 A. I know.

20 LADY SMITH: And no young girl wants other people to know.

21 A. Anyway.

22 LADY SMITH: That's quite all right. I get what you're

23 talking about, a very clear picture. I do understand.

24 A. (Witness nods)

25 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

1 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

2 'Anthea', I'm going to move on to page 7 of your
3 statement and under the heading of "Food". What kind of
4 food were you given to eat at FJH/FJI ?

5 A. Bread and butter. Margarine. But we used to eat it --
6 we used to throw it behind the settee and that, because
7 it was disgusting. We used to spread it on a thin ...
8 where you cut the onions, and it used to taste like
9 onions, I've got a memory of that, when I'm making
10 sandwiches now.

11 Q. When they were slicing the bread or spreading the bread,
12 it was sitting on like a board that they used to cut
13 onions or something like that --

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. -- so it took the taste of onions?

16 A. Yeah, you could taste the onion off it, ken.

17 Q. When you had your meals, you mentioned an early memory,
18 a first memory and perhaps a good memory, of everyone
19 sitting around the table. Was that how you had your
20 meals at FJH/FJI ?

21 A. That was -- that was my first -- my memory of ever
22 sitting at the table. I never ever sat at that table
23 again with the family. We used to stand at a table in
24 the kitchen and eat our tea. So I was at one side of
25 the table, [REDACTED] would have been at the other and [REDACTED]

1 used to face the wall outside and ██████ used to stand
2 at the top. We all stood when we ate our tea. We never
3 ever sat at that table again. It was only the one
4 memory.

5 Q. In terms of meals, did you all eat the same food as each
6 other, you and FJH/FJI ██████ ?

7 A. No, no, not at all. They used to get different things
8 from us, but they used to sit in the living room and
9 eat. A lot of the times I think my sister -- we used to
10 peel the tatties and my sister ██████ used to do the
11 cooking, which would probably have been homemade soup or
12 fried tatties and fried egg. But ken, like if you
13 wanted to leave the table, you had to leave the table to
14 ask to leave the table and then they'd say, "Well, you
15 have already left the fucking table", and ... you know
16 what I mean?

17 Q. Would it be fair to say some kind of mind games going on
18 there?

19 A. Definitely, aye. But that was -- it was -- yeah,
20 definitely there was something going on.

21 Q. You refer to the "goodies", like good food or treats or
22 something like that. Whereabouts were they kept?

23 A. They were in their room. They had a lock on their door
24 in the bedroom, their bottom bedroom, and they kept
25 all -- everything in that -- in that room. All the

1 goodies like biscuits and things like that, they were
2 always locked away, sweeties and things like that.

3 Q. If they were locked away, did you ever get them?

4 A. We got them sometimes. Not an awful lot. We used to
5 get the younger -- ██████████ to go and ask for it. Ask
6 for sweeties, so hoping that we'd get some. Aye, and we
7 did get sweeties sometimes, but not a lot.

8 Q. What about FJH/FJI ██████████ children? Were they in the same
9 situation as you?

10 A. No, they were totally treated -- like they could go help
11 themselves, get the key, go to the room, get whatever
12 they wanted and eat it in front of us and that, but we
13 never got it and it would be, "What are you looking at?"

14 Q. Were there any chores that you did when you were at the
15 ██████████ FJH/FJI ██████████

16 A. I used to saw the sticks and cut the kindling. I've
17 actually got a big scar when I sawed my finger off, well
18 in half with the saw. So -- bring in the coal, my
19 brother used to bring in the coal. We used to clean,
20 sweep the stairs with a brush right down the stairs, it
21 would be a wee tiny hand brush. Yeah, we done loads of
22 chores.

23 Q. What about FJH/FJI ██████████ children? Did they do the same
24 chores?

25 A. No, it was always us that had to do everything. It was

1 always our family. We were always the ones to go and do
2 it.

3 Q. In relation to cutting the kindling and using a saw
4 to --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- cut things, you did that?

7 A. (Witness nods)

8 Q. Did anyone else do that job?

9 A. No. We used to do it. We used to get an arm(?) each,
10 me, ██████ and ██████ and then he used to get the coal.

11 Q. At page 8 of your statement at paragraph 43 you make
12 mention that ██████ FJH ██████ the foster mother, used to work
13 sometimes but you say the social work didn't know that?

14 A. No. She used to work -- go to -- at that time it was
15 an egg factory, but the social work didn't know that,
16 but she got -- I remember her getting caught and then
17 she blamed us for telling somebody at the school. But
18 there was no -- sometimes when we went home, there was
19 nobody there.

20 Q. Is that something -- her working, is that something you
21 remember yourself or is it something you've read in the
22 records or --

23 A. No, it's something I remember. It just came to my head
24 that I knew. A lot of things have been coming back to
25 me the last few days.

1 Q. On the subject of clothing, what were your clothes like?

2 A. Terrible. We got school clothes, but we had to get out
3 of school clothes when we came home. My recollection is
4 like tartan trousers and a red jumper, polo neck kind of
5 thing.

6 Q. Were your clothes clean?

7 A. They probably weren't really washed that often, but
8 I can't really remember if they were clean or not. But
9 I used to hate to put them on, aye. I always had them
10 on, I remember that.

11 Q. You remember the tartan trousers and the red jumper. Do
12 you remember any other types of clothing you had apart
13 from your school uniform?

14 A. I remember having like a twin set, a yellow twin set,
15 a top and like a wee gypsy skirt, that's a memory as
16 well, but I didn't have a lot of clothes, no.

17 Q. In relation to leisure time you talk about friends.
18 Were you given the opportunity to play with your friends
19 outwith school hours?

20 A. No. No.

21 Q. Were you able to go and visit your friends?

22 A. Not really, no.

23 Q. Were your friends able to visit you at all?

24 A. No.

25 Q. At paragraph 50 of your statement, 'Anthea', you say:

1 "If we asked to go to the Brownies, we never got to
2 go. If we didn't ask, they told us to go."

3 What do you mean about that? What are you telling
4 us about that?

5 A. Well, if you didn't -- if you didn't -- if you asked,
6 you got told no, but if you didn't ask you got told to
7 go and get ready to go. But we used to have to cycle
8 from -- and we're talking about -- like about 3 to
9 4 miles into where the Brownies were, cycle there.

10 Q. You're saying about --

11 A. It's probably more mind games as well, when I'm sitting
12 here thinking about it now, but at the time I think --
13 a lot of it's probably been fear and just -- it
14 wasn't -- it's quite hard to look back and think how
15 people could be like that when you're sitting here now.
16 That's what I'm actually going through my head, it is
17 mind games, yeah.

18 Q. When it came to the Brownies, if you expressed a wish to
19 be there then the answer was no --

20 A. Mm.

21 Q. -- but if you didn't express a wish to be there then you
22 had to go?

23 A. You got told to go.

24 Q. Am I right in --

25 A. You just left it. You just didn't say nothing. So if

1 you got told to go, you just -- you just kept quiet,
2 just did what you were told.

3 Q. Was Brownies something you enjoyed at all?

4 A. Aye, I did like it. Yeah. Just didn't like to cycle
5 down there, the coming back up in the dark.

6 Q. You tell us at paragraph 51 that you remember getting
7 lost one time on the way home.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. What happened then?

10 A. Well, we involved the police because we were scared
11 because it was dark and we got really in serious trouble
12 for that, causing trouble, but we were scared to go back
13 up. That was me and [REDACTED] Because it was too dark.
14 We couldn't go -- there was no lights or nothing on the
15 bikes. We went back and told the police and ...

16 Q. I think you said you went to the police station and
17 asked them to take you home?

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. What happened when you got home? You say that you were
20 in serious trouble. What form did that serious trouble
21 take?

22 A. For involving -- telling people, involving the police
23 and -- aye, like, "What are you doing bringing trouble
24 to the house, police to the house?" And stuff like
25 that.

1 Q. What was their reaction to you having done that?

2 A. Going to bed without tea was a punishment as well a lot,
3 so the next day you would be told that when you get
4 home, just go right to your bed, no tea, stuff like
5 that.

6 Q. Moving on to the question of school, at paragraph 53 you
7 tell us that there were times with the weather that you
8 were snowed in and you would have to clear the roads
9 yourselves. And [FJH/FJI] were they clearing the
10 roads as well?

11 A. No, we just used to get shovels and do it us.

12 Q. At paragraph 55 you say you didn't do well at school and
13 you were the clown of the class. I think you were
14 saying that you acted up at school.

15 A. (Witness nods)

16 Q. And you think you were trying to draw attention to
17 yourself?

18 A. Looking back, I probably -- probably did, but your
19 behaviour comes out in -- because you can't really
20 express yourself, I suppose, so that's probably how
21 I was -- behaved like that.

22 Q. Is that something you realised at the time --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- that you were doing or is it something that you've
25 thought about later in life?

1 A. Thought about later in life.

2 Q. At paragraph 57 you say that you found out later that
3 there were reports back to the social work that there
4 were marks on you?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Can you tell us about that?

7 A. Well, they used to always hit us and that a lot. The
8 brothers, their sons used to always hit us and kind of
9 slap us and ... a lot.

10 Q. So you had marks from that?

11 A. Yeah, yeah. Aye, we got bruises and that.

12 Q. You also say at paragraph 58 that there was a time you
13 were caught stealing food from the bin at school.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. What happened when you were caught doing that?

16 A. Mrs Smith just took that -- she was the headteacher at
17 the time. I just told her I was hungry.

18 Q. At paragraph 60 on page 10 of your statement, 'Anthea',
19 you say that you remember going to a pal's house from
20 school one day because you didn't want to go home.

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. And the pal's mum phoned FJH/FJI and you tell us
23 something happened when you got home. What happened?

24 A. I got the belt from the dad, the dad FJI battered us.

25 Q. Whereabouts on your body did he hit you with?

1 A. All over. I remember being on the chair and he just hit
2 us all over.

3 Q. How many times would he hit you?

4 A. Quite a lot of times. I can't remember exactly how many
5 times, but he did hit us a lot, until she told him to
6 stop, the mum.

7 Q. The hitting with the belt by the foster father,
8 FJI, how frequently did that happen?

9 A. The belt, probably about four times, the belt.
10 Otherwise it was just punching and pushing and -- aye.
11 But the belt was about four times. The 54321 biscuits
12 was the belt, but -- it sticks in my head, stealing the
13 biscuits.

14 Q. You remember a time you got the belt for stealing
15 biscuits?

16 A. I got the belt, I stole biscuits and got caught.

17 Q. Moving to the question of social workers, do you
18 remember ever seeing a social worker whilst you were at
19 FJH/FJI?

20 A. Yeah. Not a lot, but I do remember seeing a social
21 worker and it was Mrs Auchterlonie. She was our social
22 worker and she sticks in my mind because she had
23 a really -- like burns on her face. Aye. But she was
24 our social worker at the time. But no, we didn't see
25 them a lot at all. And I couldn't really say if it was

1 maybe yearly or every six months, but I couldn't really
2 tell you, but it was -- it wasn't regular at all.

3 Q. You say that the majority of the time her visits were
4 arranged?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. What would happen in advance of the visits, if anything?

7 A. Well, we used to get told to clean the house, have the
8 house all cleaned. All us used to be cleaning. And
9 then we used to get nice -- all our clothes would be
10 nice and we'd be looking good for them coming.

11 Q. Was that how life normally was?

12 A. No. Never. The house was always a mess.

13 Q. When the social worker came, Mrs Auchterlonie, did you
14 get the opportunity to speak to her on your own?

15 A. Yeah, I did, but you were scared, you couldn't speak,
16 because you knew when she was going to leave that things
17 would happen. So, aye, you couldn't speak. But not for
18 long on her own. Sometimes she used to take us out
19 somewhere as well, but you never -- you never said.
20 Didn't even know why that either.

21 Q. You mention at paragraph 63 about being threatened with
22 going back to Dundee.

23 A. Oh.

24 Q. Who threatened you with that?

25 A. The mum. The mum always used to say, "Yous will be

1 going back to Dundee", but at that time Dundee was
2 probably -- I don't know, but ... made to be the big bad
3 place, I suppose, so ...

4 Q. So you didn't really know why that was a bad thing, but
5 you took from it that to go back to Dundee would be
6 a bad thing?

7 A. Yeah. Well, that's what -- aye, probably. But I don't
8 know why that was, but probably because Dundee was
9 always like, "Oh, you will be taken away, you'll be
10 ..." I don't know, I don't really know.

11 Q. You tell us at paragraph 64 that you didn't celebrate
12 birthdays or Christmas.

13 A. Not really. It was an effort it took for them to
14 celebrate your birthday or Christmas. They celebrated
15 it, but it was like it was grudge to you if you were
16 getting anything. One of my memories is getting
17 Mousetrap, but I didn't even remember being allowed to
18 play with it.

19 Q. What about FJH/FJI children? Were their birthdays
20 celebrated?

21 A. Oh they were celebrated, yeah. They used to go out
22 places and take them out. A lot of the time when you
23 look back now, ken, I don't know where they would have
24 been, but a lot of the time they must have been working
25 or something because a lot of the time we were on our

1 own in that house. My family. My brothers and sisters.

2 Q. When you talk about family, you mention on page 11 of

3 your statement, paragraph 65, that your dad had written

4 you letters but you didn't receive the letters?

5 A. No.

6 Q. How did you find that out?

7 A. My dad told us. Because we got back in touch with my

8 dad and then -- aye, my dad wrote to us all the time but

9 they kept the letters back from us.

10 Q. Were you ever able to tell your dad what was going on?

11 A. Aye. I remember once telling my dad when I went -- when

12 they took us through to see my granny in Dundee and my

13 dad was there and when they dropped us off -- this was

14 due to the biscuit scenario, she went, "Tell him what

15 you've been doing", so my dad went like that, "Come on",

16 and then I said to him about the biscuits and he went --

17 my dad was like, "What? I cannot believe that". Didn't

18 tell him that, told him about the biscuits, but that

19 I stole them and things like that and we were going to

20 bed at half six, and that's what I told my dad, ken.

21 Q. Do you know if your dad did anything about that?

22 A. I think he went to the social worker. I do not know.

23 I couldn't really tell you on that.

24 LADY SMITH: You said a couple of minutes ago, 'Anthea',

25 that your dad wrote but you never received his letters.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 LADY SMITH: Did you ever see the letters later on, for
3 example?

4 A. No. But I do remember the social worker,
5 Ms Auchterlonie, saying that dad was writing letters and
6 he was going up there and causing a scene because we
7 weren't getting the letters.

8 LADY SMITH: And you got that from the social worker?

9 A. Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS RATTRAY: 'Anthea', turning now to the heading in your
12 statement, "Abuse in foster care at [REDACTED]", you
13 say you couldn't write the things that happened in that
14 house.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. Can you tell us today the kind of things that happened?

17 A. Sexual abuse from the two sons and the dad. Waking up,
18 getting put in another room with them, waking up with
19 them touching you. Would either be the dad, would
20 either be one of the sons. It was just constant.
21 You're going home from school -- it just went on and on.
22 Quite a lot of sexual and physical abuse through the
23 time there.

24 Q. If we focus on the physical abuse first.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. What kind of physical abuse was there?

2 A. Hitting, punching, giving you dead arms. Sitting on top
3 of you doing the typewriter. Shooting you with pellet
4 guns in your foot. Making you dance. Endless.

5 Q. And I think --

6 A. Oh, the towel, I just noticed there, the towels, getting
7 a wet towel and flinging you as well.

8 Q. Who was carrying out this type of abuse?

9 A. The -- FJK [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they were doing
10 that quite a lot. The sons. But the dad, he was just
11 the belt and the punching, but mostly their sons were
12 the ones that hit us.

13 Q. At paragraph 75 you mention something that happened to
14 your younger brother?

15 A. My brother used to get battered in front of us in the
16 room. Whipped with a horsewhip and everything, calling
17 him an idiot. He went through ... yeah.

18 Q. You mention a horsewhip.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. They hit him with a horsewhip?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. What did this horsewhip --

23 A. Thinking it was funny. Thinking it was funny. Just
24 used to bring -- I don't know where this whip thing
25 comes from, but it was a big whip and they used to just

1 get him and then hit him and think it was funny.

2 Q. Can you tell us what this whip looked like?

3 A. It was like black and it was leather and it was just

4 a big like whip. Horsewhip thing. It was massive.

5 Kind of had like a big ... it was a big long thing.

6 But, ken, they just ...

7 Q. Are you talking about like a stick which was leather or

8 are you talking about --

9 A. I'm talking about a stick with a big leather bitty on

10 the end.

11 Q. So you have a solid stick and then you have this like

12 leather rope type thing?

13 A. Yeah, yeah, that's it, a whip, aye. Used to hit him

14 with that in front of us and that. Call him names.

15 Call him daft. ██████████ not here to ...

16 Q. You tell us about the biscuits and you have spoken about

17 that already, about what happened --

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. -- at the time in relation to taking biscuits.

20 At paragraph 78 you say, and you've mentioned this

21 before as well, that you used to be on your own a lot of

22 the time?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. Where were ██████████ FJH/FJI ██████████ when you were on your own?

25 A. They used to go to the pub, the ██████████ down to the

1 [REDACTED] We used to get left on our own with
2 sometimes with FJK or [REDACTED] in charge of us, their sons.
3 Q. You say you weren't allowed downstairs?
4 A. No. Had to stay up the stairs. Weren't allowed in the
5 living room or nothing, no. They used to put things
6 so -- traps in case you did.
7 Q. What kind of traps?
8 A. Books on the door and things.
9 Q. So when FJH/FJI [REDACTED] went out and the children had to stay
10 at home, you had to stay upstairs?
11 A. Mm-hmm.
12 Q. You weren't allowed to go downstairs?
13 A. No.
14 Q. You tell us at page 13, paragraph 79 in relation to
15 certain things that you say FJK [REDACTED] did.
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. You talk about I think it says here a pellet gun and
18 I think you mentioned that already. What happened with
19 the pellet gun?
20 A. He shot us in the foot with it, making us dance. Just
21 used to have a pellet gun because he used to shoot
22 rabbits, so he had this gun and it had pellets in it and
23 he used to shoot us with it.
24 Q. When he was shooting at you, what was your reaction?
25 A. Screaming.

1 Q. What happened when you screamed?

2 A. Nothing, it just got worse. Ken? Just kept doing it
3 thinking it was funny.

4 Q. At paragraph 80 you tell us a time where he tried to
5 stab himself or pretended to stab himself. What
6 happened there?

7 A. He went through to the kitchen and he screamed -- but it
8 was me and [REDACTED] were there and we both went through and
9 then he was lying on the floor with a knife and there
10 was like tomato sauce -- but I never knew it was tomato
11 sauce, I thought it was blood, and we just ran out the
12 house, it was pitch black, all the way down to
13 a neighbour's house, which was right down that dirt end
14 road in our bare feet in our nighties, because we
15 thought he'd killed himself.

16 Q. Was this something else he thought was funny?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. At paragraph 82 you mention a time when you were at Step
19 Rock Pool in St Andrew's.

20 A. When he tried to drown me, yeah.

21 Q. What happened then?

22 A. He pushed my head under and when I got -- when I --
23 eventually he let us go, right, I screamed the place
24 down, right, because I'd actually thought I was
25 drowning. And caused a scene and then we just got told

1 to get in the car and we were going back. Ken. So
2 ruining everybody's day would have been me causing
3 a scene. But I was getting ... mm.

4 Q. You say at paragraph 83 there was something that
5 happened with FJK [REDACTED] and a girl on the [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. What was that?

9 A. He's meant to have raped a girl, but there was like --
10 you know how when you're at school people talk, so at
11 that time everybody used to talk, but not that we would
12 talk, but we heard this, yeah, and there was like -- he
13 was actually in a special department or something at the
14 school. You know how years ago it used to be if you had
15 like problems with learning, I think he was at
16 a school -- a special part of the school for that and
17 he'd done something to some girl.

18 Q. So at the time from the talk at school, you had heard
19 that it was a rape?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. At page 14 of your statement, 'Anthea', you speak about
22 sexual abuse you experienced --

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. -- when you were at FJH/FJI [REDACTED].

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. What do you feel able to tell us about that today?

2 A. (Pause)

3 It was frequent. I was made to do things that --

4 that I didn't ... I got touched, made to touch. I don't

5 know what you mean -- what you want me to tell you,

6 because I'm like ... it was just constant.

7 Q. Who was touching you?

8 A. The dad and the two sons were touching me.

9 Q. Whereabouts on your body were they touching you?

10 A. My private parts and making me touch them, making me do

11 oral sex to them.

12 LADY SMITH: 'Anthea', how old were you when this started?

13 A. How old was I? I don't know. I don't know.

14 LADY SMITH: Doesn't matter. Just if you have any rough

15 idea when it was?

16 A. Well, if I went there when I was eight or nine, I would

17 say it was probably when I was ten, going forward until

18 I left there.

19 LADY SMITH: You were 14 or so when you left, I think. Is

20 that right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS RATTRAY: There was something else that happened, which

24 you tell us about at paragraph 92 of your statement.

25 A. Is that when the penetration? At one time I got

1 penetrated and I was bleeding, right, and I thought
2 I needed stitches afterwards. I couldn't understand why
3 I was bleeding, because at that time I wouldn't have had
4 my period because -- when that happened. When I think
5 about it, because I couldn't understand why I was
6 bleeding. So I do remember that, I thought I needed
7 stitches.

8 Q. Who was it who did this?

9 A. FJK

10 Q. You say at your statement FJK had sex with you
11 when you were 12 or 13?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you were bleeding. You didn't know where the blood
14 was from. You remember thinking you needed stitches
15 down there because of the time you'd cut your hand.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. And you couldn't tell anybody.

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. I think you go on to tell us that you did tell someone
20 about this?

21 A. I told a girl in the school,

22 Q. What happened after you told the girl at school?

23 A. She told her mum. And then her mum phoned FJH/FJI
24 for me and told me to go down the road, but I was too
25 scared. And that's when it came out and I got accused

1 of being a liar and ...

2 LADY SMITH: 'Anthea', can you remember whether it was the
3 next day that you talked to this friend at school or --

4 A. Yeah, it was at school. It would have been the next
5 day --

6 LADY SMITH: Okay.

7 A. -- that I spoke to her, aye.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS RATTRAY: Perhaps at this stage, so we have the dates and
10 the timescale, it might be helpful to look at some of
11 your records because this is recorded --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- within your children's records. If we could look at
14 DUN-000000699. Of those records, if we could turn to
15 page 44. These are children records. If we move to the
16 foot of the page, I think we see an entry of
17 5 March 1981.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. We know from this entry that a report was made to the
20 police.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And it was your school friend's mother who made a report
23 to the police, because you had told your friend that you
24 were being sexually assaulted by your foster father,
25 Mr FJI and his son FJK

1 A. Yeah. That's true.

2 Q. If we turn to page 45 of this record, there's an entry
3 of 6 March 1982, and from that we learn that your
4 friend's mother also reported this to the social work
5 department in St Andrews.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. If we move then to an entry of 11 March 1981, which is
8 the next entry on this page, we learn from that that you
9 were taken from school at the end of the day and
10 questioned and then sent back to [REDACTED]

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 That's true, aye.

13 Q. If we move to the foot of that page, there's an entry of
14 12 March 1981, which records that you were examined by
15 the police surgeon on that evening at Cupar.

16 A. That's true, aye.

17 Q. The police surgeon later confirmed that you were not
18 virgo intacta and in view of the emerging facts, the
19 social worker decided to bring the children back to
20 Dundee, although it was quite late.

21 A. That's true, because we had to stay there that night.

22 Q. At that stage you were taken back to [REDACTED] house
23 and the parting from Mrs [REDACTED] was very traumatic?

24 A. That's true.

25 Q. And the social worker was so concerned about Mrs [REDACTED]

1 that the social worker requested the policewoman to make
2 arrangements for someone to take her car back while she
3 was driven home in another.

4 "Whilst the children were in a tearful state on
5 leaving Mrs FJH they soon brightened up on the way in
6 the car."

7 At that stage you were taken to a children's home,
8 Burnside House.

9 A. That's true.

10 Q. If I could turn to page 2 of this document, we see that
11 there's a summary at the first paragraph here, which --
12 this forms part of your children records. Under
13 background information, that you had told your school
14 friend about being sexually abused by Mr FJI and

15 FJK On 5 March 1981:

16 "Her friend told her mother who in turn reported it
17 to the police. The policewoman who took the information
18 was going on holiday that day and was unable to meet
19 with the social worker until the following week."

20 So we see that there's been a lapse.

21 "It was another five days before [you] were
22 interviewed by the police."

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Whilst a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal,
25 a decision was made not to prosecute due to they thought

1 there was no corroboration.

2 Once all of that happened, do you remember whether
3 there was any follow-up from the police investigation at
4 that time that you were made aware of?

5 A. I was made aware of nothing. Nothing. Even going into
6 that -- going into Burnside, nobody ever talked to me
7 about anything about it. And probably went about my
8 life thinking, ken, "Not believed, not believed".

9 Q. I think still at this page, we move to the foot of
10 page 2, there is also reference to when you were removed
11 from **FJH/FJI** :

12 "The children did not get their personal belongings
13 such as photographs, documents, exam results, as they
14 were left with **FJH/FJI** and they therefore have no
15 record of their childhood history. This is very
16 upsetting for them. In addition, the family were not
17 advised of the outcome of the investigation."

18 A. Yeah, that's right.

19 Q. 'Anthea', you are aware that the Inquiry has traced
20 **FJG** and **FJK** and your statement has
21 been given to them in order that they can have a chance
22 to comment on that and the allegations, some very
23 serious allegations, which are made here.

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. If we hear evidence from **FJG** and indeed

1 FJK that this didn't happen, that neither of
2 them were aware of any behaviour in the house that they
3 would consider to be abuse of children, what's your
4 response to that?

5 A. My response to that is like they didn't live it. They
6 didn't live what we had lived. They didn't ken. They
7 seen it. What's their perception of abuse? They're
8 lying. They're lying. That's what they're doing.

9 Q. It's been suggested that as a reason as to why, from
10 their perspective, you would be telling lies, because
11 they say there wasn't any abuse, it's been suggested
12 that you might have said these things because you liked
13 your first foster placement better and maybe that's why
14 you said the things you did.

15 A. How could you make up a story like that? How could you
16 make that up? Who in their right mind would even begin
17 to make up a story like that? But my foster -- because
18 I liked my foster parents? Oh, honestly, they're lying.
19 They're covering up for the things they done to us.
20 That's what's wrong with them.

21 Q. Just one final record to look at, and that is at page 47
22 of this record we have in front of us. What we see here
23 is communication from your social worker,
24 Ms Auchterlonie, dated 7 July 1978. This is some time,
25 some years, before you were removed in ██████████ 1981. What

1 we see here is that she had formed a view that you and
2 your siblings shouldn't be in the care of Mr and
3 Mrs [FJH/FJI] but it appears that others within the social
4 work department didn't agree with that.

5 A. Yeah. I know, it's really quite ... upsetting. We were
6 failed, that's what it is. How could -- something that
7 sticks in my mind: where are we going to house four
8 children? You know what I mean? For the social work.
9 We should have been removed from them the minute we
10 went. I mean who ... it's ... can I ask you something?
11 Is Mrs [FJH] still alive?

12 Q. Off the top of my head, I can't tell you that.

13 A. No.

14 Q. But suffice to say we're not in a position -- we haven't
15 traced them.

16 A. Right, okay. Okay. They failed us. They failed us.
17 They failed us.

18 Q. When you say "they", who you are referring to?

19 A. The social work department. The whole lot. Nobody
20 listened.

21 Q. If I can take you to paragraph 174 of your statement
22 now, 'Anthea', which is on page 27. You tell us here
23 about some lessons, perhaps -- under "Other
24 information", you tell us about lessons perhaps we can
25 learn.

1 A. That's right. I feel that the child should get listened
2 to.

3 LADY SMITH: From what we've just seen in those records,
4 'Anthea', I wonder whether you would add to that that
5 senior social workers need to listen to what the social
6 workers who are seeing what is happening on the
7 ground --

8 A. Yeah, definitely.

9 LADY SMITH: We see from that record that that social worker
10 felt strongly enough to ask to be removed, because she
11 obviously felt like she wasn't being listened to and
12 there was nothing further she could do --

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: -- with these people.

15 A. I know.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
17 Ms Rattray.

18 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.
19 You speak about children should be taken out of the
20 home so they can open up to their worker, they need
21 someone that they can trust. You also say at
22 paragraph 175 you think you should have had one-to-one
23 talking with a social worker and you went around blaming
24 yourself, but you think the social work department have
25 a lot of blame in it --

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. -- because you feel they forgot you --

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. -- because it was such a remote place.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I think you also tell us that you should have known more
7 about what was going on.

8 A. Definitely. Nothing was ever explained what was
9 happening. You were just -- it was like you were taken
10 out of this setting and put in another setting, and the
11 other setting to me was like probably, "God, this is
12 great", going in a children's home, which was
13 an assessment centre. So ...

14 Q. You go on to say that you believe that everyone should
15 be working together.

16 A. I believe that everybody should work together and
17 I believe that children should have a voice. I believe
18 that definitely everybody should work together.

19 Q. You also go on to say that you also think things could
20 have been better upon leaving care.

21 A. Yeah. I believe that there should have been like
22 an outreach programme, because it was like daunting just
23 getting thrown into the big wide world. Obviously
24 I didn't have the perfect start, I messed up a few
25 times, I got back on track ... been through hell and

1 back but I came out. I'm a survivor. I've done this.

2 MS RATTRAY: 'Anthea', I don't have any more questions to
3 ask you.

4 My Lady, I'm not aware of there being any
5 applications for questions.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 Are there any outstanding applications for
8 questions?

9 'Anthea', that does complete all the questions we
10 have for you. Thank you so much for engaging with us in
11 the way you have done, both in providing your detailed
12 written statement, which I have read carefully, it's
13 part of your evidence, but you've made your past come
14 alive this morning in a way that I can see has been
15 really difficult for you and I fully understand from the
16 descriptions you've been giving me why that is.

17 I hope you're able to go away knowing that you've
18 added considerable value to the work here, you've
19 certainly enhanced my learning and I'm really grateful
20 to you for doing that.

21 A. Thank you.

22 LADY SMITH: Have a restful time the rest of today. You
23 need that. Okay?

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: I'm able to let you go now.

1 A. Okay.

2 (The witness withdrew)

3 LADY SMITH: A number of names were mentioned there, the
4 [REDACTED] who were foster carers, FJH/FJI [REDACTED] and the
5 FJH/FJI [REDACTED] own family members. In addition to that, the
6 witness's siblings were referred to by name at times.
7 Those names are all protected by my general protection
8 order and they can't be identified outside this room.

9 I think it's time for the lunch break, Ms Rattray,
10 yes?

11 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. There will be another oral
12 witness at 2 pm.

13 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll rise now until 2 o'clock.
14 (1.05 pm)

15 (The luncheon adjournment)

16 (2.00 pm)

17 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. And now the last oral witness
18 of today, I think. Is that correct, Ms Rattray?

19 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. The next witness is an applicant
20 who wishes to remain anonymous and has the pseudonym
21 'Davie'.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS RATTRAY: 'Davie' was in the care of Glasgow Corporation.
24 He was placed with Mr and Mrs FKM/FKP on [REDACTED] 1971 and
25 they were foster carers appointed by Glasgow

1 Corporation. He remained with them until [REDACTED] 1983.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, screens are being used for the
4 evidence of 'Davie'.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Should we just wait a moment and
6 close the screens, that would be very helpful. Thank
7 you.

8 Thank you.

9 'Davie' (sworn)

10 LADY SMITH: 'Davie', you have a microphone in front of you
11 and I'd ask you to make sure you're using the microphone
12 for us to hear you, because everything needs to go
13 through the sound system.

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 LADY SMITH: You also have a red folder in front of you
16 there. That has the written version of your statement
17 in it that you've signed. You'll be asked to look at
18 that in a minute or two. But you will see the statement
19 will also come up on screen in front of you and we'll go
20 to particular parts of it that we want to discuss. You
21 might find that helpful, you might not, it's a matter
22 for you, but it's there if you want to use it.

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 LADY SMITH: Separately, 'Davie', though I want to assure
25 you that I do understand we're asking you to do

1 something that really is very difficult and that's
2 coming into a public place to talk about what's happened
3 in your life, particularly when you were a child and
4 things were not good, and you may find that it's more
5 upsetting than you think, you've anticipated.

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 LADY SMITH: I get that. I do understand. If you want
8 a break or just to pause or if you can think of anything
9 else that we might do to help you give the best evidence
10 you can, you just let us know. Will you do that?

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 LADY SMITH: These screens that are up will remain in
13 a position so that those of us here who need to see
14 you -- that's me and your supporter and the
15 stenographers and the lawyers who are sitting over here
16 who are Inquiry lawyers -- can see you, and the two
17 people who are sitting here are controlling the display,
18 the electronic display coming up in front of you.
19 They're Inquiry staff as well, and of course you've
20 already met this gentleman who is holding onto the
21 curtains.

22 We can see you. Nobody else can. Can I just assure
23 you of that.

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, what we will do is we'll

1 proceed to open the curtains behind this curtain so that
2 I can still see what's going on behind there. It's
3 important that I know what else is going on in the
4 Inquiry room.

5 A. (Witness nods)

6 LADY SMITH: And the people down there can see me, but they
7 won't be able to see you. Are you reassured by that?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Good. Right, if we can deal with the back
10 curtains, please.

11 There we go. Thank you.

12 If you're ready, 'Davie', I'll hand over to
13 Ms Rattray and she'll take it from there. Is that okay?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Very well.

16 Ms Rattray.

17 Questions from Ms Rattray

18 MS RATTRAY: Hello, 'Davie'. I think it might help if
19 I turn on my microphone.

20 LADY SMITH: Yes.

21 MS RATTRAY: Hello 'Davie'.

22 A. Hi.

23 Q. 'Davie', you've come to speak to us about what's in your
24 statement which you have given to the Inquiry.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. I'm just going to read out your statement reference for
2 our records. Your statement is at WIT.001.001.9759.
3 You'll see that coming up before you on the screen.
4 A. (Witness nods)
5 Q. You have also been given a hard copy, a paper copy,
6 which is in the red folder. What I'm going to ask you
7 to do first, 'Davie', is to go to the back page of the
8 hard copy paper statement, if you could do that for me.
9 If you go to the back page, can you confirm that you've
10 signed your statement?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Do you see at paragraph 65 above your signature that you
13 say:
14 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
15 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
16 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
17 true."
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Thank you for that. You can put that to one side just
20 now.
21 'Davie', you have come to tell us about your
22 experiences when you were in foster care, and you tell
23 us firstly by way of some background information that
24 you were born in 1966?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You also say that you don't have any recollection of
2 your life before going into care?
3 A. That's correct.
4 Q. About what age were you when you first went into foster
5 care?
6 A. On my records it says five year old, but I have no
7 recollection.
8 Q. You mention in paragraph 3 of your statement that you
9 were in care with other family members.
10 A. Yes, I was, yes.
11 Q. And I think you say there was yourself --
12 A. Uh-huh.
13 Q. -- and then there was your sister?
14 A. Yes. That one I believed to be my sister, but later in
15 life I've learnt it was my cousin.
16 Q. So there were two girls with you?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. One was --
19 A. Real sister, yes.
20 Q. -- your biological sister --
21 A. Yeah.
22 Q. -- and the other was your cousin, but you in fact
23 believed she was your sister?
24 A. Correct.
25 Q. How old were your two sisters, if I can refer to them as

1 that?

2 A. They're two years older than me.

3 Q. Right, okay. You say you actually thought they were

4 twins?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Moving to paragraph 4 of your statement, you tell us

7 that you were put into foster care with the FKM/FKP

8 a FKM/FKP in Glasgow?

9 A. Yes, that's correct.

10 Q. I think you also tell us that in circumstances where you

11 didn't have any memories of life before care --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- for a long time you believed that they were your real

14 parents?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. What age were you when you discovered they weren't?

17 A. 14.

18 Q. Turning to what life was like with the FKM/FKP you

19 tell us that the first house was at

20 What was the house like there? Do you remember that?

21 A. It was a -- it was one of these houses that was made of

22 steel, so in the winter ... it was quite cold in the

23 winter, there wasn't much as in heat in the house. The

24 radiator in my room was turned off on a lot of

25 occasions, so I was very cold.

1 There was heating in the living room, there was
2 heating in the kitchen and there was heating in the
3 hallway and there was heating in their master bedroom.
4 Q. I think you say at the first house you lived in you and
5 your sisters were all in the one room?
6 A. Yes, that's correct.
7 Q. Then you moved to another house and you think that was
8 in about 1997?
9 A. 197 --
10 Q. Sorry, 1977, sorry, my mistake, I apologise.
11 A. 1977, yeah.
12 Q. I think you tell us about that at paragraph 9.
13 A. Yeah.
14 Q. I think there you say you were given your own room?
15 A. Yes, it's a small room, I had a small room.
16 Q. What about your sisters?
17 A. My two sisters shared another room, which was quite
18 bigger.
19 Q. Right. In relation to your parents or your foster
20 parents, did they have jobs?
21 A. My foster mother believed to me that she was a former
22 nursemaid, but my foster father was a bus driver with
23 the Glasgow Bus Company at that particular time.
24 Q. You mention in your statement that on retiring he became
25 a lollipop man?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. How old were you when he retired, do you think?

3 A. 13.

4 Q. If we look at paragraph 8 of your statement, 'Davie',
5 you tell us that in the evenings you were sent to your
6 rooms very early.

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. So about what time would you be sent to your rooms?

9 A. 6/7 o'clock.

10 Q. Was that just when you were very young or did it
11 continue?

12 A. It continued right up to when I was 14.

13 Q. So at 14 you were --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- being sent essentially to bed at 6 or 7 o'clock?

16 A. Correct, correct.

17 Q. Presumably as an older child you wouldn't have been
18 tired to sleep by that time.

19 A. (Witness shakes head)

20 Q. So were there any activities or distractions that you
21 could have in your room?

22 A. I escaped the house.

23 Q. Right, okay. When you were younger, did you have any
24 toys you could play with when you were there?

25 A. Don't recall.

1 Q. Sorry?

2 A. I don't recall.

3 Q. You don't remember?

4 A. No.

5 Q. I think you tell us, though, that you remember your
6 sisters had dolls?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. In relation to food, what were meals like at the
9 ██████████?

10 A. I recall ██████████ or ██████████ cooking the meals. When they
11 did, it was either laced with ash or spat on.

12 Q. So when you say ██████████ or ██████████ you mean your sisters?

13 A. Both my sisters, yeah.

14 Q. So were they expected to do the cooking?

15 A. I think they just done it. I think that was just part
16 of their tasks, you know, to look after me.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Davie', when you said, "When they did it was
18 either laced with ash or spat on", were you talking
19 about the foster parents, the ██████████?

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS RATTRAY: When you had meals, did you eat your dinners as
23 a family round the table together?

24 A. We tried to.

25 Q. When you say you "tried to", what do you mean by that?

1 A. I didn't eat it -- we had two dogs and the table cloth
2 kind of overlapped the table, so we kind of fed the dogs
3 with the food and we waited later until we managed to
4 get access to some food to get fed.

5 Q. You say in your statement that your foster parents
6 rarely ate any meals with you during the week?

7 A. (Witness nods)

8 Q. But when it came to Sunday lunch, they made you all sit
9 at the table. Is that right?

10 A. That's correct. That was a ritual.

11 Q. A ritual. Presumably the meals that you would try to
12 give to the dogs were the ones that had the ash and
13 whatever?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. You obviously went to school while living there, was the
16 school nearby?

17 A. Roughly about a 20-minute walk from our house in
18 Sandyhills, the first one. Our primary.

19 Q. You walked there. What about when the weather was bad,
20 did you still walk?

21 A. We still walked.

22 Q. You tell us at school that there was a tuck shop that
23 the children there were able to buy things at?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. What about you? Were you able to buy things?

1 A. We managed to accumulate money that we earned through
2 doing newspaper rounds, selling ginger bottles and
3 whatever to gain access to money to get to the tuck
4 shop.

5 Q. If you didn't do that, did you have any money to buy
6 anything?

7 A. No.

8 Q. What about pocket money? Were you not given pocket
9 money?

10 A. No.

11 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that it wasn't
12 until you were 13 or 14 that you received 50 pence
13 pocket money?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. In relation to school, at paragraph 16 you think that
16 perhaps some people suspected there might have been
17 something going on at home?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Can you tell us what happened there?

20 A. I was kind of a -- so back from the -- you know, from
21 the other pupils, you know, I kind of kept myself away
22 from the other pupils, I was always at the back of the
23 class, you know, the last one standing sort of type
24 thing. So knowing in later life that maybe that was
25 a trigger for them knowing there was something wrong

1 with something happening in the house.

2 Q. I think you tell us when at secondary school you think
3 staff knew there was something going on?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Why is it you think they knew something was going on?

6 A. A lot of injuries were employed on me.

7 Q. What kind of injuries?

8 A. Cigarette burns on my left arm. Eye-socket burst open,
9 ashtray over the head. Used to have what they call
10 an oyster ornament was thrown at me. It was meant for
11 [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] ducked and it hurt me.

12 Q. You are saying that you were going to school and you
13 would have obvious injuries on you?

14 A. I would have these injuries, but nothing was -- nobody
15 ever ...

16 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that at secondary
17 school they, presumably the teachers, made entries in
18 your records, but apart from noting it, no action was
19 taken?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. You also mention something about a prefect at school and
22 the prefect might have known something.

23 A. I believe that there was a rumour going about that one
24 of the prefects had some sort of interaction with
25 another pupil that it was kind of a -- inappropriate,

1 and that's when my abuse stopped, my sexual abuse
2 stopped from my foster mother.

3 Q. I'm trying to understand this. In your statement, maybe
4 you can help me with this, 'Davie' --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- you say there was a prefect at school --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- and he seemed to, you say, recognise the signs of
9 abuse?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Why is it you think he did that?

12 A. Just because of the allegations that was put forward in
13 the school playground and that sort of thing.

14 Q. Right, right. I think you say you're not sure if he was
15 involved in reporting or --

16 A. I'm not too sure, no.

17 Q. -- sharing his concerns, but the sexual abuse --

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. -- that you're going to tell us about, that stopped not
20 long after you spoke with him?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. In relation to questions of clothing, what kind of
23 clothes did you have when you were a child?

24 A. There was a place in Glasgow called the Briggait. It
25 was a notoriously very, very bad second-hand clothing.

1 That's where we would get our clothes. It was very,
2 very smelly and dirty. I believe that we were getting
3 funded by the social work department at that time, but
4 we weren't getting appropriate clothing.

5 [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] would help me dress properly if
6 I was going anywhere, especially to school or to the
7 Boys' Brigade, to make sure that I was clean and dressed
8 accordingly to the places that we were going to.

9 Q. You say that sometimes you were forced to wear some of
10 your sister's clothing?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Why were you --

13 A. Because the stuff that I had on was inappropriate.

14 Q. What about your shoes? What kind of shoes did you wear?

15 A. Plimsolls, black plimsolls.

16 Q. Did you have any shoes that were more sort of robust or
17 better for cold --

18 A. I don't recall.

19 LADY SMITH: 'Davie', were those the black plimsolls that
20 had rubbery soles and a wee bit of elastic over the top
21 of the foot?

22 A. Correct.

23 LADY SMITH: And the main part of the shoe was a type of
24 canvas?

25 A. Correct.

1 LADY SMITH: They were quite thin.

2 A. Correct.

3 LADY SMITH: And they didn't give your feet any support.

4 A. No. Especially in winter.

5 LADY SMITH: They were the sort of footwear that was
6 designed, I think, if I remember rightly, for children
7 to wear during, say, a gym lesson or PE?

8 A. Correct.

9 LADY SMITH: But you wore those all the time?

10 A. Correct.

11 LADY SMITH: Thanks, 'Davie'.

12 MS RATTRAY: You tell us in your statement about there were
13 times that you got to wear a good set of clothes. What
14 kind of occasions did you get to wear a good set of
15 clothes.

16 A. If the social work department came to visit us. Or any
17 kinds of relatives -- I mean their relatives -- came to
18 visit us.

19 Q. You also mentioned you got this good set of clothes if
20 you were going to a wedding or --

21 A. Correct. Any special occasion.

22 Q. You also mention school uniform was for photographs or
23 parents' nights?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. What happened to the good set of clothes or the good

1 school uniform?

2 A. They were taken off us and put by for another occasion.

3 Q. They weren't things that were available for you to

4 normally wear?

5 A. No.

6 LADY SMITH: Did you have your own clothes' cupboard or

7 drawer that was for your clothes?

8 A. I did.

9 LADY SMITH: You did?

10 A. Aye, yes.

11 LADY SMITH: What, a drawer? A cupboard?

12 A. A small set of drawers in my bedroom.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 Ms Rattray.

15 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

16 You mentioned wearing the good sets of clothes for

17 a social work visit. How old were you when you first

18 became aware of social work visits?

19 A. 12/13 onwards.

20 Q. That was around the time, was it, that you say you

21 learnt that Mr and Mrs **FKM/FKP** weren't your real

22 parents?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Do you remember whether there were any visits before

25 that but --

1 A. No.

2 Q. Is it possible there might have been visits by someone
3 but you didn't know they were a social worker, for
4 example?

5 A. Maybe.

6 Q. Do you ever remember anyone coming to the house and
7 maybe asking you questions about how you felt or were
8 you happy?

9 A. No.

10 Q. In relation to birthdays and Christmases, were these
11 events which were celebrated?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Do you remember ever getting any toys?

14 A. No.

15 Q. What about your sisters? Did your sisters ever get
16 anything?

17 A. As I recall, maybe dolls that I had seen in their room,
18 in their own bedroom, they would have them beside their
19 bed. That's the only thing I can recall. We didn't
20 really -- there wasn't any celebratory day for Christmas
21 or birthdays.

22 Q. 'Davie', I'm going to turn to what you tell us about
23 abuse you experienced in the foster home. What's your
24 first memory?

25 A. Oh, I would say roughly about 9/10-year-old, roughly.

1 You know, the earliest off I don't recall anything.
2 Even though [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] have recollection of that,
3 I don't. But I remember 9/10. Especially them two
4 years, because when I was 10 that was relevant to,
5 because that was the hottest summer of the year -- of
6 the century, 1976, and that was kind of a -- that was
7 a bad, bad, bad time for me. That's when everything
8 kind of took to the fore that I couldn't escape from.
9 Everything kind of unplugged and I came to life sort of
10 thing.

11 Q. You tell us about something that happened in the garden
12 and involved a lawnmower. Can you tell us what happened
13 there?

14 A. That's correct. I stole an apple and the foster father
15 dragged me to the garden, he was mowing the lawn. It
16 was one of the push lawnmowers, the old ones with the
17 two wheels, and he was trying to get my fingers in and
18 he was going to -- he was trying to -- maybe trying to
19 cut them up or do some sort of damage. I don't know
20 what he was trying to do. But I always just remember it
21 was just -- lawnmowers, it wasn't electrified or
22 anything like that, it was just a push lawnmower.

23 Q. And so --

24 A. He was just trying to put my fingers in the -- you know
25 in the blades, in between the blades.

1 Q. So he was trying to --

2 A. Yes, he was trying to, yeah.

3 Q. -- take your hands and put it in there?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. What happened? Did anything happen to your fingers?

6 A. No, no, no, I was fine. I was just crying a lot, maybe

7 somebody seen it or something, I don't know. I don't

8 know how it stopped.

9 Q. You also tell us about a spiral staircase in the house.

10 What happened about the spiral staircase?

11 A. That was the house in [REDACTED] what would happen

12 their rooms were up the stairs and, you know, when

13 I knew that she was coming up the stairs, it was

14 a little old creaky staircase and I knew she was coming,

15 I was bawling the place out, you know, to try to get

16 some sort of attention, but nothing materialised.

17 Q. You speak about being thrown down the stairs.

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. So who threw you down the stairs?

20 A. That was he when I tried to report what she done to me.

21 Q. When you say "he", you mean your foster father?

22 A. The foster father, yeah.

23 Q. Were you hurt?

24 A. I think I had a split head.

25 Q. You've already mentioned in your evidence about marks

1 being seen at school --

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. -- from cigarette burns?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. How did you get those cigarette burns?

6 A. They were stabbing them out on me. They were using

7 that -- you know any time I was reporting anything to

8 anybody, if I was going to say something, he would go

9 like -- you know, I've still got the marks today.

10 They're still prevalent in my life together.

11 Q. You say "they" and I assume you mean your foster

12 parents?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Did they both do it or --

15 A. I believe it was him. I believe it was him. I know she

16 done some stuff, but he was the one that -- he was

17 a smoker all the time.

18 Q. You've also already mentioned an incident involving

19 an ashtray.

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. What happened there?

22 A. I think I -- they used to call a thing they called

23 snowballing, you stole people's washing lines, you know,

24 clothes off their washing line. That's how I was -- she

25 was giving me football jerseys as a present for what she

1 was doing to me as a kind of a -- you know, "Don't say
2 anything", and she knew football was my crux, she knew
3 that I loved football, so she would get me football
4 tops, or shorts, socks. That's the only time -- that
5 was only just because she wanted things to be kept
6 private. Any time that he questioned it, then that's
7 when I was flung down the stairs.

8 Q. We're going to go on and speak about the abuse by your
9 foster mother --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- and she would get you football clothing --

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. -- as a present, really?

14 A. That's correct, yeah, a gift.

15 Q. But when you perhaps complained about her behaviour to
16 your foster father --

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. -- that was when he became --

19 A. Violent.

20 Q. There was something involving an ashtray. He did
21 something with an ashtray; is that right?

22 A. As I say, he just split my head open with an ashtray
23 when I complained about what she was doing to me,
24 because it was starting to get a wee bit -- very painful
25 for me and I knew it was wrong.

1 Q. You tell us when you were 12 or 13 you joined the Boys'
2 Brigade?
3 A. That's correct.
4 Q. Why was it you joined the Boys' Brigade?
5 A. Escapism.
6 Q. You tell us about the uniform --
7 A. That's correct.
8 Q. -- that you wore. Will you describe the uniform to us?
9 A. Yeah. It was a blazer. You had a -- as I say, some of
10 the stuff that we wore was compatible for these events
11 so that they didn't recognise that there was anything
12 going on. There was a pair of black flannels, a blazer
13 with a white sash come down here, and then a belt come
14 around your waste with a buckle, a brass buckle. This
15 had to be cleaned regularly. We had to keep it pristine
16 clean, because that was part of their protocol.
17 Q. You tell us about things that happened involving that
18 brass buckle?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. What happened?
21 A. Playing football outside. I was ignoring his orders and
22 he eventually got me and battered me with the BB belt,
23 the buckle, until my knee busted.
24 Q. You tell us you still have some scars on your knees?
25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. That was from that incident involving the belt?

2 A. That's from that incident to this day, yeah.

3 Q. Did anyone ever ask you about these marks on you and the
4 cuts?

5 A. I was told just to say that I fell off a bike. A bike.
6 I never even had a bike. So tried to explain that to
7 people.

8 Q. You speak about screaming and people must have heard
9 your screams.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Who do you think it was that might have heard your
12 screams?

13 A. My neighbours. I ran away quite a lot and there was
14 a family that I went to for quite a lot and they kind of
15 had known what had happened to me and they kind of tried
16 to shield me as much as they could, but obviously they
17 couldn't because of their circumstances then and I've
18 not got any blame on them, but they just tried to shield
19 me as much as possible for what was going on. Just from
20 the harm. They didn't know about the sexual abuse, but
21 they knew about the violence.

22 Q. Also at paragraph 24 of your statement, 'Davie', you
23 speak about your foster father beating you using the
24 back of his hand?

25 A. That's correct, aye.

1 Q. And with his knuckles?

2 A. Yes. He was a big man, he was 6 feet 4, and he had
3 hands like shovels, so he couldn't miss, you know. It's
4 a case of -- you know, it was that swipe, you know, a --
5 you know.

6 LADY SMITH: You're showing us a side swipe there, 'Davie'.

7 A. That's that, where the knuckle gets you right in the
8 face.

9 LADY SMITH: Did I pick you up earlier saying he drove
10 buses?

11 A. Yes, he did, your Honour.

12 LADY SMITH: That would have been in the days that the buses
13 probably didn't have the sort of power steering that
14 they have now?

15 A. That's correct, your Honour.

16 LADY SMITH: So his hands would get quite strong from doing
17 his daily work?

18 A. Correct.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS RATTRAY: 'Davie', you've told us about the physical
21 abuse by your foster father.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What about your sisters, did anything happen to your
24 sisters?

25 A. I don't really recall anything, to be quite honest.

1 Q. But I think you describe what your sister might do to
2 try and protect you?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. What was that?

5 A. I think it was just they would -- they would just shield
6 me from -- if they came, you know, they would jump on
7 his back or something like that or get some sort of kind
8 of a distraction, you know, that either he would stop.

9 Q. You tell us in your statement that when he was hitting
10 you sometimes your sister would jump on his back to help
11 you.

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. But she just got battered for this?

14 A. Yeah, possibly, yes.

15 Q. I'm going to move on and ask you about what happened
16 with your foster mother. Are you able to tell us what
17 happened there?

18 A. (Pause)

19 As I say, I -- I don't -- going by what I know today
20 is that I think she was deprived of any sexual activity,
21 maybe to -- him, but she used that on me. And it was
22 really, really ... it was really, really bad.

23 She would -- she was quite -- she was quite a lot
24 older, maybe in her late 50s at that particular time, or
25 her early 60s, and she had that odour. It was really,

1 really bad, sorry for discriminating anybody, but it was
2 very, very bad. She was very, very repulsive.

3 She drank quite a lot, so maybe there was a lot of
4 staleness of the alcohol. But she would -- she was ...
5 sorry. She would use implements on me, on my back end.
6 But that was never recorded through doctor visits.
7 I still suffer today. I have a -- she was using -- what
8 do you call -- a -- a coal poker, you know they poke the
9 fire, she used the end of that on my back passage. She
10 would use the toilet brush on my back passage, the
11 handle, on my back passage.

12 She would also try and ... hurt me down there.

13 But I'm young and the words that she was coming away
14 with I didn't understand. That made it worse.

15 Q. How old were you when this started?

16 A. I would say about 9/10, that's my first recollection.

17 Q. How often did this happen?

18 A. Practically every day. And I mean that gracefully. It
19 was an ongoing thing. And if there was any kind of a --
20 you know, any kind of repercussions, you know, I would
21 get punished severely.

22 Q. At paragraph 27 of your statement, 'Davie', you speak
23 about there being a small lock quite high up on the
24 door.

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Which room was this a door to?

2 A. That was in my single room.

3 Q. Was that a lock that you used or who was using the lock?

4 A. She or he used, for punishment.

5 Q. I think you tell us that when she was abusing you in the
6 room she would lock the door?

7 A. She would lock the door, yes.

8 Q. What about your foster father? Did he know this was
9 going on?

10 A. Probably.

11 Q. I think I understand from what you've told us so far
12 that it was when you tried to tell him, that was when --

13 A. The punishments started. The violence. So that's why
14 now that I believe that they were in cahoots together.

15 Q. It was the period during the years that you were being
16 abused in this way by your foster mother that she was
17 also buying you football tops and --

18 A. That was to keep me quiet, if that makes sense.

19 Q. Were you allowed to keep those tops?

20 A. They were taken away within about two weeks.

21 Q. Who was it who took them away?

22 A. Him.

23 Q. Moving on to paragraph 30 of your statement, 'Davie',
24 you speak about her wearing some wigs.

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Can you help us with that?

2 A. I think that was to draw the attention away from her and
3 believed to be that I have another relative.

4 Q. I think you describe that she would wear one of the wigs
5 while sexually abusing you?

6 A. Correct, correct.

7 LADY SMITH: Can you tell me what the wigs were like?

8 A. Hold on.

9 LADY SMITH: That's fine. Just gather yourself together and
10 take as long as you need.

11 A. One particular one was a kind of auburn one. It was
12 kind of wavy. Kind of -- if I can put a picture, like
13 Betty Driver off Coronation Street. That kind of --
14 I remember it distinctly. It had kind of a white streak
15 coming down, kind of not a central parting over here.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 A. That stuck with me forever. But one of my relatives had
18 hair like that, so that was the -- that was
19 a distraction of her to say that it was somebody that's
20 was doing it --

21 LADY SMITH: Oh, I see.

22 A. -- rather than her.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you, 'Davie'.

24 MS RATTRAY: 'Davie', you've already mentioned the smell of
25 stale alcohol.

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And you tell us at paragraph 31 about her drinking.

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. What did she drink?

5 A. Vodka.

6 Q. When she was abusing you, was that when she was very
7 drunk or was she sober?

8 A. Probably sober enough to be capable of doing what she
9 done to me.

10 Q. You tell us that most of the sexual abuse stopped when
11 you were about 14 years old?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. At paragraph 32, you tell us about how you came to know
14 that the FKM/FKP were not your natural parents.

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Who told you about that?

17 A. I think it was just through either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and
18 then I went to the social work department and it was
19 confirmed.

20 Q. How did that affect you, learning that?

21 A. That's when I got really, really angry.

22 Q. How did you express your anger?

23 A. Alcohol, glue sniffing, taking drugs. That was my
24 escapism.

25 Q. Paragraph 37 on page 8 of your statement, 'Davie', you

1 tell us that you knew that you had to try to get out of
2 the house.

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. You say that you were trying anything for someone to
5 notice you?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. What kind of things did you do to try and get someone to
8 notice you?

9 A. Loads. First he had a Vauxhall Viva car, it was
10 an estate car. Now, I'm tiny, I was probably even
11 smaller then, and I probably couldn't even see over the
12 dashboard, but I managed to get a hold of the car keys
13 on [REDACTED] it's quite a steep
14 hill, and on the bottom of the hill there was a burn,
15 a wee small stream, very, very small, and I crashed into
16 it. But nothing was done.

17 I also stole a taxi. Same again. I probably
18 couldn't see over the dashboard. Nothing was done.

19 As I say, I drank, done stupid things to try and get
20 attention. I even represented myself at a children's
21 panel and they still ignored my plea.

22 Q. Were you able to tell anyone outside the home as to what
23 was going on?

24 A. Just that there was a family called the [REDACTED] family
25 that, as I say, they knew, very tried to shelter me as

1 much as they can, but obviously they couldn't because
2 they had a big family their self. And just during that
3 time span, you know, things -- you know, it was like
4 kept in the house sort of type thing.

5 Q. At paragraph 42, as you've mentioned already, you
6 finally ran away?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Whereabouts did you go?

9 A. I ended up in a sort of kind of a -- it's like
10 a homeless hostel, George Hotel, it was called. I lied
11 about my age to get into this facility. And then the
12 social work department picked up on me and then took me
13 to a secure place in Barrhead.

14 Q. You tell us that you were sent to an assessment centre
15 in Barrhead, Paisley --

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. -- until you were old enough to leave?

18 A. That's correct. That's correct.

19 Q. I'm going to take you to paragraph 51 of your statement
20 now, where you speak about reporting abuse --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- at FKM/FKP

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You tell us that there was an occasion when you were 14
25 that you tried to report it to the social work?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Can you tell us more about that?

3 A. I represented myself to the Burgher Street branch of the
4 Social Services and I told them what I knew and they
5 told me to go home. Partly due because I was under the
6 influence of alcohol, and they said, "FCX [REDACTED] just
7 go home", that's all they said. I remember it so
8 vividly.

9 Q. You name the person you spoke to?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And who was that?

12 A. It was a Ms Elizabeth Prentice who was my social worker
13 at that particular time.

14 Q. You say that it was obvious she didn't believe you in
15 the slightest?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. You tell us at paragraph 52 that later in life you made
18 a report to the police?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Do you know what's happened in relation to that report?

21 A. I believe it's been filed and -- you know, they have
22 believed my -- what happened happened and they
23 apologised for not acting on it then, because it was
24 reported then, according to records in Chester Street
25 police station, apparently. There was records, but

1 nothing was done.

2 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that ultimately

3 the case was closed as by this stage in 2015 --

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. -- both the FKM/FKP had died?

6 A. Apparently, yes.

7 Q. I'm going to look at paragraph 64 of your statement,

8 'Davie'. At paragraph 64 you speak about lessons to be

9 learned.

10 A. 100 per cent.

11 Q. What lessons do you think we should learn?

12 A. On the actual -- you know, the Disclosure Scotland or

13 PVG or whatever, you know, I've just learned about them

14 in the past few years. I've got enhanced disclosure, so

15 I know what that's about. That allows you to -- to care

16 for vulnerable people or to be in contact with

17 vulnerable people. There should be more checks done for

18 any kind of foster setting.

19 As I've spoken a lot, I have got a lot of anger

20 today because I was let down. My sisters were let down,

21 especially one, who took her own life. It's for her

22 today and me and [REDACTED] who's still with us.

23 So if there's anything that can come out of this,

24 I'm glad to be here today.

25 Q. You say that you would like people to have their

1 concerns listened to?

2 A. 100 per cent.

3 Q. And not just listened to but acted upon?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. And not to be made to feel it's in their mind.

6 A. That's correct.

7 MS RATTRAY: It just remains for me, 'Davie', to thank you
8 very much for helping me with the answers to my
9 questions today. I don't have any more questions for
10 you.

11 My Lady, I'm not aware of any application for
12 questions.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 Are there any outstanding applications for
15 questions?

16 'Davie', that does complete all the questions we
17 have for you this afternoon.

18 A. (Witness nods)

19 LADY SMITH: I just want to thank you very much for engaging
20 with the Inquiry as you have done, both by providing
21 your detailed written statement, which I've read
22 carefully and have taken account of, but you've also
23 made it all come alive, difficult though it is, this
24 afternoon by talking to me. I get that.

25 A. I just wish my sister was here today.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes. I can see that. It would have meant
2 a lot. She'd no doubt have been very proud of you,
3 'Davie'. (Pause)
4 A. Sorry.
5 LADY SMITH: There's absolutely no need for you to
6 apologise. I can see that keeping it all together has
7 not been easy for you.
8 But 'Davie', as you go away, please do believe me
9 when I say you have every reason to be proud of yourself
10 for doing what you've done this afternoon.
11 A. (Witness nods)
12 LADY SMITH: And do understand you've done something that's
13 very valuable to the Inquiry and increased our learning
14 and understanding, and that helps many, many people and
15 I hope it's going to help children in the future not go
16 through what you described to us. All right?
17 A. (Witness nods)
18 LADY SMITH: I can let you go now, but you go very much with
19 my thanks and my hopes that the rest of today is more
20 restful than it has been so far.
21 We'll just get these curtains closed to make sure
22 that you're comfortable in the space you're going to
23 cross when you leave.
24 There you go.
25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Do feel free to go now whenever you're ready,
2 'Davie'.

3 (The witness withdrew)

4 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the afternoon break, I want
5 to mention the names of the **FKM/FKP** and 'Davie's' own
6 sisters who he has referred to by name. These are names
7 that are all protected by my general protection order
8 and the people can't be identified outside this room.

9 Afternoon break, Ms Rattray, yes?

10 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, perhaps the afternoon break now and
11 then we will have time for a read-in.

12 LADY SMITH: Yes, let's do that. Thank you.

13 (2.59 pm)

14 (A short break)

15 (3.11 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms MacLeod, when you're ready.

17 'Karen' (read)

18 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of an applicant who wishes
19 to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym
20 'Karen'. Her statement is at WIT-1-000000936. 'Karen'
21 was boarded out by Glasgow Corporation, later
22 Strathclyde Regional Council, with **ERK-SPO** in
23 **██████████** near Fraserburgh from **██████████** 1966 to
24 **██████████** 1976.

25 The current responsible authority is Glasgow City

1 Council:

2 "My name is 'Karen'. I was born in 1961. My
3 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

4 I was born in Dumbarton and had nine brothers and
5 sisters. One sister was a year older than me and we
6 grew up together as children and only got separated when
7 we were 14. The only others who I knew about were
8 another sister and brother who were two and three years
9 younger than me. Six other children died either in
10 childbirth or very soon after. I didn't know about all
11 the others until I was nearly 16.

12 I was told that my dad was out at work a lot of the
13 time. He was a labourer. I was also told by mum in
14 adult life that she worked as a seamstress. My mum, in
15 my adult life, has told me that she and my dad had
16 a violent relationship and he raped her. I never
17 forgave my dad for that. When I was four, apparently
18 something happened in the house, but I don't know what
19 it was. The police were involved. All of the children
20 that were born by that time were taken into care. That
21 would have been eight of us. All I know is that my
22 older sister came with me and the two children younger
23 than me, another brother and sister, also ended up in.

24 I am not sure of the exact circumstances of us
25 getting taken away but it had something to do with the

1 Children's Act. I saw my files when I was an adult and
2 I read somewhere along the lines that another charity
3 like Barnardo's were possibly involved.

4 I remember being in a black car beside my older
5 sister and we were being driven away from our house in
6 Dumbarton and children were running after the car. That
7 is the last recollection of leaving my family as
8 a child. I was told in later life by my oldest brother
9 that he was chasing the car. My brothers apparently
10 were taken to a home run by monks. I have no
11 recollection of my mum from before I was taken into
12 care. My mum died in 1994. My dad died around 1987."

13 'Karen' was taken to Castlemilk Children's Home.
14 I'll move now to paragraph 9 on page 3:

15 "My older sister and I were taken into an office at
16 Castlemilk and asked if we wanted to go on holiday,
17 which of course we said we did. After that, I remember
18 someone tried to give me some sort of injections so
19 I ran away and locked myself in the toilet. They found
20 me and I got the injections from a male doctor.

21 The next thing I remember was being on a train and
22 going to foster carers. I believe the four oldest
23 children in my family went back to live with mum and the
24 four youngest were put into foster care. My older
25 sister came with me to [REDACTED] The two youngest

1 children went somewhere else. I don't recall them being
2 at Castlemilk, but they might have been.

3 I remember the train journey because I went for
4 a pee on the train and the train 'shoogled' and
5 I thought it was really funny. I think it must have
6 been social workers that were with us but I don't
7 remember having met a social worker before then. When
8 we got off the train we got in a car. I am not sure
9 what train station we arrived at, but we were driven in
10 a car to a farm in [REDACTED] I don't remember that car
11 journey.

12 My foster parents were ERK-SPO [REDACTED] She
13 was known as ERK [REDACTED] They would have been in their 60s.
14 He was tall, balding and had a ruddy farmers' face. He
15 had a kind smiley face and he was a lovely man. He was
16 the head gardener at the main house, which was nearby.
17 ERK [REDACTED] was small and a bit heavy and always had a sour
18 look on her face. I never saw her happy. They had
19 three sons of their own but they were much older and had
20 married and left home and had their own children. When
21 we were there, it was only me and my sister who lived
22 with ERK-SPO [REDACTED]

23 We initially lived on a farm in [REDACTED]
24 Aberdeenshire. My foster dad named the farm. When
25 I was about eight, we moved to an address at [REDACTED]

1 This was after my foster dad had a heart attack.
2 I don't know but he had previously had heart attacks and
3 when he had the second one he was told that the farm was
4 too much work for him and he should retire. I didn't
5 know they were planning on moving until one day me and
6 my sister got home from school and we were all packed up
7 and told we were moving. We got in his car and we drove
8 to our new house in [REDACTED]

9 The farm was a typical farm with cattle and
10 vegetables. We never used the front door. We used the
11 side door which led into the washhouse, then the
12 kitchen, a back living room. It had a huge fireplace
13 and a big table and old tatty furniture. Next to that
14 was ERK-SPO [REDACTED] bedroom. There was a nice living room at
15 the front of the house for guests. There were stairs
16 leading to two attic rooms which was where me and my
17 sister slept. We were together in the same room
18 initially, but then we were put in separate rooms
19 because my sister wet the bed. The house didn't have
20 an inside toilet. We had a pail in our bedroom and
21 there was an outside porta loo.

22 The house we moved to in [REDACTED] was a nice big
23 house. It had a porch and just inside on the left was
24 my foster parents' bedroom. Also downstairs was
25 a living room and a door leading to the bathroom and

1 kitchen, there were stairs going up to two big bedrooms
2 and a glory hole room. There was a nice front garden
3 but we didn't play there because my foster dad kept it
4 really nice and entered gardening competitions. The
5 back garden was gravel, no grass, and there was
6 a washhouse outside. This house was in a village so
7 there was more for us to do than on the farm.

8 We were met at the door by the foster carers, ERK-SPO
9 ERK-SPO when we first arrived. The foster dad
10 asked me how the train journey was and I told him how
11 I got a biscuit and the train 'shoogled' when I had
12 a pee. When we were at the foster home we were told by
13 the social worker that this was our new mum and dad.
14 I didn't really know any better so that's what I called
15 them. My sister who was a year older than me, said that
16 they weren't our mum and dad and she refused to call
17 them that. I was crying because I didn't understand why
18 she didn't want to call them mum and dad. My sister
19 just called them ERK-SPO to begin with and they
20 didn't try and correct her.

21 We were woken up and then got dressed and went down
22 for breakfast in the morning. In the evening about 6.30
23 we got a cup of tea and a Rich Tea biscuit before bed.
24 Bedtime and lights out was 7 o'clock. By the time I was
25 12 or 13 it moved to 9 o'clock.

1 Because we were on the farm there was always plenty
2 food to eat when my foster dad was there. We had
3 a roast on a Sunday and sometimes through the week. We
4 had plenty eggs and vegetables. Our evening meal was
5 often soup and sandwiches or cold meat. We had to put
6 our hands up to ask for permission to leave the table.
7 The food was always good when my foster dad was there.
8 Whenever my dad wasn't there, she made porridge that was
9 lumpy and disgusting. He was never there at breakfast
10 time, because he was working on the farm. He was often
11 not there at supper time either. I got lunch at school
12 and there were no issues with the food at school.

13 We had a bath on Saturday night so we were clean for
14 church on a Sunday. It was in one of those tin baths in
15 front of the fireplace. We had soap but not shampoo.
16 The bar of soap was usually made up of small bits of
17 leftover soap, usually carbolic. I was just a child so
18 didn't really expect any privacy. I didn't have any
19 problems with bath nights but my sister did.

20 I was allergic to fish so my foster mum never gave
21 it to me. One time when I was about six the school made
22 me eat fish despite me telling them I couldn't eat it.
23 I had a reaction and was violently sick. When I got
24 home I told my foster mum and she marched down to the
25 school and gave them hell. That was the first time she

1 stood up for me and I was actually quite proud of her
2 for that.

3 We had medical examinations every year. I regularly
4 had bruises from the beatings my foster mum gave me.
5 These were easily explained because I lived on a farm
6 and was a bit of a tomboy and loved climbing trees.
7 I often had other bruises and she told people this.

8 When I was about five apparently I collapsed at
9 school and the janitor found me in the playground. My
10 foster mum must have sent me to school when I was
11 obviously ill. When I woke up I was in hospital and
12 I had pneumonia. Around that time I was told I was
13 borderline diabetic. After I was told that, my foster
14 mum stopped giving me cakes and sugary sweets. Ever
15 since then I have tried to only eat food that I am
16 supposed to. I don't remember any other time when I was
17 ill when I was with the foster carers

18 I had two sets of clothes that were kept good. One
19 was my school clothes and the other was my Sunday church
20 clothes. The other clothes were often hand-me-downs
21 from my foster mum or from jumble sales. When we needed
22 new clothes we got them in Fraserburgh although some
23 things were sent to us from the social work department
24 in Glasgow. We got shoes at the jumble sales or that
25 had been left by previous foster children.

1 I first went to primary school. It was a mile away
2 and I used to walk. The school was closed down and then
3 I went to another primary which was possibly about five
4 miles away. I never had any issues with primary school.
5 I started going to secondary school in [REDACTED] I hated
6 it. I didn't like the other children or the teachers.
7 It was more disciplined there. My sister and I were
8 teased quite a lot. We were foster children so quite
9 often it was said that we didn't have parents and nobody
10 wanted us. I didn't make any proper friends at school.

11 We went to church on a Sunday. Me and my sister
12 went to Sunday school and our foster parents went into
13 the church. We didn't have a choice and we never
14 questioned it.

15 After school we had to come straight back home. We
16 weren't allowed to chat or play with our friends. When
17 we got home we did any homework we had and then got
18 changed into our old clothes then went out to help with
19 whatever needed done on the farm. When I had any spare
20 time, if I could I would spend it with my foster dad
21 helping him on the farm. If for whatever reason
22 I couldn't go out to work, I just sat in the house
23 reading my books or knitted.

24 When my foster dad was home, I would sometimes sit
25 with him and we did his accounts together or he did

1 lessons with us. I enjoyed doing this with him. My
2 foster mother taught me how to knit and that was the
3 only useful thing she ever did for me. I never sat and
4 chatted with her in the house. If I ever dropped
5 a stitch, she hit me with the end of the needle across
6 the knuckles. My sister got hit on the knuckles too if
7 she dropped a stitch.

8 There was a television which we were allowed to
9 watch but my foster mum would often place the washing
10 rack in the way deliberately so that I couldn't see it.
11 She always made sure we were doing things or there was
12 something to stop me watching my programmes. I read
13 some of my foster mum's books or magazines or comics we
14 had from other people's children.

15 At [REDACTED] my foster dad and some of the other
16 farmers made us a swing in the garden and when we didn't
17 have hens any more he made it into a play house for us.
18 Me and my sister used to play in there and we had fun.
19 We didn't get much time to play. A lot of our time in
20 the evening was doing lessons with the foster parents.
21 She did writing lessons where she made us write passages
22 out and he did sums with us. This helped us at school.

23 We had lots of chores to do on the farm. I didn't
24 call what I did for my dad on the farm chores as I loved
25 helping him. We collected the hens' eggs and cleaned

1 out the hen house. We also had to clean out the cows'
2 barn. We also had to do stuff with the vegetables
3 growing in the fields. I sometimes sat on Betsy,
4 a Clydesdale horse, and with my dad we ploughed the
5 fields. When my dad got a tractor I sat beside him.
6 When he was seeding the fields I helped him. For the
7 house we had to get water from the outside water pump
8 and wash the dishes. Because of the time I spent
9 helping my foster dad on the farm my ambition in life
10 was always to be a farmer's wife.

11 We were never taken out as a family for day trips
12 anywhere. During the summer holidays we went to stay
13 sometimes with two of ERK-SPO sons. They were both
14 married and had their own children. We didn't have
15 a great time with one son and his wife as we didn't
16 really get on with their children. We had a nice time
17 at Laurencekirk with the other son and his wife as we
18 got on well with them. We sometimes stayed overnight
19 with them. I was happy when I was in their son's
20 company as he reminded me of his dad, my foster dad.
21 Occasionally we stayed there for a week's holiday, it
22 was either in Buckie or Laurencekirk. We never had a,
23 what you would call normal, family holiday.

24 Birthdays weren't celebrated with the foster
25 parents. There were no parties, cakes or birthday

1 cards. At Christmas the social work department sent us
2 a present. It was usually a toy or a book. One year
3 I got a plastic handbag and my sister got a doll. Our
4 foster parents gave us a colouring book, crayons,
5 an orange and a thruppenny piece.

6 I know that the foster parents got money for having
7 us and they were supposed to give us pocket money.
8 I got thruppence from my foster dad. We never actually
9 got to keep it because my foster mum took the money back
10 for our board and lodging. My foster dad didn't know
11 that she took it back from us.

12 At [REDACTED] we were given 10 pence each week pocket
13 money. We could buy sweets but because I never ate them
14 I gave my money to my sister. I realised after a while
15 that I could save the money to buy my foster mum
16 a mother's day present. I did and bought her
17 a calendar. I am not sure why I did this for her when
18 I hated her but that's is the kind of person I am.
19 I did more things like this after my foster dad died
20 in [REDACTED] 1973.

21 We were visited a few times by a man and a woman who
22 must have been social workers. They came from Glasgow
23 or Aberdeen. We had maybe been at [REDACTED] about
24 six months by that point. They visited us twice at
25 [REDACTED] and only once at [REDACTED] Their previous foster

1 children also came to the house to visit ERK-SPO

2 My sister wet the bed. We were locked in the
3 bedroom at night and were given a pail to use if we
4 needed the toilet. Initially we were put in the same
5 bedroom and slept in the same bed, but when my sister
6 wet the bed, our foster mum didn't know which one of us
7 it was. I used to cover for her, change into her wet
8 nightclothes and take the blame for her because I felt
9 I was stronger than she was. She was smaller than me
10 and was very thin. When the bed was wet, I was belted.

11 ERK-SPO had other foster children, a boy and
12 a girl about ten years before us. I think they were
13 brother and sister. He joined the RAF. I heard from
14 them that ERK-SPO had another family of four children
15 too, but they gave them back because one of them wet the
16 bed. The foster son often came back and visited the

17 ERK-SPO

18 It was the man's job to work on the farm. It was
19 the responsibility of my foster mother to deal with the
20 house and bring up the children. My foster father
21 wouldn't interfere with what my foster mum was doing in
22 the house and would leave all the discipline to her. My
23 foster mum never hit me when my foster father was there.
24 When my sister continued to wet her bed, she wasn't
25 beaten and instead her punishment was to wash her own

1 sheets.

2 No one ever sat down with me and told me what the
3 ground rules were and what was acceptable behaviour and
4 what was not.

5 I think I was about six years old when my sister
6 devised a plan for us to run away. She wanted to go
7 home because ERK-SPO weren't her real mum and dad. It
8 was snowing really badly and we never really thought it
9 through because my foster dad just followed the
10 footsteps in the snow and found us. We tried running
11 away another time but were caught by another farmer not
12 very far away. Nobody ever asked us why we ran away.

13 All the good memories I have from being with the
14 foster parents is the time that I spent with my foster
15 dad, the man I was happy to call my dad. He was
16 a lovely man. When my foster mum was taken into
17 hospital, my dad made us food and we watched Top of the
18 Pops on the television. We had a great time and this
19 was probably the best day I had ever had in my life.
20 When we moved to my foster father was there
21 most of the time and I spent a lot of time outside with
22 him. We went for walks and we watched the bowling.
23 I tried to spend as much time with him as I could. He
24 often held my hand when we were going for a walk to or
25 from church and we would sing or he would tell me

1 stories.

2 When I took the blame for my sister wetting the bed,
3 our foster mum belted me. I took the blame because
4 I felt I was stronger than my sister. It was a big wide
5 belt with a buckle at one end. She made me lie on the
6 bed and pulled my pyjama trousers down and lifted my top
7 up and hit the bare skin on my stomach, then on my back,
8 backside and the back of my legs. My sister was told to
9 watch while I was getting hit. She knew it had been my
10 sister who wet the bed but she belted me for lying a lot
11 of the time. To start with my sister would cry, but as
12 time went on she laughed when I was being beaten.

13 I learned not to struggle or move when she was
14 hitting me or it would just make it worse. It was
15 usually about five strokes and it left me with weals.
16 I remember screaming the first time she belted me and
17 she told me the more I screamed the worse it was going
18 to get. After that I bit the bedclothes to stop me from
19 screaming. Afterwards she put Germolene on my weals.

20 She would belt me many other times for many reasons.
21 If I told lies or stole food those were the usual
22 reasons. To start off with she never hit me with the
23 buckle but I think when I just lay there and didn't cry
24 she started hitting me with the buckle end. I would
25 guess that I was hit with the belt probably once

1 a fortnight. Times more, sometimes less. She never hit
2 me when my foster dad was in the house. It was always
3 when he was working on the farm.

4 When my sister wet the bed she didn't get a proper
5 wash so she smelled of urine. On the Saturday I always
6 had my bath first, then the bath was emptied and filled
7 with cold water. My sister was then given a cold bath,
8 and I mean a cold bath with no hot water. I don't
9 remember if it was ever said, but I assumed it was
10 because she wet the bed. I don't remember getting any
11 love and attention from my foster mum. My sister now
12 and again got some from her, but not a great deal.

13 One time when we were outside on the farm at [REDACTED]
14 my foster mother came out at lunchtime with sandwiches
15 for us. She gave my sister her sandwich then threw my
16 sandwich onto the ground, stamped on it with her filthy
17 welly, then told me to pick it up and eat it. I had to
18 eat it and I didn't have a choice in the matter. She
19 told me to eat it so I had to eat it, covered in cow
20 shit or not. My sister never had to do anything like
21 that and she was never belted.

22 One Christmas my sister was given a doll by the
23 social work department. She teased me and made me
24 jealous because I never had a doll. I broke its head
25 off. My foster mum battered me for that. She didn't

1 just belt me. Sometimes she would punch me and if
2 I fell to the ground she would kick me. This would
3 usually happen outside the house. If it was in the
4 house, she would belt me.

5 My sister was always hungry and I felt sorry for her
6 so I would sneak into the kitchen and steal bread or
7 something like that for her and give it to her in the
8 bedroom. I never ate any of it and gave it all to her.
9 She would then grass on me and our foster mum would belt
10 me for stealing. She enjoyed me getting hit.

11 If you were given food and you didn't eat it, she
12 would serve it to you at the next meal. If you didn't
13 eat it, you got it at your next meal. This would go on
14 for days, possibly a week, maybe even two weeks, until
15 you ate it, even if the food had gone mouldy. By that
16 time you would be absolutely starving. In this time
17 I would still get cups of tea and water but that was
18 all. Me and my sister used to dislike different things
19 so when our foster mum wasn't looking we would swap
20 things on our plates.

21 I learned never to be sick or if I was sick in my
22 mouth I quickly swallowed it. If she saw me being sick
23 in my mouth she would tell me not to spit it out and to
24 swallow it. I knew that if I was sick my foster mum
25 would have beaten me.

1 Whenever my foster dad was in the house I would try
2 and be near him. If he was out I would hide in the
3 house and read books or knit. If she found me doing
4 nothing, she would find something for me to do and if
5 I didn't do it right she battered me. When we moved to
6 ██████████ because my foster dad was there most of the
7 time, the belting by my foster mum more or less stopped.

8 My foster dad never hit me and I think he would have
9 gone mental if he had known that my foster mum was
10 hitting us as much as she was. One time she sent him to
11 leather me because I had stolen food from the kitchen.
12 He came up to the bedroom and I was petrified. He came
13 in and told me to scream. He whacked the bed and
14 I tried my best to scream properly. As far as she was
15 concerned, he had belted me. My foster father grew in
16 my estimations after that.

17 When we were at the farm, my foster mum used to play
18 the song 'Nobody's child' and she used to sing it to me.
19 She made me sing it too. She did this because she was
20 pure evil. She often told me that our real mum and dad
21 didn't love me and that's why they were lumbered with
22 us. She told us that nobody ever wanted me. She made
23 me feel like I was unlovable but I knew that my foster
24 dad loved me. He spent time with me and showed me love
25 and affection. I do not have a bad word to say about my

1 foster dad.

2 There was another time when my foster dad was
3 playing with my sister and myself. My foster mum was in
4 our neighbour's house. My dad was playing with us and
5 he was birling us round, holding one foot and one ankle
6 and we were off the ground. We called it getting
7 a 'fishy'. My foster mum came back into the house and
8 she went ballistic at him, but I am not sure why. She
9 told him he shouldn't be playing with us like that. My
10 dad turned to her and said that she was just jealous and
11 he should have married the 'other one'. By that he
12 meant her twin sister, who was a lovely woman. That was
13 the first time I realised that he wasn't happy in the
14 relationship.

15 I remember the day that I got home from school for
16 lunch and being told that my foster father had died.
17 I knew he hadn't been well that day so when I came into
18 the house I asked my foster mum how he was. She just
19 turned to me and without any emotion said, 'He's dead'.
20 I was devastated and dropped the bowl of soup I was
21 carrying and ran into the bathroom crying. I heard our
22 neighbour speaking to my foster mum and she was telling
23 her that she should have told me in a better way. Our
24 neighbour came into the bathroom and comforted me. My
25 foster mum then made me go back to school for the rest

1 of the day. Everyone in my class knew what had happened
2 and I broke down in class. I can't believe that my
3 foster mum could be so heartless in the way she told me
4 and that she sent me back to school.

5 My foster mum didn't let me go to my foster dad's
6 funeral. She said it was because we were too young.
7 I was 12 and I know there were other children there much
8 younger than us. I think it was because we weren't his
9 actual family. Before the funeral, my foster dad was
10 laid out in my mum's bedroom in a coffin. I touched him
11 and he felt cold. I climbed into the coffin and lay
12 besides him to try and warm him up and I fell asleep.
13 I was found the next morning by my foster dad's son
14 because they were looking for me. He just told everyone
15 that he found me hiding under the bed.

16 After my foster dad died the food got worse. For
17 breakfast we got bread and butter and a cup of water, no
18 porridge. At lunchtime we got nothing. Tea time was
19 whatever she could be bothered cooking. Sometimes it
20 might be a bowl of tinned soup and a couple of slices of
21 bread. One morning my foster mum got me out of my bed
22 at 4 o'clock in the morning and told me I had to do the
23 fire. I had to get the kindling and the coal ready.
24 I also had to make the porridge because she discovered
25 that I could cook. At 6 o'clock every morning I had to

1 wake her up with a cup of tea so she could take her
2 tablets. It had to be bang on 6 o'clock, not a minute
3 earlier or a minute later. I then had to get my sister
4 up for school.

5 After my foster dad died, my foster mum did nothing
6 in the house. She just sat about and expected me to do
7 everything. The only thing she did was the washing and
8 that was so our next door neighbour saw this and thought
9 life was normal.

10 One time we went to visit my foster mum's twin
11 sister. We were living in [REDACTED] and dad had died by
12 that time. For breakfast my foster mum gave me a boiled
13 egg with soldiers. My egg was rotten. She told me
14 I wasn't to waste it and I had to eat it. Her twin
15 sister told her that she shouldn't force me to eat it as
16 it would be horrible. My foster mum told her that
17 I wasn't getting to waste food. Her twin sister walked
18 out in disgust.

19 After my foster dad died, for the next two years my
20 foster mum called me 'bastard' all the time. She would
21 say 'bastard do this', or 'bastard do that'. She only
22 did this when there was no one else in the house. This
23 was a very lonely time for me because I had nobody to
24 love or to love me. Even my sister turned against me.
25 At one point I told my foster mother that it should have

1 been her that died and not my foster dad. I got
2 a beating for that. I can't remember how she beat me
3 but I think she punched me. I felt it was worth it.

4 Across the road from our house was a house that was
5 getting demolished and our foster mum sent us over to
6 get wood for burning on the fire. My sister and I went
7 over and we started collecting it. At one point
8 I picked up the end of a bit of wood and she picked up
9 the other. We both refused to let go. We pulled at it
10 then I decided to let her have it and let go. She fell
11 backwards and cut her backside on some glass. When we
12 got home, her backside was pouring with blood. My
13 foster mum beat me with a stick and that was the first
14 time she had hit me with a stick. My mum then made my
15 sister walk up to the doctors holding a wad of material
16 against her backside and my sister was virtually naked.

17 When I was about 13 or 14 I knew my sister wanted
18 a watch. Being the person that I am, I stole money out
19 of my foster mum's purse and bought her one. I hid the
20 money that was left over. My sister grassed on me and
21 told our foster mum. When she heard about it, my foster
22 mum hit me on the body over my clothes with a stick. My
23 sister started hitting me with a stick too. I ended up
24 with bruising and redness to my back. My foster mum
25 encouraged her to hit me. My sister did it and she

1 enjoyed it.

2 Another time my sister and I pinched some
3 strawberries from a garden when we were on our way home.
4 Afterwards I got ringworms and my body was covered in
5 red circle marks. I admitted it could have been because
6 I had stolen and eaten the strawberries. Then she
7 whacked me with that belt but it was on my body over my
8 clothing. She didn't care what she was doing and she
9 was hitting me with the buckle end of the belt. By this
10 time I stopped reacting when she was beating me. It was
11 extremely painful but I didn't scream or cry. I was
12 numb by this point.

13 My sister started her periods when she was about 14.
14 She hadn't learned about periods at school but I had.
15 She was screaming when it happened and she was bleeding
16 heavily. Our foster mum made her walk all the way to
17 the chemist to get her own sanitary towels. I offered
18 to run to the chemist and get them for her, but she made
19 my sister go. It was really degrading because she was
20 in a mess. I hadn't realised up until then that our
21 foster mum had been horrible to my sister. She didn't
22 get beaten but she was degraded and humiliated.

23 The whole time I was with my foster parents, my
24 foster mum looked for any excuse to belt me. If I back
25 chatted her, told lies, didn't eat my supper or any

1 other minor thing she liked it because it gave her
2 an excuse to belt me. When she was belting me, her
3 language was foul and she would be cursing and swearing.
4 One time I used the word bloody as a swearword and she
5 didn't like it. My dad stuck up for me saying that
6 bloody was in the Bible so it wasn't a swearword. My
7 foster mum beat me the next day when he wasn't there
8 because he had stuck up for me.

9 The previous foster girls sometimes came to visit
10 ERK-SPO they had previously been fostered by the
11 ERK-SPO She took me and my sister for a walk when she
12 came. At one point on our walk she held my sister over
13 the edge of a bridge over a railway line threatening to
14 drop her. It was sort of done as a joke. I think the
15 previous foster girl was doing it to stick up for me and
16 frighten my sister and let her know that she knew she
17 was grassing on me to our foster mum. I was really
18 scared for my sister so I ran back and told our foster
19 mum. She wasn't allowed to visit after that. I have
20 since heard that she committed suicide.

21 The PE teacher at school was a pervert. After PE
22 the girls would be having their showers and he would
23 come into the shower room. Sometimes he would come
24 close to you and the girls would be trying to cover
25 themselves with their hands in the shower. He would

1 tell the girls to carry on washing but it was obvious he
2 just wanted to watch. I was 11 or 12 and all the girls
3 were starting to develop. He had absolutely no reason
4 for being in there. We complained and he was there for
5 a while after that but then he was replaced. I don't
6 know what happened to the pervert. I don't remember his
7 name.

8 I was still 14 when I left foster care. She was
9 still calling me bastard and I flipped. I think this
10 was a very short time after she had beaten me with the
11 stick. I grabbed her at the chest by her cooking pinny
12 and pushed her against the door and told her to never
13 call me that again. I shouted at her that my name was
14 'Karen' and not bastard. I ran out and up to my bedroom
15 and everything just calmed down. That night she locked
16 me in my bedroom from the outside. My sister's room was
17 opposite mine so I managed to get her to unlock my door.
18 I told her that I was going to run away but she wouldn't
19 let me downstairs. I went into the glory hole room and
20 climbed out the window onto a flat roof, then down and
21 I ran away. I got to Fraserburgh and I was wandering
22 about the streets a few hours later in the early hours
23 of the morning and the police picked me up. I was put
24 in a detention room at the police station.

25 My foster mum came to the police station and I heard

1 her voice. I banged and banged on the door and I went
2 ballistic saying I wasn't going to live with her.
3 I then heard her say that she didn't want me back so
4 I was quite happy. I was 14 and deemed to be unruly by
5 the police.

6 A female social worker took me to the Cabin in
7 Turriff. I knew it was a temporary placement until
8 something more permanent could be found.

9 After we had been with the foster carers about six
10 months we were visited by a male and a female who were
11 social workers from Glasgow or Aberdeen. His name was
12 Mr Butler. We were put in the nice living room at the
13 front of the house and were wearing our good clothes
14 because we knew they were coming. Our foster mum was
15 usually there when they were speaking to us so there was
16 no way we could say anything but she left the room to
17 make tea. They asked me if we were happy there and we
18 told them we weren't and wanted to go home. My sister
19 told them that we were getting hit and I backed her up
20 and he just said that we were liars. I was probably
21 five. I remember telling them that mum was hitting us
22 and not feeding us. They didn't believe us and that was
23 the start of me not being believed.

24 They visited another time and we told them the same
25 thing and that we were going to run away. They didn't

1 believe us and I think I gave up trying to tell anyone
2 else after that. The rest of the time my foster mum was
3 there and we knew we couldn't say anything in front of
4 her. When they visited us at [REDACTED] there was no point
5 in telling them again.

6 I could never tell my foster dad about the abuse
7 I was suffering from my foster mum. She made it clear
8 that if I ever said anything to him about it she would
9 make it a lot worse for me. I was too frightened to say
10 anything to my foster dad.

11 When I was in my 20s, I spoke to the foster carers'
12 son and told him some of the things about my foster mum
13 abusing me. He said he knew that it was going on at the
14 time.

15 The previous foster son used to come and visit
16 [REDACTED] farm when me and my sister were there. He
17 considered ERK-SPO [REDACTED] to be his mum and dad even though
18 they had left about ten years earlier. One time he was
19 there and he told us to hide in his car so we hid on the
20 back seat. I was about six. I looked up and he was
21 saying goodbye to our foster parents. One of us must
22 have put our heads up too high and ERK-SPO [REDACTED] spotted us
23 and told us to get out of the car. The foster son was
24 told never to come back to the farm. He was obviously
25 going to take us away from the farm for whatever reason.

1 I think my sister must have told him what was going on.
2 I remember him saying that he knew what we were going
3 through but he never told me if anything happened to
4 him. Nothing changed after that.

5 When I ran away from my foster mum and before I went
6 to the Cabin in Turriff the police asked me why I had
7 run away and why I didn't want to go back to live with
8 my foster mum. I just told them that she kept calling
9 me bastard and had locked me in my bedroom. I didn't
10 tell them everything else because they would have called
11 me a liar and because by then I knew that no one cared.

12 I never told anyone about the abuse we suffered from
13 our foster mum because I knew I would get beaten if she
14 found out. She made it clear that if I told anyone she
15 would make it much worse for us."

16 From paragraph 77 to paragraph 155 'Karen' speaks
17 about her experiences at the Cabin in Turriff,
18 St Clair's home for girls in Aberdeen, Broomhill
19 Children's Home in Aberdeen, Craiginches Prison in
20 Aberdeen, Seafield Children's Home in Aberdeen.

21 I will move on to paragraph 95 on page 24, where
22 'Karen' tells us about being visited by her foster
23 mother while she was at St Clair's.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS MACLEOD: "My foster mum came to visit me the first time

1 I was at St Clair's. She wanted to take me on holiday
2 with her but I said I didn't want to go with her and
3 I walked away. A while later I went back to the office
4 and told them I had changed my mind. It was then
5 arranged for me to meet with my sister and we would
6 travel together.

7 I had a good time with my foster mum, we had a good
8 chat and a laugh and a bit of a carry on. After that
9 I started visiting her during holidays from St Clair's.
10 I got on better with her. These visits were arranged by
11 social workers."

12 I'll now move to paragraph 158 on page 39 where
13 'Karen' speaks about her life after care:

14 "I went to see my real mum for the first time in my
15 life in 1981. She was a mess. She was an alcoholic and
16 she was a horrible woman. I hated her at this point.
17 I met her again in 1994 and after spending a lot of time
18 and chatting with her, I forgave her for putting me into
19 care. She had a very hard time living with my father
20 and had a lot to go through with him. I think this was
21 a turning point in my life. This was when my mum became
22 my real mum. We did lots of things we should have done
23 when I was a child. I slept in my mum's bed and she
24 slept on the sofa. She cooked for me and we had a good
25 time together. This was the point I put everything in

1 my past behind me."

2 I'll then move on, my Lady, to paragraph 162 on
3 page 40 where 'Karen' speaks about impact:

4 "It was only when I was at [REDACTED] when I was about
5 11 or 12 that a social worker came to our house and told
6 us that my other sisters and brothers' foster parents
7 were wondering if we wanted to go and meet them.
8 I didn't even know I had a brother and a sister.
9 Arrangements were made, but then we were told it was
10 cancelled. We were led to believe that they had
11 cancelled, but when I spoke to my sister years later,
12 she said it was cancelled on our side. I never got to
13 meet them while I was in care.

14 I have met my brothers and sisters intermittently
15 over the years. I got close to one of my brothers for
16 a while, but then we fell out. When we were speaking,
17 he was telling me everything about my other siblings.
18 I have met them all now but I am only close to my
19 sister. I am not close to any of the others. I have
20 even fallen out with my sister who I know the best,
21 having been in foster care with her for ten years. Some
22 of them I don't really know very well at all. Had we
23 all been brought up together as a family, I am sure that
24 things would probably be different and I would have
25 a closer relationship to most of them. Being taken into

1 care stripped me of my family.

2 Because my foster mum warned us not to be sick,
3 I have always just swallowed it when it was in my mouth.
4 It is almost a natural reaction for me now. I would
5 only ever spit it out if there was nobody else there."

6 I'll move to paragraph 166:

7 "Because of all the time I spent in care, I think
8 I was always quite old fashioned in everything I did.
9 I think the way that I was treated made me an angry
10 child. It wasn't in my nature to be like that, but the
11 system made me that way because no one ever believed me.
12 Because of the good time I had at the Cabin in Turriff
13 I decided that was a happy place for me."

14 I now turn to paragraph 169:

15 "After my foster mum gave me a rotten egg to eat
16 I couldn't eat eggs for a long time. I only managed to
17 eat them again when I was trying to encourage my own
18 children to eat them by making them copy me."

19 Now to paragraph 173:

20 "I have made up with my birth mum and I don't blame
21 her after I learned what she had been through. I still
22 think of her as my mum. In 1994 my mum was making
23 arrangements to come and stay with me. Unfortunately,
24 she died on the day of my birthday. I consider my
25 foster dad to be my dad and I am still happy to call him

1 my dad. I have a photograph of them both at my bedside
2 and every night before I go to sleep I look at the
3 photographs and say good night to my mum and dad.

4 Because I never had any love and affection as
5 a child, my own children suffered because I couldn't
6 cuddle them. It felt alien to me because I had never
7 experienced it. It felt wrong to even have my own
8 children sitting on my knee. I know that I wasn't
9 a good mother. I never hit my children, but I shouted
10 at them a lot because that was better than hitting.
11 I decided never to hit my children because it had
12 happened to me and it affected me. There is never
13 a need to hit a child."

14 And now to paragraph 179:

15 "If I had been left to stay with **ERK-SPO** my
16 foster parents, I think I would have become a farmer's
17 wife, which is what I always wanted to be. I felt safe
18 when I was with my foster dad, but everywhere else
19 I felt alone and vulnerable. There was no one when
20 I was growing up that I could turn to for help. When my
21 foster father died I lost any chance of becoming
22 a farmer's wife and because I was then sent to different
23 places and my life turned out completely different to
24 what it could have been. I am sure my life could have
25 been better because my foster dad would have protected

1 me. There was nobody left to look after me.

2 When I am in company I never mention that I was in
3 care. If the subject came up, I would just avoid it.
4 I am not proud of having such a shit life. I get angry
5 when I see children kicking off at their parents because
6 they don't know how lucky they are to have a mum and
7 dad. It makes me really jealous when I see children
8 with parents."

9 I'll now move to paragraph 184 on page 45:

10 "I read in my social work children's file that when
11 I was eight or so the social workers wrote that I came
12 alive when there were men in the room. I don't like the
13 way that was written but expect it meant that I was more
14 comfortable when my dad entered because of the
15 relationship I had with my foster father. He was my
16 hero, whereas I hated my foster mother and she meant
17 nothing to me. I generally didn't like women.

18 I asked to see my records when I was in my 30s.
19 I went to the social work office in Aberdeen. I was
20 allowed to read my file with a social worker present but
21 wasn't allowed to remove or photocopy anything. There
22 was a lot of stuff that was blacked out and I felt there
23 were things missing from my file that should have been
24 there. I possibly wasn't in the right frame of mind at
25 that time to read my files. There was a letter from my

1 birth mum. She had written this letter to the social
2 work department asking them to help her finding us
3 because she wanted to find out how we were. I spoke to
4 my mum in 1994 and she told me that she had been told
5 that they couldn't find us and were lost in the system.
6 I managed to get a photocopy of this letter.

7 In my opinion the Social Services are a complete
8 waste of time and money. They did absolutely nothing to
9 help me. The only thing they are interested in is
10 finding a place for the child to be put and getting rid
11 of them.

12 Children shouldn't be automatically be removed from
13 their parents. They are entitled to be with their
14 parents and should only be taken away as a last resort
15 or if the child needs protection."

16 Moving now to paragraph 189:

17 "I hope that in the future children who are in
18 trouble or whose parents are needing help are assigned
19 one social worker who works with them throughout and
20 they are not passed from one social worker to another.
21 If abuse is reported or suspected, then social workers
22 shouldn't just turn up and say that the house is clean
23 and tidy and that the child appears well. They should
24 turn up unannounced and see what really happens behind
25 closed doors.

1 Children suspected of being abused should be taken
2 away from the parents on day trips and the trained
3 individual would build up trust with the child and be
4 someone they can speak to in confidence. They should be
5 trained to identify signs of abuse. Swimming would be
6 a perfect place to take children where any bruising
7 might be seen.

8 I was never believed as a child. I was always made
9 out to be a liar. I know that some children will make
10 up little stories and not always be truthful, but
11 everything that a child says should be believed and
12 acted upon until proven otherwise. Don't treat a child
13 as a liar. They have a voice and should be listened to.
14 There should be someone who spends time with children
15 who can build a relationship with them and this person
16 should be available 24/7. The child should be given
17 choices. Each choice should be explained to the child
18 and the consequences of each one. The child should then
19 decide what route they want to take. If it is explained
20 properly to the child, they will normally take the best
21 option for everyone."

22 Now to paragraph 194 on page 47:

23 "Speaking to the Inquiry has been good for me as it
24 is the first time I have spoken fully about the abuse
25 I suffered and I have been listened to and believed."

1 Now to paragraph 199 on page 48:

2 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true."

6 'Karen' signed this statement on 10 March 2022.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms MacLeod.

8 Can somebody tell me what the plan is for tomorrow?

9 I think that's all for today, isn't it?

10 MS MACLEOD: The plan for tomorrow, my Lady, is to have
11 read-ins at 10 o'clock and a witness at 11.45 and
12 another witness at 2 o'clock.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 Yes, I thought we were starting with read-ins and
15 then going on to a live witness. Thank you for
16 confirming that.

17 I'll rise now, noting as I do for anyone who is
18 listening in that there was one name used there, it was
19 **ERK-SPO** and that's protected by my general
20 restriction order and isn't to be repeated.

21 Thank you very much.

22 Until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

23 (4.00 pm)

24 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
25 Thursday, 7 July 2022)

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