

Tuesday, 23 August 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the beginning of
4 the last week in this section of our foster care and
5 boarding-out case study hearings.

6 We turn to I think it's going to be two oral
7 witnesses today, have I got that right, Ms Innes?

8 MS INNES: Yes, that's right, my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Starting with one of them who's here now, yes.

10 MS INNES: Yes. The first witness has chosen to remain
11 anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Alice'. 'Alice' was
12 a foster carer for Strathclyde Regional Council.
13 An applicant with the pseudonym 'Kevin' was placed into
14 foster care with 'Alice' and [REDACTED] in Houston on
15 [REDACTED] 1979.

16 He was adopted by them in [REDACTED] 1980 and was
17 taken back into care on [REDACTED] 1985.

18 'Kevin' gave evidence on Day 313, which was
19 11 August 2022. Renfrewshire Council was identified as
20 the relevant responsible authority.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 'Alice' (sworn)

23 LADY SMITH: 'Alice', first of all a word about the
24 microphone. It will help you and it will help us if you
25 stay in a good position for the microphone. It might

1 pull forward a little more than you have it at the
2 moment.

3 A. Okay?

4 LADY SMITH: That's really good. If you can stay somewhere
5 around that position.

6 The red folder on the desk has got the typed copy of
7 your statement in it and you'll be taken to that in
8 a moment but we'll also bring it up on screen, you might
9 find that helpful. It's up to you whether you use them
10 but they're there if you want to.

11 A. Right.

12 LADY SMITH: Separately, 'Alice', could I just say, I know
13 that it's not easy having come here after having given
14 a statement which of itself required you to go back into
15 details of life a long time ago when you were involved
16 in fostering and adopting children, and that you know
17 that you're going to have to face some difficult
18 questions coming here. I get that and I understand that
19 it can be very stressful.

20 What I want to do is anything that will help you
21 give the clearest and the best evidence, if I can put it
22 that way, that you can, so if, for example, you want
23 a break at any time you must let me know.

24 A. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: Or if there's anything else I can do to ease

1 the difficult journey from now until we finish your
2 evidence. Is that okay?

3 A. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Innes and she'll take it
5 from there.

6 Ms Innes.

7 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady. I'm not sure whether you
8 wish to give 'Alice' a warning at this stage.

9 LADY SMITH: I'll do that now actually, yes. I think
10 Ms Innes is right, now is as good a time at any.

11 You'll appreciate, 'Alice', that at some point in
12 your evidence you will be asked questions that you may
13 not just find difficult but your answers to them could
14 potentially incriminate you. Now, although this isn't
15 a court, it's a public inquiry, you're entitled to
16 exactly the same protections here as if it was a court.
17 Your evidence is being transcribed. There's a record of
18 it being made. It would be available after you being
19 here.

20 So I need to warn you that you don't have to answer
21 if you don't wish to do so, but if you do answer, you
22 must give a full answer.

23 A. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: Not just half an answer, because that's
25 consistent with the oath you've taken to tell the truth.

1 But the basis principle is you're in no worse a position
2 here than you would be if you were in a courtroom. Do
3 you understand that?

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 Ms Innes.

7 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

8 Questions from Ms Innes

9 MS INNES: 'Alice', we understand that you were born in
10 1946; is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And if I can refer first of all to your statement,
13 please, we give it the reference WIT-1-000000978. If we
14 can go to the last page of that, please, and at
15 paragraph 127 we see that it says there:

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

20 And I believe that you signed the statement on
21 26 April of this year, 2022?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Okay. If we can go back to the start of your statement,
24 at paragraph 3 you tell us briefly about your family.

25 We understand that you [REDACTED]

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And then there are three children [REDACTED],
3 a daughter born in 1970, your son born in 1971, and your
4 youngest daughter in 1975; is that right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Moving on to paragraph 4, we know that there came
7 a point where you and [REDACTED] decided to become
8 foster carers, and I wonder if you can tell us why you
9 made that decision?

10 A. I think we felt we had more to give and we decided we
11 had finished our own family and there was a lot of
12 advertising at the time about -- I thought it was about
13 to try and empty the children's homes, that they would
14 be better out in foster care, so we were just quite
15 taken with this idea. We felt we had the space and the
16 energy and the funds to cope.

17 Q. Okay. And when you talk about advertising, can you
18 remember if that was, you know, in newspapers, or what
19 was that advertising like?

20 A. I think in newspapers and my memory is the television,
21 but I can't guarantee that.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And posters.

24 Q. In the local area?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 5 you tell us that you became
2 foster parents in 1977 and you initially fostered
3 a girl. If we go on over the page to page 2, you say
4 there that you were initially down to do short-term
5 fostering.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And what was your understanding of what short-term
8 fostering was?

9 A. That it could be an emergency placement, it might just
10 last days or a few weeks, but not much longer. I didn't
11 think it would be much longer.

12 Q. Okay. And why did you decide to go down the route of
13 short-term fostering rather than longer term at that
14 point?

15 A. I'm not sure, I'm not sure. Perhaps we were testing the
16 waters, I don't know.

17 Q. You say in this paragraph that this girl that you
18 fostered initially on a short-term basis ended up
19 staying --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- with you for four years?

22 A. My memory was that she came, we were told, for about
23 three weeks and there was hope that she'd go back to her
24 natural mother, and that didn't seem to happen and it
25 just went on and on, so we had her for four years before

1 there was talk of adoption.

2 Q. Okay. You say there that you think that there must have
3 been a process to switch from one to the other, and
4 we'll come back to that in a moment, and then you say
5 I think that you reflected on short term and did you
6 stop doing short-term fostering altogether?

7 A. Yes, yes. Wasn't going to do both, yes.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I think it would be mentioned to us that -- the fact
10 we'd had her for four years, that perhaps long term
11 would be a better option for us, and by then I'd decided
12 that it might be more settling for our own family rather
13 than lots of coming and going.

14 Q. Okay. Now, I'm going to take you to some documents at
15 GLA-000001899 and starting at page 18.

16 Can I just ask for this to be turned around. Don't
17 worry.

18 LADY SMITH: We're not expecting you to lie on your side,
19 'Alice', don't worry.

20 MS INNES: So this is a memorandum from 1976 and it's
21 blanked out but it's yourself and [REDACTED], it says,
22 have applied to foster, short term initially.

23 "I had a brief initial interview with them and
24 outlined what was involved in fostering and the kind of
25 assessment procedure that we carried out.

1 "They feel they would not like to foster a child
2 older than their own and would like to start off with
3 just one."

4 If we pause there, is that correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you have a memory --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- of not wanting to foster an older child?

9 A. Yes, absolutely.

10 Q. Why was that?

11 A. Because I didn't feel I had the experience of a child
12 older than my own, and also I think it was quite
13 important that our own children kept their place in the
14 family.

15 Q. Okay. And you would like to start off with just one
16 child?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Again, is that your recollection --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- of what you wanted to do?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Then it says:

23 "They quite like the idea of meeting another foster
24 parent couple to get some idea about fostering from
25 them. They may be interested in attending the open

1 meeting of NFPA ..."

2 Which I think might be National Foster Parent
3 Association?

4 A. Yes. I have memories of open meetings, but not much.
5 And I don't remember particularly getting together with
6 another foster parent.

7 Q. Okay. And then there's reference to writing to you and
8 that a social worker would be getting in touch.

9 If we move on to the next page, please, we'll just
10 take this round again, this is Strathclyde Regional
11 Council foster parent application form and again I think
12 we see here that there's various details that you fill
13 out, your names and addresses, previous addresses, and
14 then if we scroll down, reference to your other
15 children.

16 And then if we go on over the page at the second
17 paragraph there's names and addresses of two persons to
18 whom reference can be made, so again it's blanked out
19 but you put down references for two people locally.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And then you had to give the name and address of the
22 family doctor and answer some other questions about not
23 having made any applications before.

24 And then your preference as to age and sex of child
25 and it says there:

1 "Boy or girl. 0-7 years."

2 LADY SMITH: Is that because your oldest would have been
3 about 7 at that time?

4 A. Yes, she was born in 1970, so.

5 MS INNES: Then it says:

6 "For the time being at least we would prefer
7 short-term fostering."

8 And then if we scroll down, the form is dated
9 2 November 1976.

10 A. (Witness nods).

11 Q. If we can go on to the next page, I think we see some of
12 the follow-up. So Strathclyde Regional Council social
13 work department, and if we scroll down a little, this
14 refers to your application and this is a reference that
15 the social work department got for you. I assume that
16 you won't have seen this --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- before or at the time. This is somebody who says
19 they've known you for a couple of years, they knew you
20 through business initially, now social, it says. And
21 then there's a description of you:

22 "They are both sober and hard-working. [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] in particular does a great deal of work in the
24 community, for example parent/teacher association."

25 Is that something he was doing at the time?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Then it says:

3 "As far as I know, they are quite compatible. We do

4 babysitting for each other. I am quite confident of

5 their ability to look after children of any age."

6 It says. And then over the next page at the top

7 I think it says there:

8 "Both have a high sense of civic responsibility.

9 Both are good-humoured and placid."

10 And it says in response to the question, "Are you

11 aware of any circumstances connected with the applicants

12 which would make them unsuitable?" the answer is:

13 "No."

14 And then, "Any further comments":

15 "My recommendation is unreserved."

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. So that's one of the references that was obtained. If

18 we go over to the next page, please, I think we see here

19 a letter to Dr McLay. Is that your GP?

20 A. No, he's a friend.

21 Q. If we scroll down it says:

22 "The above named have offered to become foster

23 parents to this department and have given your name as

24 a referee."

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. And then there's reference to the attached
2 questionnaire, which they ask to be completed.

3 Okay.

4 If we go on to the next page, again I think we see
5 a letter from Strathclyde Regional Council social work
6 department, this time to the Chief Constable SCRO, so
7 I think this is a criminal records check.

8 A. (Witness nods).

9 Q. And if we scroll down we see that there's reference to
10 your application. They're asking if there are any
11 convictions. There's your details and then at the
12 bottom if we control down we see a stamp:

13 "No record traced."

14 Did you understand that the Local Authority would
15 carry out a criminal records check at the time?

16 A. Yes, I would hope so.

17 Q. Okay. And then if we go on to page 25, I think we see
18 another reference and this says this person has known
19 you both for three years.

20 They know you socially and professionally. They
21 say:

22 "Both are highly intelligent. They have two
23 children of school age and they are happy and well
24 adjusted. [REDACTED] they seem to be very
25 happy. They are obviously caring parents and take

1 a great deal of interest in the local school."

2 And there's a question, "Would you consider them
3 suitable to care for very young babies?", a specific
4 question there:

5 "Emphatically, yes. Their interest has been
6 sustained over the years I have known them. Their own
7 children were obviously well looked after at all
8 stages."

9 And then at the top of the next page in answer to
10 the question about any special qualities or interests it
11 says:

12 "Simply a sustained interest in the welfare of young
13 people on both an educational and a recreational level."

14 Again the referee knows of no circumstances that
15 would make you unsuitable, and then "any further
16 comments":

17 "I believe this home would provide a very desirable
18 blend of reassurance, compassion and good discipline."

19 If we scroll down, I think we see that this person
20 was a headmaster, is it possibly the headmaster --

21 A. Houston Primary School.

22 Q. -- of the local school, okay.

23 If we go on to the next page we see a report, this
24 is prepared by a social worker, I'm not going to read
25 the whole thing out but if we look in the first

1 paragraph I think we see reference to your house and
2 you've told us in your statement that you had acquired
3 a farmhouse --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- that you lived in. If we go to the second paragraph,
6 there's reference to both yourself and [REDACTED], and
7 some discussion about, I think, your involvement in the
8 church in that paragraph?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then the next paragraph says:

11 "The idea of fostering has been with them for
12 a number of years but initially there were barriers of
13 various kinds."

14 And then there's discussion about, I think, [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] moving job on a number of occasions?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So is that correct that it was something that you'd been
18 thinking about for a while before you applied, can you
19 remember?

20 A. Yeah. I can't really think what the barriers were. The
21 old farmhouse we renovated and we lived in a big static
22 caravan on site while -- and I had just had a baby,
23 1975, so probably the timing wasn't right yet because we
24 didn't start the fostering until we'd moved into the
25 house properly.

1 Q. Yes. And then at the bottom of the page there's
2 reference to the question of your motivations, go on to
3 the top of the next page:
4 "It was generally in the context of their concern
5 about social issues generally."
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. There's reference to [REDACTED] work with the
8 school's council having brought him into contact with
9 the Linwood area and both you and he showed an awareness
10 of the kinds of problems faced by people less privileged
11 than themselves. In addition they were perturbed by the
12 numbers of children in residential care?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. And felt that this was not usually the best solution.
15 And you mentioned that --
16 A. We had a residential home in the village, so obviously
17 it was something we came across daily through school.
18 Q. I think that's Urquhart House?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. The next paragraph begins:
21 "When the idea was first discussed between them
22 [REDACTED] was the more enthusiastic."
23 A. Probably I was a bit nervous, yeah, which I am about
24 anything new probably, but ...
25 Q. If you go into that paragraph it says:

1 "Since neither of them had any first-hand knowledge
2 of fostering, [you] in particular felt apprehensive
3 about the responsibility of caring for another person's
4 child."

5 And then there's discussion between you about
6 feeling able to tackle problems as they arose. There
7 was a question about the legal and procedural side of
8 fostering and it then says towards the end of the
9 paragraph:

10 "She had, she felt, now come to a stage where she
11 was confident of her ability and willingness to cope."

12 And then there was some -- you'd given consideration
13 to how your own children might react as well it notes
14 there.

15 A. They were obviously a major priority in our minds.

16 Q. Okay. Then if we can move on, please, to page 33,
17 there's a memorandum there from, it says, the Clwyd
18 social work department.

19 If we scroll down a little there's a line ticked:

20 "(1) There is no information regarding the
21 applicants or their family known to this area."

22 You and [REDACTED] previously lived in Clwyd?

23 A. We lived for three years.

24 Q. So it looks as though the local authority contacted your
25 previous local authority?

1 A. To check, yes. Our two eldest children were born there.

2 Q. If we just scroll down a little, I think we see in
3 handwriting at (3) it says:
4 "District Community has been contacted and reports
5 as follows."
6 And there's reference to a physician in North Clwyd:
7 "Nothing is known which suggests they should not be
8 considered as foster parents."
9 And then I think you said you'd also lived in
10 Cumbria?
11 A. Yes, before that.

12 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 40, I think we see
13 here a letter from Cumbria County Council or -- yes,
14 Social Services department, and if we scroll down
15 there's reference again to an enquiry about [REDACTED]
16 as prospective childminders, it says, "has been passed
17 to me, the Cumbria address being situated within my
18 district. I am pleased to inform you that there is no
19 records of the above people in this department.
20 Enquiries to the District Nursing Officer reveal that
21 the health visitors are unable to supply any relevant
22 information either."
23 A. That would be right because I -- I didn't live there
24 very long. [REDACTED] was living there and I was only
25 there a matter of nine months or so, then we moved to

1 Wales.

2 Q. Okay. Sorry, just for completeness, there are medical
3 reports in here too.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But I'm not going to go to them but those were also
6 obtained from your doctor.

7 If we go to page 36 now you see here something
8 called -- it's an entry from Strathclyde Regional
9 Council, divisional register of approved foster parents
10 awaiting placement of a child, and I think this is your
11 details and details of your children.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. If we scroll down, it then talks about you and [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] as being "very capable and adaptable people who
15 would be able to cope calmly and efficiently with most
16 situations presented to them. They have a strongly
17 religious background but would not seek to impose this
18 on a child and from their point of view matching on the
19 grounds of religion would be unimportant. They live in
20 a converted farmhouse with a variety of pets, and
21 a country-loving child could be well suited."

22 So this seems to be an entry sort of summary about
23 you and your family that goes on to --

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. -- some sort of register. Is that something you were

1 aware of or not?

2 A. No, obviously I haven't seen any of these reports.

3 Q. And you mentioned in your evidence earlier that you
4 think that there might have been some further checks at
5 the time that you moved from short-term to long-term
6 fostering?

7 A. I presume there must have been something official.

8 Q. I think if we go over the page to page 37, we see here
9 a form which is addressed to the nurse administrator in
10 Paisley. It's dated 1 February 1979 and we see
11 reference in the letter to you having applied to be
12 long-term foster parents.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. And again there's reference to you, your details there,
15 and if we go over the page there's at page 38 the reply
16 is:

17 "I have known this family in my capacity as health
18 visitor [I think, HV] for about 6 years and to my
19 knowledge there is nothing to hinder them becoming
20 foster parents. They have had a foster child in their
21 care for about 2 years and I think this is a good enough
22 criteria."

23 It says.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. And then the next page, page 39, I think again we see

1 a criminal records check, 1 February 1979. And again if
2 we just scroll down we can see that again:

3 "No record traced."

4 At the bottom of the page.

5 A. (Witness nods).

6 Q. So as you thought, it appears that there were some
7 further checks at the --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- time that you moved from short term to long term,
10 okay.

11 I'm going to move back to your statement and if we
12 go back to page 2, please, and paragraph 8, you refer
13 there to the open meetings that you mentioned and you
14 talk about a Frances Hamilton --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- conducting the meetings, so who was she?

17 A. She was quite senior in Paisley social work.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I have a very sketchy memory of the open meetings, but
20 I just felt there were. Frances Hamilton was the person
21 who I felt almost bribed us to adopt 'Kevin'.

22 Q. Okay, we'll come back to that in a moment.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Can you remember anything about the purpose of these
25 meetings? Were they information evenings or meetings or

1 were they for training purposes?

2 A. I don't remember it as training. I think it was
3 information and presumably we could ask questions.

4 Q. I see. Can you remember getting any training before you
5 became a foster parent?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And if we go on to paragraph 9, you say:
8 "There were the odd meetings we had to attend
9 throughout fostering, but I wouldn't have called it
10 training."

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. So --

13 A. I have no memory of training.

14 Q. Okay. You talk about these meetings that you attended
15 as you were fostering. You say that you were asked to
16 talk at these meetings on occasion?

17 A. That was much later on.

18 Q. I see.

19 A. When -- after 'Kevin's' adoption broke down and then we
20 all had a ... what's the word? He came back into the
21 family.

22 Q. A reconciliation?

23 A. A reconciliation. And we were asked to go along and
24 talk to one of these open meetings to show that it can
25 go wrong but it can turn around again.

1 Q. Okay. So that was again giving information perhaps
2 to --

3 A. Other -- other prospective or people who were already
4 fostering and perhaps were seeking some kind of help.

5 Q. Okay. And you say there:
6 "It appeared that we had made a success of it."
7 And you say that you still believe you've made
8 a success of it?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. "We are proud of what we achieved."
11 A. Yes. I am. We are.

12 Q. Can you explain that a little bit more?

13 A. I -- I -- I had hoped we had given them a taste of real
14 family life. They were treated no differently to our
15 own children. And we had a very happy family life and
16 I had hope perhaps we had broken the chain of social
17 care for them because they'd had parents in care and
18 I hoped we'd broken that a bit and that we had helped
19 them to make their own adult relationships. That I'm
20 not so sure about now. I think that wasn't a success.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Because they had trouble making their own adult
23 relationships.

24 Q. Okay. You then go on at paragraph 10 to say -- as
25 you've mentioned you can't remember being given any

1 training. You say that you knew that the children you
2 fostered had been abused in different ways and had long
3 social work involvement.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. But you then say:

6 "There was no advice on discipline or managing their
7 behaviour."

8 A. No.

9 Q. And you have no memory of any written guidance.

10 A. No. And the word child protection wasn't a phrase in
11 that time.

12 Q. Okay. Do you think it would have been helpful to have
13 had training about these various topics?

14 A. Yes. I think we should have been -- we knew they were
15 likely to be from disruptive backgrounds, but I wasn't
16 aware so much of the abuse or the effect that would have
17 on them. And ... yeah. There could have been a lot
18 more help. And ongoing help from the social work.

19 Q. Okay. At paragraph 11, at the end of that paragraph you
20 say you were given very little notice once it had been
21 decided a child was coming to stay?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Was that in relation to the first girl that you
24 fostered?

25 A. The first girl, yes.

1 Q. Okay. If we move on to paragraph 12, you start talking
2 about 'Kevin' coming to stay with you. If we can just
3 pause before we go into this, so there was the girl that
4 you fostered to begin with?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. And I think you then adopted her; is that right?
7 A. Not until after 'Kevin' came.
8 Q. Okay. Can you remember when it was you adopted her?
9 A. I would have said it was in 1981.
10 Q. Okay. And we know that you adopted 'Kevin' in 1980
11 so --
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. -- we've got the dates of that so we know that he came
14 to live with you in [REDACTED] 1979?
15 A. Mm-hmm.
16 Q. And that he was adopted in [REDACTED] 1980.
17 Then I think you had another boy came to live with
18 you later on?
19 A. Yes. In 1982.
20 Q. Okay. Was he fostered to begin with as well?
21 A. Yeah. He came -- what they called fostering with a view
22 to adoption.
23 Q. Okay.
24 A. They knew he wasn't going back to any natural family.
25 Q. Okay. Did you also adopt him?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And when was that?

3 A. (Pause). It would be about 1983, 1984. All quite
4 a close timescale.

5 Q. Okay, that's fine. Thank you.

6 So if we look at paragraph 12 of your statement, you
7 talk about 'Kevin' coming to live with you and how was
8 it that you met him first?

9 A. Through the primary school and our son was in the same
10 year as 'Kevin' and he used to come up and play. I also
11 had quite a lot of contact with Urquhart House because
12 the local play group, which was set up in Houston, the
13 first time they'd ever had a play group, was in the
14 dining room at Urquhart House.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Ms Chandler, the matron, gave that facility to run
17 a play group and I was quite involved in setting up the
18 play group.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Which would be quite early 1970s because it would be
21 before our eldest went to school.

22 Q. Right, okay.

23 A. And so, you know, we had kind of contact with Urquhart
24 House.

25 Q. And the issue of fostering then arose in relation to

1 'Kevin'.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And can you describe how that --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- arose?

6 A. There was talk about the possibility. I was unsure from

7 the beginning because I didn't really develop a bond

8 with him. I had trouble controlling him. And I was

9 told after that that actually he didn't like women.

10 Q. Mm-hmm.

11 A. Because he blamed his natural mother for giving him up.

12 But I didn't hear about that till later.

13 So we talked about the fostering and we had him up

14 quite a lot just for the afternoon or so, and then

15 I was -- suddenly we were put under pressure because he

16 was getting out of control at Urquhart House. They felt

17 he was getting unsettled, and that I could understand,

18 he perhaps didn't know -- I don't know how much they

19 perhaps said to him that he might come and live with us:

20 it's all a wee bit murky, that.

21 And then his social worker came up to see us when he

22 was actually there one day and she said to me, "I'm just

23 going to tell him he's going to come and live here".

24 I said, "You can't do that", because we hadn't discussed

25 it fully with our own children. So I felt there was

1 a lot of pressure there and I kind of knew within myself
2 it wasn't right.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. He got on really well with [REDACTED].

5 Q. So did [REDACTED] have a different view to you about
6 fostering 'Kevin'?

7 A. Probably. Probably he didn't realise how reluctant
8 I was to start with.

9 Q. Okay. And you talk about pressure being put on and you
10 mentioned the social worker and what she said at the
11 house. Was that Frances Hamilton?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Or was that somebody else?

14 A. That was 'Kevin's' social worker.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I do know her name.

17 Q. And did anybody else speak to you about fostering
18 'Kevin'?

19 A. No. When Ms Chandler at the home, she suddenly changed
20 her tone a wee bit and said, "You really need to commit
21 because we're having trouble with him", and that should
22 have flagged up things with me because they were
23 experienced carers.

24 Q. Okay. You say at the end of paragraph 13 that the
25 social work department and the staff at the children's

1 home ignored your doubts?

2 A. Yes. They said he'd be much more settled if he just
3 came.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Then when we applied to adopt [REDACTED], Frances Hamilton
6 just said 'Kevin's' need is greater, you need to adopt
7 him first.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And you need to give him your name and love him like
10 your own.

11 Q. Okay. So Frances Hamilton came in at the stage of
12 adoption then?

13 A. Mm-hmm. I think that was probably her remit by then.

14 Q. Okay. And at paragraph 14 you describe that as being
15 almost blackmailed?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What sort of things was she saying? What you've said or
18 anything else?

19 A. Well, just what I've said, how she said we needed to
20 give him [REDACTED] and just love him as a member of the
21 family. Now, at this stage I had seen no reports about
22 'Kevin'.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Or his behaviours.

25 Q. At that point was he living with you? Had you fostered

1 him by the time that adoption started to be talked
2 about?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. Okay. If we look at paragraph 15, you mention
5 Frances Hamilton there and you say that you felt you
6 were naive at the time?

7 A. I was, yeah.

8 Q. Yeah?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you say you had no experience of children who had
11 been abused?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And the girl that you had fostered, how old was she when
14 she came to live with you?

15 A. 11 months.

16 Q. Okay. And then you say there that you thought the
17 social workers were right and knew what they were
18 talking about?

19 A. (Witness nods). I trusted the professionals.

20 Q. Okay. And you say that you feel guilty that you didn't
21 love him like you should have?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Did you love him at all?

24 A. Probably not.

25 Q. Did you like him?

1 A. Not a lot.

2 Q. Okay. And did you tell the social work department about
3 those issues?

4 A. I think I definitely mentioned it when they were saying
5 adopt 'Kevin' first and it'll be fine and you give him
6 your name.

7 Q. Okay.

8 LADY SMITH: So this is a boy whom you didn't feel any love
9 and you didn't like?

10 A. (Witness nods).

11 LADY SMITH: Why did you go through with the adoption?

12 A. I don't know.

13 LADY SMITH: Why did you even carry on --

14 A. Because --

15 LADY SMITH: Hang on. Why did you even carry on fostering
16 him?

17 A. I must have been weak. I was weak. I ... followed
18 their advice.

19 LADY SMITH: You're very frank about how you felt, 'Alice'.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 LADY SMITH: Did it ever occur to you that this little boy
22 would pick that up?

23 A. Yes. Yes. And -- but he got on well with [REDACTED]
24 and he got on well with our son. He didn't have much
25 time for the girls.

1 LADY SMITH: But [REDACTED] was away working during the
2 working day, I take it?
3 A. Mm-hmm.
4 LADY SMITH: You were the major carer.
5 A. I was the main carer and -- yes.
6 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.
7 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.
8 If we go on to paragraph 16 you talk about fostering
9 the other child that you've mentioned already and he
10 came to you, you say, just before he turned five?
11 A. Mm-hmm.
12 Q. And by that stage you had adopted 'Kevin' but you had
13 those reservations that you've explained. Why did you
14 go down the route of fostering another child?
15 A. (Witness shakes head). I've asked that question to
16 myself many a time over the last 12 years.
17 Q. And again did [REDACTED] have a different view to you
18 about fostering another child at that point?
19 A. No. No, we were in agreement.
20 Q. Was one of you sort of the main instigator of that or
21 not?
22 A. No. I think we were into that together.
23 Q. Okay. Now, if we move down the page, if we move down to
24 paragraph 18, you say there that the children had their
25 own individual social workers.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. And you didn't have any independent support at all?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So you didn't have a social worker of your own?

5 A. No.

6 Q. At any point?

7 A. No.

8 Q. No. And you say that you were given some background
9 information in relation to the children's circumstances
10 when they came but that was it.

11 (Pause).

12 Yes, you say there that you were given some
13 background information?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. How much were you told about 'Kevin', can you remember,
16 before he came to live with you?

17 A. I never saw any written reports about 'Kevin'. None at
18 all.

19 Q. Did you see written reports about the other children you
20 fostered?

21 A. Not written -- the first girl that came, her social
22 worker was very -- quite informative about sort of what
23 her background had been and how her family had always
24 been involved with social work. And the same with the
25 second boy. He had a young male social worker and he

1 was frank about the disruptions he'd had in his life.
2 He'd had a lot of moving about, and how his previous
3 fostering had failed.

4 And he'd been the oldest in that family so the one
5 insistence he had was that he would be the youngest in
6 a family, which he was with us.

7 It's not till after we adopted 'Kevin' that we
8 actually saw some reports.

9 Q. Okay. And were you given verbal information about
10 'Kevin's' background?

11 A. No. No.

12 Q. And --

13 A. Not really, no.

14 Q. Can you remember if you asked about that or if you
15 thought it was something important that you should find
16 out about?

17 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.

18 Q. In relation to the social workers, when they came to
19 visit, did they speak to you or did they speak to the
20 children who were being fostered or was it both?

21 A. My memory is it was almost just like a social visit.

22 A cup of tea and see everybody and ...

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Can you remember if they ever saw the children on their

1 own?

2 A. I don't have memory of that.

3 Q. Okay. Did you know that they were coming in advance or

4 not? Would they arrange it in advance?

5 A. The social workers? Yes.

6 Q. So they would contact you and arrange a time?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Now, if we can move on, please, to the bottom of

9 the page, paragraph 20, you talk about the children

10 taking your surname and you say:

11 "That was insisted upon, which I don't agree with

12 now."

13 A. Well, I think things have changed and I think perhaps

14 they'd have kept some of their identity if they'd kept

15 their own names. Looking back on everything and all

16 that's happened, I think they all had a bit of a chip on

17 their shoulder and didn't really want to be in foster

18 care or in care because they blamed their natural

19 parents. I feel ... perhaps keeping their own name

20 might have been -- but there was no question of it then.

21 There was no question of it.

22 LADY SMITH: Are you saying that even when the children were

23 at the fostering stage you were under pressure to have

24 them use [REDACTED] second name?

25 A. No, not until adoption.

1 LADY SMITH: Only on adoption.

2 A. Yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: If we move down, please, to the heading

5 "Financial support" and paragraph 23, you say that you

6 didn't feel employed by the local council, that wasn't

7 the way that you regarded being a foster carer?

8 A. No, absolutely not.

9 Q. And you didn't see fostering as being a means by

10 which --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- you would get income?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. And you say that you got an allowance and you

15 think it just -- it formed part of your family income --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- that you would have used?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay.

20 If we can move on over the page, please, to page 6

21 and you talk there about -- at paragraph 27 you talk

22 about 'Kevin' coming as a friend to start with, as

23 you've described?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. And then, as you've said, you got pushed into thinking

1 you could foster 'Kevin' and that it would work.

2 A. (Witness nods).

3 Q. At paragraph 28, I think the younger boy, he came for

4 a couple of visits first --

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. -- before he --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- was fostered by you; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I had a lot of time for his social worker.

12 Q. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: Can I just check. By the time you had reached

14 a total of six children, your own children and your

15 adopted children, were they all still at primary school

16 stage?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: I thought that would be --

19 A. But they weren't at the primary school together. When

20 the youngest started, our eldest had gone into the

21 secondary school.

22 LADY SMITH: I can see that. But they were all still quite

23 young?

24 A. (Witness nods).

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS INNES: If we move over the page, please, to page 7, and
2 paragraph 34 where you talk about washing and bathing
3 and at paragraph 35 you talk about them having privacy
4 when they were older:

5 " ... when they were little I would be doing the
6 washing for them."

7 Now, we've heard evidence from 'Kevin' that
8 sometimes he would be taken into the bath with [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED].

10 A. (Witness shakes head).

11 Q. Can you remember that happening?

12 A. Absolutely not.

13 Q. Can you remember [REDACTED] ever bathing the children?

14 Was that something that he did?

15 A. Not on a regular basis at all.

16 LADY SMITH: If he did, did you leave him to it?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS INNES: At paragraph 36 you talk about purchasing clothes
20 and you can't remember being given additional funds for
21 that sort of thing.

22 A. No.

23 Q. You got the allowance and that was that?

24 A. And the youngest boy was a sponsored adoption, which was
25 quite a new thing at that time.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Which was almost like a continuing foster allowance for
3 him.

4 Q. So once he was adopted, he carried on getting
5 an allowance?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. But that again would just go into the family budget.

9 Q. Okay. And then at page 8 and paragraph 39 you talk
10 about eating meals and you did most of the cooking; is
11 that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Again we've heard evidence from 'Kevin' that if you
14 didn't eat something at one mealtime you would get it at
15 the next, and sometimes you would get for breakfast what
16 you had not eaten the night before.

17 A. No. No. Absolutely not, no.

18 Q. Okay. What would happen if one of the children didn't
19 want to finish their meal?

20 A. Didn't want to finish, they'd probably -- that's fair
21 enough, but they probably wouldn't get a treat or
22 a pudding afterwards.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. There was no big pressure. I don't remember any problem
25 over eating with any of them.

1 Q. If we move on, please, to page 10 and paragraph 53, you
2 talk about 'Kevin' being diagnosed with dyslexia and you
3 say that probably didn't help him. Can you explain what
4 you mean by that?

5 A. That was -- well, he struggled academically and then we
6 moved his schools.

7 Q. I see.

8 A. The primary school was struggling a wee bit with control
9 as well and as a family we were struggling with him so
10 we took him out of the primary school and he went to
11 Keil School in Dumbarton as a weekly boarder, he came
12 home at the weekends. He'd not been long there when
13 they said they were closing for financial reasons so we
14 did panic a bit because the breather during the week was
15 good for us all when he was away at school.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And we wanted to do anything we could to make this work.
18 So he then went up to Rannoch School as a full boarder
19 and I'm pretty certain that's where the diagnosis was.

20 Q. I see, so it was later on he was diagnosed with
21 dyslexia?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And you say it's not something that you would
24 have known about at the time?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Do you mean it's not something you would have been able
2 to recognise until it was diagnosed?

3 A. No, no. And obviously the primary school didn't pick it
4 up.

5 Q. Okay.

6 Now 'Kevin' in his evidence said that he was always
7 made to feel as if because he was struggling he wouldn't
8 amount to anything, he wouldn't get anywhere, he needed
9 to try harder and that he was lazy. Is that the sort of
10 impression that was conveyed to 'Kevin'?

11 A. No, but I think that must have been in his mind. This
12 is where a little bit it comes up mixing fostering with
13 your natural children, which I had never thought about.
14 Our own children were quite academic and motivated, and
15 perhaps he felt ... a difference.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I don't know. But it's certainly not something we would
18 have pushed about. (Witness shakes head).

19 Q. Okay. Now, if we go down to paragraph 58 on page 11,
20 you say there:

21 "We were not given any paperwork for 'Kevin'.
22 Nothing at all."

23 So is that what you were referring to earlier in
24 your evidence?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. That you were given no written information?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were you given any information about his medical
4 history, for example?

5 A. No.

6 Q. No?

7 You mention there that 'Kevin' mentioned bed-wetting
8 in his statement?

9 A. I don't remember 'Kevin' bed-wetting.

10 Q. Okay. So again in his evidence he said that he was
11 always made to feel stupid or guilty. It was "look what
12 you've done again" said in front of the other children.
13 Can you remember that?

14 A. That's a possibility but I can't remember
15 an individual ...

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. If they're being constantly out of control and unable to
18 discipline, you might well say, "You've done that
19 again". You know.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I don't hide the fact of my problems with 'Kevin',
22 I never have.

23 Q. If we go on to page 12, at paragraph 63 you say that you
24 used smacking as a method of discipline both for the
25 foster children and for your own children; is that

1 right?

2 A. (Witness nods).

3 Q. Okay. But you would say that wasn't excessive?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And you talk about:

6 "I expected a certain standard of table manners and
7 politeness."

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. For example. So if those weren't adhered to would the
10 punishment for that be smacking or would it be something
11 else?

12 A. No, it would be more a timeout and leave the table and
13 sit on the naughty step.

14 Q. At paragraph 65, at the top of page 13, you say that you
15 and ██████████ would both discipline the children; is
16 that right?

17 A. (Witness nods).

18 Q. And you say it was more a "wait until your father comes
19 home" type of thing?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Can you explain that?

22 A. I think certainly -- I mean, I had no control over
23 'Kevin' and I was actually quite fearful of him.
24 I don't ever remember smacking the children but Graeme
25 did -- ██████████ did at times.

1 Q. Okay. So if you thought that the children had behaved
2 in a way which required smacking --

3 A. Discipline, yeah.

4 Q. -- would you say to them, "Wait till your father comes
5 home" and then tell him?

6 A. Yes, I probably said that. Yes, I'm sure I would say
7 that.

8 Q. Okay. And you say that you weren't asked to keep any
9 records by the social work department in relation to
10 discipline?

11 A. No.

12 Q. No. And were you given any guidance by them as to
13 whether it was permissible to smack --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- foster children?

16 A. No.

17 Q. You say at paragraph 66 that your memory is that you
18 were just left to deal with it?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Once they were adopted, we were just dropped.

22 Q. Okay.

23 You then go on to talk about your relationship with
24 the foster children and at paragraph 67 you say that you
25 were the main carer, as you've already explained.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. [REDACTED] was at home in the evening and weekends and
3 you say that he spent more time with 'Kevin' than you
4 did?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Where would he go with him or how would he spend time
7 with him?

8 A. He was the one who would visit him when he was at
9 boarding school, when there was a weekend out or
10 whatever they got.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And he was the one that would go and often take [REDACTED]
13 with him.

14 Q. Okay. And what about before that, before 'Kevin' went
15 away to boarding school?

16 A. He would take him -- sometimes even if he was having
17 a day's work away, he travelled a wee bit around the
18 local farms and stuff and he would take him with him and
19 take him out to lunch.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Just give a breather because we were all struggling with
22 him.

23 Q. And I think we've heard evidence from 'Kevin' that
24 sometimes he would be taken to [REDACTED] office, to
25 where he worked. Is that something that might have

1 happened?

2 A. Might well have gone to -- yes, he probably did, because

3 he worked on Saturday morning at the office.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. So they all got a kind of turn at doing that.

6 Q. Okay. You've mentioned already the way you felt towards

7 'Kevin'.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And again we've heard from 'Kevin' in his evidence that

10 he felt there was a difference in treatment between him

11 and the other children and he said that he felt this

12 because of the way that you were, the natural children

13 would get the affectionate side, he says. Is that

14 correct?

15 A. Yeah, that's probably fair.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. But the other adopted children would get the affection

18 as well, not just our own children.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I need to mention that our own children were amazing

21 with these adopted children. Absolutely amazing.

22 Q. Now, if we can move on, please, to page 15 and

23 paragraph 78, you say that you don't remember there

24 being a care plan or any kind of review and you say you

25 found it extraordinary that there wouldn't be a review

1 of some sort. Can you explain that, please?

2 A. Well, certainly once they were adopted I don't remember
3 anything. I don't remember contact with the social work
4 department in any way.

5 Q. And what about prior to the adoption?

6 A. I honestly don't remember if there was a -- an annual
7 review makes sense. I think they had an annual medical,
8 so you would think that might be tied up with a review,
9 but I honestly don't have a memory of it.

10 Q. Okay. At paragraph 79 you say that 'Kevin's' social
11 worker was useless and not truthful about 'Kevin's'
12 background.

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Can you explain what they weren't truthful about?

15 A. Because we since discovered, when we saw some background
16 information, that it had been suggested that no one
17 adult should ever be left to look after him.

18 Q. And can you remember --

19 A. Because he was so disruptive.

20 Q. Can you remember --

21 A. And yet I was left.

22 Q. Okay. Can you remember -- well, first of all, when did
23 you see that information? Was that when he was a child
24 or later?

25 A. I don't remember exactly. I think it was after

1 adoption. But I don't know why -- I honestly can't say.
2 I don't remember.

3 Q. Do you have any memory of --

4 A. Oh, sorry, I do remember.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. It's when he went to the psychiatric hospital.

7 Q. Right, okay. And that was later?

8 A. But it kind of backs up what I'm saying that we were
9 struggling enough that he had to go for six weeks to
10 a psychiatric hospital.

11 Q. And the information that no one adult should be left to
12 look after him on his own --

13 A. That was in a report about him.

14 Q. And was that when he was at Urquhart House or somewhere
15 else, do you know?

16 A. No, I think that would be written about when he was at
17 Urquhart House, but I don't think it came to light until
18 he went to the psychiatric hospital.

19 Q. Okay. Now, if we move on again, please, to another --
20 oh, sorry, at page 16 and paragraph 84, you say there
21 that you never saw any of his background papers until
22 years later after you adopted him.

23 A. (Witness nods).

24 Q. And again you say that you got much more information for
25 the other children?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. I'd like to move on now to page 19 and to your awareness
3 of allegations of abuse that have been made. At
4 paragraph 100, you talk about criminal proceedings and
5 there being a criminal trial.

6 A. (Witness nods).

7 Q. So you say there that your foster children made
8 allegations to the police against [REDACTED] and there
9 was a trial?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And you say -- and it was all three children made
12 allegations; is that right?

13 A. Yes. And that is something I -- when the allegations
14 were made we got a lot of help from Barnardo's, who were
15 in charge of adoption and fostering at the time, and one
16 of the first things they said to us before we'd even
17 said anything, "Don't worry that it was all three of
18 them because that's what they would do to try and
19 corroborate".

20 Q. Were you involved with Barnardo's or did you seek help
21 from the at the time that they --

22 A. We sought help from them. We had had ... we had had one
23 contact with them when the girl that we adopted was
24 obviously dabbling in drugs and things and we went to
25 them for advice, but it's them we went to, not the

1 social work department.

2 Q. So why did you go to them and not the social work
3 department?

4 A. I don't know, but I can't praise them highly enough.

5 Q. Okay. So you then go on in this paragraph to say:

6 "The police before the criminal trial were less than
7 honest and didn't investigate properly."

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Can you tell us why you think they were less than
10 honest?

11 A. This is one of the biggest frustrations I have about the
12 unfairness of it. They came and of course it was all
13 totally out of the blue and then they came -- they
14 wouldn't even acknowledge that we had our two daughters,
15 who had lived as a family with these children. They --
16 they kept refusing to interview them.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And we pushed for that and said, "You have to", and then
19 they talked about there were no family photos in the
20 house. Well, our house is filled with family photos of
21 all the children. I admit not now, but ... I just ...
22 the ... (Witness shakes head).

23 They were unfair. They were -- they -- there were
24 allegations made that [REDACTED] had taken photos and
25 developed them. But they never asked to -- how we

1 developed them. All our family photos went to Boots the
2 Chemist in those days, there was nothing digital. They
3 didn't ask to look at our computers. They didn't look
4 through our phones. You know. Is that not an obvious
5 thing to do if there's ...

6 I just felt they weren't fair to us.

7 Q. Okay. And then you say:

8 "After the conviction, the police who looked after
9 us were brilliant."

10 A. Yeah, they were really nice and helpful. I don't know
11 what you call them.

12 Q. Is it maybe a --

13 A. They were ... they were there to look after us post
14 conviction.

15 Q. Okay. And was that somebody from the police?

16 A. Yes, two police officers.

17 Q. And as you say, [REDACTED] was convicted of lewd and
18 libidinous practices against the other two children and
19 not proven against 'Kevin'.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. And you talk about the sentence.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you say:

24 "I lost my faith in the jury system after this."

25 A. Well, I -- I couldn't understand why we couldn't have

1 any character witnesses. Loads of people had offered
2 because we had both been involved in all the youth
3 organisations in the village, like the Boys' Brigade and
4 the Guides and all that, and they all wanted to speak up
5 for us. They didn't know the backgrounds of the
6 children. So what were they to think?

7 I just feel -- I don't know, is it the Moorov
8 document or something?

9 LADY SMITH: Moorov is to do with corroboration, that's why
10 you need two sources of evidence. It doesn't need to be
11 two witnesses but two independent sources of evidence.

12 A. Okay, I just remember --

13 LADY SMITH: It could be two people speaking to events that
14 had such a link in terms of similarity and timing and
15 conduct --

16 A. Okay.

17 LADY SMITH: -- that they support each other as
18 corroboration. It's a doctrine that dates back to 1932.

19 A. So I can't remember, was that then not allowed at the
20 trial? There was a separate hearing about it, but ...

21 LADY SMITH: Well, Moorov --

22 A. By then my heading was buzzing --

23 LADY SMITH: It's not Moorov that would prevent character
24 evidence, for example.

25 A. No, I realise that.

1 LADY SMITH: Or evidence trying to blacken the character of
2 complainers. What would rule that evidence out is that
3 it's not relevant.

4 A. I know, but then to me ... (Witness shakes head).

5 MS INNES: Okay, I think what you're saying is you felt that
6 character evidence was relevant?

7 A. Well, I felt more that the jury had no idea of the
8 troubled backgrounds these children had had.

9 Q. Okay, so in terms of the background of the children, one
10 of them I think you said had come at the age of 11
11 months --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- to you, so are you saying that her background was
14 relevant?

15 A. She ... well, obviously not so much because she was
16 11 months, but they did say she was quite traumatised,
17 she was quite behind for lack of stimulation. She
18 couldn't even -- she couldn't sit up or anything. She
19 was -- she had been moved around a lot within family
20 members, I think with an aunt and things. So she'd had
21 a disruptive time. And my understanding was when --
22 sorry, but I'm digressing. When I say we sought the
23 help of a family psychiatrist at Yorkhill Hospital in
24 desperation to get some answers, and he said that by six
25 months she would -- she would be quite traumatised.

1 Q. And when you say you sought that help, was that at the
2 time of the criminal investigation or earlier?

3 A. No, no, way back when we were trying to make 'Kevin's'
4 adoption work.

5 Q. Right, okay.

6 A. We went along.

7 Q. If we can go on over the page, please, to page 20, you
8 say that the day after the sentencing you got a text
9 from 'Kevin' saying he was so sorry and it wasn't meant
10 to have gone this far.

11 A. (Witness nods). And we showed that to the defence
12 barrister.

13 Q. Sorry?

14 A. I showed that to our defence barrister.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. And he also said that, "I'm glad you didn't go to jail".

17 Q. We've heard evidence from 'Kevin' that he didn't want
18 ██████████ to go to jail, I think we've heard that
19 evidence from him.

20 In terms of the message, I suppose he could have
21 meant it wasn't meant to have gone this far because it
22 should have been admitted at an earlier stage?

23 A. I didn't read that into it at all.

24 Q. Okay. Or that it should never have happened?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Did [REDACTED] give evidence at the trial?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Yes. And did you give evidence?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And your daughters as well?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And therefore I assume that you didn't see

8 'Kevin' or the other children giving evidence --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- because you would be waiting to give your own

11 evidence?

12 A. (Witness nods).

13 Q. Okay. If I can move on, please, to paragraph 105, and

14 at the bottom of the page we start looking at some of

15 the allegations that were made and going on to the top

16 of the page there's reference to off-the-shelf children,

17 this phrase "off-the-shelf children".

18 If we go to paragraph 106, you say that the phrase

19 "off-the-shelf children" was a bit a family banter?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. Is that something that was used openly in the household?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was that --

24 A. Not on a regular basis, but I do remember -- and I think

25 it was more amongst the children.

1 Q. Okay. And was it used in front of the foster children,
2 do you know?

3 A. (Witness nods).

4 Q. Yes? Okay.

5 Do you think that using that sort of phrase might
6 make them feel different to your own children?

7 A. Yeah, well, we did also say that they were chosen, you
8 know. We would joke and say we were stuck with the
9 other three.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I always tried to make each child feel individual.

12 Q. If we go on over the page, please, to page 22 and
13 paragraph 109, you say that your view is that the
14 youngest boy was the instigator of all of this?

15 A. Yes. He was the instigator of the allegations.

16 Q. And why do you think that?

17 A. Because the girl told me that it was him and his wife
18 had ... I think he was having memories of things.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. But he was five when he came to us.

21 Q. And you go on to say at paragraph 110 that you think
22 a lot of this has come from drunken evenings in the
23 pub --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- between the three of them?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. So you're suggesting that they got together, the three
3 of them --

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. -- and made this up?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Or had false memories of it or ...

9 Q. Okay, we'll come back to that in a moment. If we look
10 down to paragraph 111, you see that that's the
11 allegation that be 'Kevin' makes that he was hit by you
12 with a riding crop.

13 A. (Witness shakes head).

14 Q. And you say that you have no memory of that?

15 A. Absolutely not. No.

16 Q. So in his evidence he told us that one of your
17 daughters, I think, was on a horse. He hit the horse
18 and the horse ran off with her, and then you hit him
19 a few times with the riding crop.

20 A. I have no memory of that.

21 Q. Okay. Is it possible that it happened?

22 A. It sounds like a scenario that he might have hit the
23 horse and it run off, but it was just an old pony.

24 LADY SMITH: Did you ride?

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: And your daughters, did they ride?
2 A. Not seriously. We had an old pony that they all just
3 played around on.
4 LADY SMITH: Did you have a riding crop?
5 A. Yes.
6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
7 MS INNES: Okay.
8 At paragraph 113 you talk there about the issue of
9 physical affection and you say that you wouldn't have
10 been as physical with him as you were with the others.
11 A. No, I wasn't. I wasn't.
12 Q. I think he only has a couple of memories --
13 A. Yeah.
14 Q. -- of you giving him a hug. Is that probably right?
15 A. Probably. I wasn't affectionate with him.
16 Q. Okay. And then you see at paragraph 114 that that's
17 a quote from 'Kevin's' statement where he talks about
18 being smacked, I think either with a hand or with
19 a brush handle. Can you remember that being used?
20 A. I have no memory of that. I don't remember smacking
21 'Kevin'.
22 Q. Okay. So it would have been [REDACTED] --
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. -- that would have done that, okay.
25 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking what you do have

1 a general memory of, though, is being angry with 'Kevin'
2 and, as you said, sometimes scared of him?
3 A. Yes. I would be angry with him.
4 LADY SMITH: Did you lose your temper with him?
5 A. Possibly, but I don't have a great temper, but ... yeah,
6 probably, if you're angry, you -- I ... couldn't make it
7 a success with him. I wasn't ... and that -- I always
8 feel bad about that.
9 LADY SMITH: You've been very fair and frank about that,
10 'Alice'. I appreciate that.
11 MS INNES: And then you see that in this paragraph 'Kevin'
12 refers to something that [REDACTED] would do, that he
13 would tie him up with no clothes on.
14 A. No. No.
15 Q. Did you ever see that happening?
16 A. No. No.
17 Q. Did you ever see him being tied up with clothes on?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Okay. So in 'Kevin's' evidence I think he talked about
20 it beginning with a sort of game of being tied up and
21 having to release himself. Initially with clothes on,
22 and then without. Is that something that you can
23 remember happening?
24 A. Well, I mean -- no.
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. But they might play with ropes and things because we
2 lived in an old farmhouse with a tree house and a zip
3 line and there were ropes and things. But there's no
4 way he would do that.

5 Q. Okay. And then there's mention, I think, of photographs
6 being taken?

7 A. Yes. (Witness shakes head).

8 Q. Did [REDACTED] have a polaroid camera?

9 A. Not at that stage. He had one years later for work.

10 Q. Would [REDACTED] have had a camera for home and
11 a camera for work, for example?

12 A. No. He got a polaroid camera for work but much later
13 on.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. When he was doing a different type of job. But no, we
16 just had a family camera.

17 Q. Right, okay.

18 Now, if we move on to paragraph 116, you say there
19 that you know in your heart of hearts that there was
20 no -- that 'Kevin' wasn't abused by [REDACTED].

21 A. Mm.

22 Q. And you say that 'Kevin's' allegations have changed
23 since the trial, there is a mixture coming in now. Can
24 you explain that, please?

25 A. Well, yeah. There were things he talked about at the

1 trial that he hasn't brought up.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. And then ... and then there's things there that I saw
4 for the first time when I saw his statement.

5 Q. I see.

6 A. So, you know, they are changing a bit.

7 Q. And then you talk at paragraph 117 about the issue that
8 you've already mentioned --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- about the children's backgrounds. You talk there
11 about finding out later that 'Kevin' had scars on his
12 penis and burns before he was taken into care.

13 A. (Witness nods).

14 Q. And I think we know that 'Kevin' was taken into care
15 just before he was two.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Is that something that you were aware of?

18 A. I couldn't -- if you'd asked me outright today what age
19 he went into care I couldn't have told you. I knew he
20 was young and I knew he'd been at Urquhart House for
21 a while.

22 Q. Okay. And you say that you discovered that he had these
23 injuries before he was taken into care, when he was
24 a young child?

25 A. Yes. And that would come out in the reports for the

1 psychiatric hospital.

2 Q. Okay. Right. You talk at paragraph 117 about something
3 you've already mentioned, so false memory.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You say that you had expert witnesses on false memory at
6 the trial?

7 A. Yeah. Yeah.

8 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that? You say that
9 they gave evidence and it all made sense.

10 A. Yeah. I think our barrister investigated this false
11 memory, because I didn't know anything about it before
12 then, and there was a lady down south and she was given
13 all the relevant paperwork and she wrote this report
14 about it and sent it to the barrister. And I could see
15 what she was saying made sense about them all getting
16 together and -- there was a lot of drink went on between
17 the lot -- drunken evenings in the pub and -- that they
18 would talk about all these things and the memories would
19 get ... mixed up.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. But when she came to speak at the trial, she was not
22 good. She was very waffly and very posh-sounding and it
23 didn't go down well in Paisley, I suspect. But the
24 other guy we had was excellent and I can't remember his
25 surname.

1 Q. Was he also an expert in relation to false memory?

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And he was very supportive to us.

5 Q. Okay. Now, if we look at paragraph 118, I think you

6 conclude by saying:

7 "It is absolute nonsense."

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. At the end of that paragraph you say that:

10 "All of this has come about because 'Kevin's'

11 allegations were found not proven at the trial."

12 A. Well, I suspect that may be why he's not managed to drop

13 it or move on or ... whereas the others seem to have.

14 I don't know.

15 Q. If we go on over the page to page 24, you talk about

16 some lessons to be learned. And you talk at

17 paragraph 119 about an issue that you've already

18 mentioned. You say:

19 "There should be a lot more discussion around mixing

20 foster children with your natural family ..."

21 Can you tell us your thoughts about that?

22 A. Yeah. I think I wonder if they automatically feel that

23 they're having to keep up with them or they're being

24 tested against them or something. I just feel it was

25 perhaps harder for them than if they'd been in a family

1 without the natural children. And yet they were so good
2 with them. They were -- the natural children, our
3 natural children were amazing with them. Especially
4 [REDACTED] with 'Kevin'. But we tried to -- with the -- the
5 girl that we fostered, we switched schools with her as
6 well so she wasn't -- she was very close in age to our
7 youngest and they were both girls and I think the school
8 was a bit guilty of comparisons and stuff, so we moved
9 her to a private school where she could develop her
10 athletics and her music, which she was good at.

11 Q. Okay. At paragraph 120 you say that you "don't think
12 there was any discussion in depth from the children's
13 homes or social work department when we were fostering
14 and adopting. There should have been a lot more."

15 Discussion with whom?

16 A. Well, I suppose it's down to the social work department,
17 isn't it?

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. To ...

20 Q. So do you mean they should have been having more
21 discussions with you or discussions internally?

22 A. There should have been a lot more discussions, training,
23 whatever, in taking on disruptive -- children that were
24 not just disruptive but with a lot of problems. I know
25 you expect some problems, but we were just constantly

1 told: they just need a stable home and to be loved.
2 Well, we gave them a stable home for 30 years. And our
3 children shared it with them and did all they could.
4 And it's like a massive bereavement --
5 Q. Yes.
6 A. -- when they left.
7 Q. I think you say that.
8 A. Yeah, a massive bereavement to us to lose contact with
9 their children, because, as I do mention, they quite
10 often asked us to look after them and for two of them we
11 were their main carers for a while because their mother
12 was out of it. She -- you know, it was -- we were their
13 stability for a while and suddenly ... they were gone.
14 Q. Okay.
15 At paragraph 121 you say there should have been red
16 flags when placing the children with you. What sort of
17 red flags?
18 A. Yeah, a lot more information about their background.
19 Q. I see.
20 A. At the beginning.
21 Q. So you're meaning there that they should have been
22 flagging up things to you?
23 A. Yes. Things that they knew, that we weren't getting
24 information of.
25 Q. And you feel there should have been more of a constant

1 --

2 A. And I will admit, we were naive. We -- they -- they
3 took us to a large extent, the children, into a world we
4 didn't know about.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And we just tried to cope with it all as it happened.

7 Q. You talk about the same issue at paragraph 122. If we
8 move to paragraph 123, you say:

9 "There has to be better training for safeguarding
10 children and better awareness of damaged children."

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And again I think you've already mentioned that in your
13 evidence, that more training would have been --

14 A. Yeah, and more awareness for the safety of the foster
15 carers.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Now, if we move on to the final page of your
18 statement at paragraph 126 at the bottom of page 25, you
19 have a quote from Eartha Kitt which says:

20 "If your mother gives you away, for whatever reason
21 she did not want you, why would anyone want you, if the
22 most important person in your life didn't want you."

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. Can you explain why you made reference to that quote?

25 A. Well, I just read it and I thought that's exactly how

1 LADY SMITH: I'll take the break now.

2 (11.33 am)

3 (A short break)

4 (11.53 am)

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes. Is the next witness ready?

6 MS INNES: Yes, he is. The next witness is anonymous and
7 has chosen the pseudonym 'Bob'. 'Bob' together with his
8 wife were foster carers with Strathclyde Regional
9 Council. An applicant using the pseudonym 'John-Paul'
10 was placed by Strathclyde with 'Bob' and his wife from
11 [REDACTED] 1983 until [REDACTED] 1983.

12 'John-Paul's' statement is at WIT-1-000000622 and
13 his evidence was read in on Day 311, 9 August 2022.

14 Our understanding is that the current responsible
15 authority is North Lanarkshire Council.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 'Bob' (affirmed)

18 LADY SMITH: 'Bob', I'd ask you to stay in a good position
19 for that microphone because it'll help you and it also
20 helps us to hear you probably.

21 The red folder has a typed version of your statement
22 in it and you'll be taken to that in a moment.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 LADY SMITH: You'll also see your statement coming up on
25 screen. You might find that helpful so feel free to use

1 either or neither if you like.

2 A. Right.

3 LADY SMITH: But 'Bob', before I hand you over to Ms Innes,
4 a couple of things.

5 Could I just assure you that I know what we're
6 asking you to do this morning isn't easy and it's hard
7 coming into a strange environment like this to be asked
8 about events that happened long ago when you were
9 involved in fostering children, particularly when you
10 know you're going to be asked some difficult questions
11 about that. I do understand. I understand it can be
12 stressful, it can get emotional.

13 If at any time you want a break, whether here or out
14 of the room, that's fine by me. If there's anything
15 else I can do to help you give your evidence as clearly
16 and as well as you can, you must let me know. Do you
17 understand that?

18 A. Thank you, yes.

19 LADY SMITH: And finally it's possible during your evidence,
20 'Bob', you'll be asked questions the answers to which
21 could incriminate you. Now, this isn't a court, it's
22 a public inquiry, but you're entitled to exactly the
23 same protections as you would be entitled to in
24 a courtroom, because, for example, there's a record
25 being made of your evidence, it's being transcribed, it

1 could be looked at later, and you're giving evidence in
2 public, of course.

3 So please bear in mind if you are asked any such
4 questions, you don't have to answer them. It's your
5 choice. But of course if you do, you must answer them
6 fully. Do you understand?

7 A. Okay.

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

10 A. Yes, I'm ready.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

12 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

13 Questions from Ms Innes

14 MS INNES: 'Bob', we understand that you were born in 1942?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. I'm going to refer to your statement. We give it the
17 reference WIT-1-0000001047. If we can look, please, at
18 the final page of that statement, you can look at it in
19 the folder or on the screen, and at paragraph 75 it says
20 there:

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

25 I think you signed the statement on 3 August of this

1 year, 2022; is that right?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Okay, thank you.

4 If we can go back to the beginning of your
5 statement, please, and to paragraph 38 -- sorry, I'm
6 jumping ahead of myself. If we go to paragraph 3,
7 please, you tell us that you were in the Navy and then
8 I think you worked in the prison service in various
9 locations?

10 A. I did.

11 Q. At the bottom of this page at paragraph 5 you talk about
12 you and your wife starting to foster children. Why was
13 it that you and your wife decided to become foster
14 parents?

15 A. We didn't actually decide originally to be foster
16 parents. When my wife lost her baby she'd said that she
17 wanted to adopt.

18 Q. I see.

19 A. I wasn't keen on the idea of adopting on the rebound, if
20 you understand what I mean, so when I'd moved from
21 [REDACTED] down to another prison, we knew someone that
22 did foster and we thought we'd check up on that to see
23 if that was a viable proposition.

24 Q. Okay. Now, if we go on to the next page you talk about
25 that and at paragraph 6 you say that you started,

1 I think, by making some enquiries with the local
2 council; is that right?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You remember a lady, I think, called Grace Thompson who
5 came to visit you?

6 A. That's the name that sticks in my mind. The first name
7 Grace. The surname Thompson stuck in my mind and it's
8 stuck in my wife's mind as well.

9 Q. And was she somebody who looked at your application to
10 become foster parents or was she just talking to you
11 about the possibility of fostering, do you know?

12 A. I'm not sure what her exact role was, but, as I say, she
13 spoke to us and she spoke to our own children, so
14 I should imagine she was -- that was part and parcel of
15 her job.

16 Q. So you say that she spoke to your own children. At that
17 time, how many children did you have and how old were
18 they?

19 A. Three. Three children, yeah.

20 Q. And what sort of ages were they?

21 A. Well ...

22 Q. Just roughly is fine.

23 A. 15 -- I think my daughter would have been -- my eldest
24 daughter would have been about 14 or 15.

25 Q. Okay. And the youngest, would they still have been at

1 primary school?

2 A. Yeah, [REDACTED].

3 Q. Would he still --

4 A. Then [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], in
5 1968 she was born, so she would only have been about
6 eight or nine years old.

7 Q. So you can remember speaking to your children about what
8 they thought?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And what was their response?

11 A. They were all for it.

12 Q. You then say at paragraph 7 that the whole process took
13 about a year, so that would be the process of applying
14 and being registered as foster parents?

15 A. As far as I can remember, that was roughly a year, yeah.

16 Q. You say that you fostered a child in 1979 when he was
17 three months old.

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. And when he came to you, was that on the basis that he
20 was going to stay with you for the rest of his --

21 A. No, he was with us with a view to being adopted, not by
22 us but he was up for adoption.

23 Q. I see.

24 A. He wasn't just for fostering, he was up for adoption.

25 Q. Okay. But then it turned out that he stayed with you

1 and you adopted him?

2 A. He stayed with us, as I say, until we finally adopted

3 him, yeah.

4 Q. You say at paragraph 7 that you stopped fostering

5 children at the time that you adopted your son, so am

6 I right in thinking that between 1979 and 1984 you were

7 fostering other children?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. We'll come back to that in a moment.

10 You say at paragraph 8 that you didn't need to have

11 any qualifications to be foster parents but you remember

12 that you had to answer numerous questions?

13 A. About what would be involved in fostering, yeah.

14 Q. And who was asking you those questions?

15 A. Well, the social worker that came.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I think maybe once or twice someone else was with her at

18 the same time, but most of the questions were directed

19 at my wife.

20 Q. Okay. And at that point were you working?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Full time?

23 A. I was working, yeah.

24 Q. And were you working full time?

25 A. I was still in the prison service.

1 Q. And was your wife working?

2 A. Sometimes she worked, if we didn't have children, she
3 used to go and look for a wee job.

4 Q. So was the plan that your wife was going to be the main
5 carer for the foster children?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And then you say at paragraph 9 that you don't
8 know if there were any ongoing checks during your time
9 as foster parents. Did social workers come out to the
10 house to see you when you were fostering?

11 A. If we had children -- well, a child or a number of
12 children, then we would be in contact with social
13 workers. Apart from that, we didn't have any other
14 contact.

15 Q. Okay. If we look down to paragraph 11, you say that you
16 weren't given any training?

17 A. No.

18 Q. So no training before the first child was placed with
19 you?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And no training after that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Do you think that would have been helpful to have some
24 training?

25 A. My own personal view is that people who want to look

1 after children, it would be beneficial to them if they
2 had experience of looking after children of their own,
3 their own children, because they understood the needs of
4 a child. As regards the training, I don't think you
5 could actually give anyone training. You could give
6 them advice, but training, I don't think -- it's not
7 like learning at school or in a factory or something.

8 Q. You referred there to your experience in bringing up
9 your own children. Children that were placed with you
10 as foster children would have been taken into care and
11 taken away from their birth parents and they might have
12 been in homes or maybe in other foster homes. Do you
13 think it would have been useful to have been given some
14 advice as to the particular needs that they had?

15 A. It would have been, yeah. Yeah.

16 Q. If we go on over the page, please, to page 3 and
17 paragraph 12, you say there that you didn't see
18 fostering as a job?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. So it wasn't something that you were doing to get
21 an income?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You say:

24 "We didn't choose what children we fostered and
25 simply looked after whoever we were asked to."

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Can you explain how it would come about that a foster
3 child would be placed with you?

4 A. We'd get a phone call saying that they had a child they
5 needed to have a placement for, nine times out of ten
6 they knew if we had a space, and arrangements were made
7 for them to bring the child to the house.

8 Q. Can you remember if you ever met the foster children in
9 advance?

10 A. Never.

11 Q. Never?

12 A. (Witness shakes head).

13 Q. And when you were phoned up, if you had a space, was
14 there an option to say, "No, we're not going to take
15 that child"?

16 A. The option would have been there, yes, but ...

17 Q. Okay. And were you given any information about the
18 child or the background that the child had?

19 A. Never given information other than some of them were on
20 place of safety orders, which in my own mind speaks for
21 itself.

22 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 12 that the most you ever
23 fostered at one time was three, who were three siblings
24 that you looked after?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. So would you have had three children of your own, the
2 first foster child that you had that you then adopted,
3 and then another three children, so seven children in
4 the house at the one time?

5 A. No, my son had moved away down south.

6 Q. I see, so your oldest had moved away?

7 A. Well, he was the middle child, [REDACTED].

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. We had my own two girls, then [REDACTED], and then the other
10 three.

11 Q. Okay. And did you have sufficient accommodation for
12 that many children?

13 A. We had sufficient accommodation because the dining room
14 had been converted into a bedroom.

15 Q. I see.

16 A. We had three large bedrooms and we converted the dining
17 room into a bedroom.

18 Q. Okay. So that then gave you four bedrooms that you
19 could --

20 A. There were the four bedrooms, yeah.

21 Q. You say at paragraph 13 that, as you've said, you
22 weren't given that much information and you say quite
23 often you weren't told why the children were in care but
24 the children themselves might tell you about their
25 background?

1 A. Some of them would give us an idea.

2 Q. The first child you've mentioned came to you when he was
3 very young, the child that you adopted, but I'm assuming
4 from what you say here that some of the other children
5 that you fostered were older?

6 A. They were older than [REDACTED], yes.

7 Q. Okay. And were some of them teenagers or ages with your
8 own children?

9 A. We never had any that were classed as teenagers as such.
10 The eldest of the three siblings that we had, she was
11 around 11 or 12.

12 Q. Okay. So that was the oldest child that you had?

13 A. That was around the oldest of the children that we had.

14 Q. You say that most of the children weren't with you very
15 long. So it would be a shorter period of time. Are you
16 talking weeks or months?

17 A. Some of them were only days.

18 Q. I see, okay. And you mention some of the children you
19 had no contact with whatsoever because you were away at
20 the time?

21 A. On detached duties at another prison, yeah.

22 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 14 that sometimes a child
23 would only be with you for a day or so but you were
24 always prepared for such a scenario.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. What do you mean by that? Would you have --

2 A. Well, prepared to take a child in if it was for one day,
3 one week, one month, whatever was necessary, then that
4 was the period of time we'd be prepared to do it.

5 LADY SMITH: Just going back to these times that you've
6 mentioned when you weren't there at all because work
7 required you to be somewhere else, did the social
8 workers know that?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: How did they know that?

11 A. Well, my wife would have told them, if they had phoned
12 up and said, "Can you take a child, what would your
13 husband say about it?" "Well, my husband's on detached
14 duties at another prison."

15 LADY SMITH: Do you know whether she told them that?

16 A. Not offhand, no, not unless I was to ask her, but I had
17 no reason to ask her.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS INNES: You say at paragraph 14 that each of the children
20 had social workers dedicated to them, but you and your
21 wife didn't have a social worker yourselves.

22 A. Not a designated social worker, no.

23 Q. So if problems arose, who would you contact?

24 A. The social work department.

25 Q. Okay. So did they all come from the local social work

1 department?

2 A. There was a -- some of the social workers that came, if
3 the children came from the Glasgow area, it would have
4 been a Glasgow social worker, designated social worker
5 for the child.

6 Q. So if there was a problem, you would phone the social
7 worker for the child?

8 A. Well, we never had to do that.

9 Q. Right, okay.

10 If we go down to paragraph 15, you talk about again
11 that you saw fostering as a vocation and it was
12 something that you did because you wanted to. You say:

13 "Any financial aid we did receive came via social
14 workers and often the grants were made out to certain
15 shops which were the only ones where we could use them."

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Can you tell us a little about that, how the financial
18 arrangements worked?

19 A. Well, my wife dealt with all the finances but I know
20 that when the child came, if they didn't have what they
21 needed, a grant was given, we had a -- a docket,
22 whatever they call it, and you could go to a certain
23 shop and say you've got £25, £40, whatever, to spend on
24 clothes for the child or shoes or whatever. Whatever
25 they required, it was paid for by the social work.

1 Q. And that was through designated shops?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And you say at paragraph 17 at the top of the
4 next page that sometimes you had to pay out of your own
5 money for things that the children needed?

6 A. Sometimes the grant -- the paperwork wasn't -- if it may
7 be on a Saturday night or a Friday night or Sunday when
8 their departments weren't open so that the dockets could
9 be made out, we would purchase it ourselves and get --
10 the money would be refunded to us, provided we gave them
11 the receipts.

12 Q. You go on at paragraph 18 to talk about a meeting that
13 you remember going to with Malcolm Day who was the head
14 of social work in Wishaw.

15 You say something that you talked to him about at
16 the meeting, that you raised at the meeting.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And what was that?

19 A. A couple of comments had already been made -- there was
20 a question and answer meeting --

21 Q. I see.

22 A. -- with other social workers and other foster parents
23 there as well, and a couple of comments had been made
24 and I said, "Well, if you think everything runs as
25 smooth as you seem to think it does, it's not -- it

1 doesn't run -- it's not hunky dory all the time. Things
2 do go wrong and there's times when emergency
3 arrangements have to be made."

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I don't think it went down too well, but it was just my
6 answer to the way they were talking, the questions and
7 comments they were making.

8 Q. I think the particular issue that you were raising was
9 a child might come without things?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then you would have to acquire them?

12 A. Not everyone was in the same sort of position as we were
13 financially, that we were able to purchase what was
14 required, and if someone had been living hand-to-mouth
15 and had to try and use their own money then it would
16 have been embarrassing for some of them.

17 Q. Okay.

18 If we can go on over the page, please, to page 5 and
19 paragraph 22, you say that you couldn't guess at how
20 many children you and your wife fostered, particularly
21 because, as you've said, some of them were only with you
22 for a day or two.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. But it appears from what you've said that you had
25 a number of children with you over the period 1979 to

1 1984?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. For varying periods of time. Okay.

4 And then at paragraph 23 you talk about the notice

5 period and you've already told us that you would get

6 a phone call and you say sometimes the notice could be

7 as little as an hour?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Would they bring the child to your house then?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I see. And would that be where there was some kind of

12 emergency?

13 A. I should imagine so. Sometimes if I was on night shift

14 in the prison, I could see the lights in my house go on

15 in the bathroom, be on for an hour or so, and I would

16 know that they'd brought a child because my wife always

17 made sure they were washed and bathed and clean clothes

18 before she put them into their beds.

19 Q. So you can remember them coming, essentially, overnight?

20 A. They could. It didn't happen very often that time of

21 night, but it had happened.

22 Q. At paragraph 24 you talk about what you've already

23 mentioned, that sometimes your wife would be told that

24 the children were what was called a place of safety?

25 A. (Overspeaking).

1 Q. That was the basis upon which they were in care?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. At paragraph 25 you say:

4 "It wasn't always troubled children we looked after,
5 as on a rare occasion we would be asked to look after
6 a child whose parent or parents were in hospital and
7 there was nobody else to look after them."

8 So when you say "troubled children", what do you
9 mean?

10 A. A lot of children were very angry and upset when they
11 came. I class that as a troubled child, that had
12 problems adjusting to being taken away from their home
13 or their parents or their brothers and sisters.

14 Q. Okay. And then other times you say you would have to
15 look after a child who the parent was maybe in hospital
16 and not able to --

17 A. I remember one occasion they said the mother had had to
18 go in for surgery and she would be in the hospital for
19 a week or ten days, so not to expect it to be
20 a long-term placement. So ...

21 Q. Okay. At paragraph 26 you say that sometimes it could
22 be hard work.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you explain or describe what would make it hard
25 work?

1 A. If the child was being very sullen and didn't want to do
2 what he was asked to do or -- I'm saying "he", it could
3 have been a girl, but very often until they actually
4 settled, they were very anti-social.

5 Q. Okay. And you say that the older children knew what was
6 happening and the younger ones were usually happy once
7 they got something to eat and drink and were
8 comfortable.

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. Do you mean that the older children took longer to
11 settle down?

12 A. No, the older children understood what was going on.
13 The younger children didn't really understand what was
14 going on, but as long as everything was going for them,
15 if you understand what I mean, then they were quite
16 happy.

17 Q. So you might have to adopt a different strategy in terms
18 of helping them to settle in, depending on their age?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And you refer to your own children and say that
21 they were a great help in helping them settle in.

22 A. They were indeed, yeah.

23 Q. If we go on over the page at paragraph 27, you say that
24 the routine that you had was exactly the same whether
25 you had children or not. Your family routine was the

1 same?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. So getting up, going to school and such like, and
4 then I think you mention that sometimes at the weekends
5 you would go stock car racing at the weekends?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And that's something that you did with the foster
8 children as well?

9 A. As well, yeah.

10 Q. Is that something they enjoyed?

11 A. It was a great leveller. They enjoyed helping me fix
12 the car, paint the car with a paint brush, get covered
13 in paint and oil.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Something totally different to their normal thing that
16 happened to them.

17 Q. Okay. At paragraph 29 you talk about wetting the bed.

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. You know that an applicant who has the pseudonym
20 'John-Paul' has given a statement to the Inquiry and
21 I think he talks in his statement about wetting the bed
22 occasionally and that you would tell him that he was too
23 old to be doing that?

24 A. (Witness shakes head). We only ever had the one child
25 that wet the bed and that was the eldest girl of the

1 three siblings we had.

2 Q. So you have no recollection of 'John-Paul' wetting the
3 bed?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay.

6 At paragraph 30 you talk about again having supplies
7 for the children and you say that you had a stock of
8 clothes that you would use in emergencies?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. So you had set those aside from your own children's
11 clothes and --

12 A. Some of them were hand-me-downs from my own children.
13 My youngest one was around the age of some of the
14 children that we were getting in.

15 Q. If we can move on to page 8 and paragraph 36, you refer
16 there to schooling and you say that only one child you
17 fostered went to school?

18 A. There's -- sorry.

19 Q. And was that 'John-Paul' that went to school --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- in [REDACTED], okay. You say then I think that you were
22 quite often looking after the children during the summer
23 holidays and schooling didn't come into the equation.

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. So although you had some older children, you mentioned

1 the three siblings, they weren't going to school because
2 of the time of year it was?

3 A. As far as I remember, yes.

4 Q. Okay. And then in terms of the length of time that
5 children were with you, at paragraph 37, obviously
6 there's the first child that you had that you then
7 adopted. You then remember there was another child that
8 was with you for 11 months, but all of the other
9 children were with you for shorter periods of time?

10 A. Shorter periods.

11 Q. Okay. If I can move on, please, to page 9 and
12 paragraph 41, you talk there about discipline. How
13 would you deal with discipline if the children
14 misbehaved?

15 A. Depended on the circumstances. A lot of the times they
16 would squabble between themselves and squabble with my
17 own children or just didn't want to do what they were
18 asked to do, so my wife would either say, "You can go to
19 your room" or, "You won't have your television, you
20 won't get to go and play with your toys". As I say,
21 nine times out of ten, if there was a dispute I wasn't
22 there, I was at work.

23 Q. Okay. And when you came home from work, were there
24 occasions where your wife said that somebody had
25 misbehaved and that --

1 A. She had had to tell them off or whatever.

2 Q. And would she ask you to step in and discipline them?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you ever smack the children?

5 A. Never. Never smacked my own children either.

6 Q. You say at paragraph 42 that having said what you've

7 said in paragraph 41, you say that you rarely had

8 problems with the children.

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. You can't really remember --

11 A. Very rarely had any upsets at all.

12 Q. Okay. At paragraph 43, this is asking you about your

13 relationship with the foster children, and you say that

14 you feel that the children saw you as the man of the

15 house?

16 A. Well, they accepted that I was the father of my own

17 children.

18 Q. And you felt that they respected your place in the

19 household?

20 A. I was never told any different.

21 Q. Okay. And you say there that you would say that you

22 showed the children affection. If they were upset about

23 something, you would try to help them or point them to

24 your wife?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay. If we go on over the page to page 10 and
2 paragraph 45 --

3 LADY SMITH: Just before we go on to paragraph 45, 'Bob',
4 I see that you tell us the children tended to see you as
5 the "man of the house". What do you mean by that?

6 A. I was the only adult male in the house.

7 LADY SMITH: I get that, I just wondered whether you were
8 trying to convey something more than as a matter of fact
9 you were the only man there?

10 A. No. No, no.

11 LADY SMITH: And when you go on and say you felt they
12 respected that, what do you mean?

13 A. That they knew that it was our house, they were living
14 in our house, and I was my own children's father and my
15 children treated me with the same respect as I treated
16 my parents with.

17 LADY SMITH: Did you feel they knew you were in charge?

18 A. I wouldn't say in charge, no.

19 LADY SMITH: Were you in charge?

20 A. No, my wife's in charge of the house.

21 LADY SMITH: All right. Thank you.

22 MS INNES: So looking at page 10 and paragraph 45, you talk
23 about contact between the foster children and their
24 parents.

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. How was that arranged?

2 A. Well, the social workers -- if there was any contact at
3 all, social workers would have arranged it. We took
4 some children down to the social work centre in Shotts
5 and left them there and went back an hour and a half,
6 two hours. The parents had had contact with their
7 children.

8 Q. Okay, so sometimes the social worker would take them to
9 the local social work office --

10 A. In Shotts, yeah.

11 Q. -- for contact. Did parents ever come to your house for
12 contact?

13 A. Only once was a parent brought to our front door. We
14 weren't happy with it because as far as we were
15 concerned it was a place -- a place of safety order.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. And apparently the parent had been giving the social
18 workers some upset and he said, "I'll take you to see
19 the children", and he spoke to the child and walked away
20 again quite happy and we never had any contact with
21 anyone after that.

22 Q. So that was a parent who had come to the door --

23 A. With a social worker.

24 Q. -- with a social worker?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Other than that, did you have any direct contact with
2 any parents?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And any contact that the children had was arranged by
5 the social work --

6 A. There was only one time they were allowed to make
7 a phone call but they weren't allowed to know the number
8 they were calling from or calling to, but they spoke to
9 their parents.

10 Q. Okay. And from what you say in your statement, 'Bob',
11 it sounds like most of the children that you had had
12 fairly limited contact with their parents, if any?

13 A. Well, when they were with us, very limited contact. As
14 I say, if they were only here for a day or two, they
15 wouldn't have had a chance to contact them anyway.

16 Q. Okay. And then at paragraph 49 you mention siblings
17 that lived with you that you've already mentioned. Can
18 you remember children in your care having contact with
19 siblings who were perhaps in other care settings?

20 A. No, as far as I believed, these three children were
21 just -- the only three children in that family.

22 Q. Okay. But what about other children that were placed
23 with you? So 'John-Paul', who we'll come on to speak
24 about a little bit more, I think we know that his
25 brother, for example, was living somewhere else at the

1 time.

2 A. We didn't know that at the time.

3 Q. I see. Okay. And then at paragraph 50 you talk about
4 visits from social workers and you say that they came
5 roughly every fortnight?

6 A. Something like that. In my memory it's a fortnight that
7 sort of sticks in my brain.

8 Q. Okay. Obviously if the children were there long enough?

9 A. Long enough, yeah.

10 Q. And you say that you would either let them see the
11 children alone in their room or sometimes the social
12 workers would sit with them in their car?

13 A. I can't remember them sitting in their car, to be honest
14 with you.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. It's the opportunity to sit in the living room and talk
17 to the kids by themselves or up in the bedroom by
18 themselves or go for a walk by themselves. It was --
19 everything was there. We had no limitations on how they
20 saw the children.

21 Q. Okay. And I appreciate that you may have been working
22 some of the times that the social workers came, but on
23 any times that you can remember, can you remember the
24 social worker taking them out for a walk or going to
25 their bedroom and talking to them separately?

1 A. No, no, they'd sit in the living room and talk to them
2 and we always kept out the way.

3 Q. Okay. At paragraph 51 you say that you can't remember
4 any reviews or inspections being carried out?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So you did the original application and after that you
7 obviously saw social workers when they came to visit the
8 children but you didn't have any kind of review of
9 yourselves as foster parents?

10 A. No, not at all.

11 Q. You say at paragraph 52 that it's hard to say if the
12 children were listened to and you say:

13 "... many of them didn't want to be where they were
14 and tended to be against [you] when they arrived."

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Why were they against you when they arrived?

17 A. I don't know whether they saw us as being the reason why
18 they'd been taken away from their parents. It's hard to
19 say what would go through a child's mind at that time,
20 but like I said in my statement, they would tend to
21 settle after -- once they realised that life was as good
22 as, if not better, than they'd come from, then they
23 settled down.

24 Q. You say that some of them -- well, they often didn't
25 want to leave?

1 A. I know one or two didn't want to leave, yeah.

2 Q. And then you say:

3 "Social workers simply told the children what was
4 happening and that would be it, so in that sense [you]
5 didn't think the children's views were taken into
6 account"?

7 A. If it was time for them to go back to their parents or
8 off to somewhere else, then that's what the social
9 worker would say, "We've come to take you to whatever",
10 so whether that meant the child wasn't listened to,
11 but -- it's hard to say what a child thinks when that
12 sort of thing happens.

13 Q. Do you know if children were given much explanation as
14 to why they were moving and leaving your house, for
15 example?

16 A. No. We didn't listen to that sort of conversation.
17 When the social worker came to see the children, unless
18 they asked us to stay, we always vacated the room.

19 Q. Okay. So the discussion or explanation about why the
20 children would be leaving is something that would be
21 dealt with by the social work department?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Rather than yourselves?

24 A. Yes. Nothing that -- the children knew it was nothing
25 to do with us.

1 Q. Okay. Can you remember them ever asking you after
2 a social worker had been there, "Why am I leaving?
3 Where am I going next?" Asking you and your wife
4 questions?

5 A. Only once did we have any reason to question what was
6 going on. Our hobby was racing stock cars and our
7 summer holiday was going around the racing at different
8 tracks and the three children we would needed to have
9 made arrangements with them to be able to come with us
10 and the social worker never gave us an answer, never
11 gave us an answer, and then he said to the children one
12 day that we didn't want to take them on holiday with us,
13 they'd have to go into the children's home and they
14 never came back.

15 Q. Okay. Did you raise with the social worker the fact
16 that you had asked for them to be able to go with you?

17 A. The oldest -- the eldest of the three children was in
18 contact with my eldest daughter and my youngest daughter
19 and 40 years later they're still in contact with each
20 other. So that's how we knew what had been said, that
21 we didn't want to take them on holiday.

22 Q. I see. So at the time you were just told that they were
23 moving and you weren't given an explanation?

24 A. Just said that it was close to the time that they would
25 be moving on anyway.

1 Q. I see.

2 A. So they wouldn't be coming on holiday with us. They
3 didn't say that they wouldn't be coming back from the
4 children's home.

5 LADY SMITH: You said that you would need to have made
6 arrangements, would that be with the social workers, to
7 have the children go with you? What arrangements are
8 you talking about?

9 A. Well, we wanted permission for them to be able to come
10 with us when we were going away. We would go away for
11 a week to different places up and down the country. And
12 we wanted to know that they were going to still be with
13 us so that we could make arrangements for accommodation,
14 et cetera, things like that.

15 LADY SMITH: Sorry, are you talking about the children going
16 away on holiday with you?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Or --

19 A. We wanted to know from the social work whether they had
20 a vision of them moving on before we went on holiday.
21 Our holidays were organised weeks in advance with
22 camping sites, et cetera, et cetera, and I wanted to
23 know if they were going to still with be us and they
24 couldn't give us a straight answer.

25 LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

1 MS INNES: And then you say that later in life you
2 understand that what the children were told, those
3 children were told --
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. -- is that you didn't want to take them on holiday?
6 A. We didn't want to take them on holiday with us.
7 Q. And your position is that wasn't correct information
8 that was given to them?
9 A. They loved the stock cars. That was something they
10 really looked forward to.
11 Q. At paragraph 53 you talk about records and you say that
12 you were never asked to keep any records and looking
13 back, such things would have been helpful?
14 A. Definitely.
15 Q. What are your thoughts in relation to that? What sort
16 of things would it have been helpful to keep a record
17 of?
18 A. Having any information on the child that maybe came from
19 one home to another -- to another home, what their likes
20 and dislikes, what their -- how long their temper
21 tantrums would last or whatever. Any information would
22 have been handy but it was just ... there you are, there
23 are the children, you'll find out for yourself sort of
24 thing.
25 Q. Then at the time that they were moved on, was there any

1 way of you giving information to their next carer about
2 things like --

3 A. We didn't know -- nine times out of ten we wouldn't have
4 known where they were going, whether they were going
5 back home or going on to another foster parent or
6 whatever.

7 Q. If we go on over the page to page 12 and paragraph 54,
8 you talk about that sort of thing there where you say
9 again you would just get a call from the social worker
10 saying they were coming to collect the child.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Would you be given much notice of that?

13 A. Very often it was followed -- you know, "We're coming to
14 tomorrow". Sometimes it was, "We're coming in three
15 hours or four hours". We didn't know what the
16 circumstances were. We never questioned it. We just
17 got the child ready or got their belongings together.

18 Q. And you say you would get their things together in
19 preparation, so would they have suitcases or what would
20 you do with their things, do you know?

21 A. Co-op bags, things like that.

22 Q. Sorry?

23 A. Plastic bags.

24 Q. Is that what children would come with as well?

25 A. Sometimes they never came with anything, so -- and it

1 was brought by the social worker maybe the following day
2 or whatever.

3 Q. Then you say you were never given any information as to
4 why the children were moving on or where they were
5 going?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Do you think it might have been useful to have that sort
8 of information so that you could have discussed that
9 with the child?

10 A. Well, to say to the child that, you know, they were
11 going away somewhere, if they were going somewhere to
12 another foster parent and they would start asking why,
13 I wouldn't have an answer to that because as far as we
14 were concerned they were only with us until such times
15 as they were going back to their parents or -- so to
16 answer a child with a, "I don't know" to me wouldn't
17 have been fair on the child. It was the social workers'
18 responsibility to convey to the child what was
19 happening.

20 Q. Okay. Do you think the social worker also had
21 a responsibility to tell you what was happening, to give
22 you that sort of information?

23 A. If they think we needed that information, but personally
24 I don't think a lot of the times having that information
25 would have made any difference at all.

1 Q. Okay. Why not?

2 A. Because if they were moving on to somewhere, we had no
3 input or output into what they were going into. If they
4 were going to another foster parent, they were going to
5 another foster parent. Obviously the social worker
6 would have had a reason for moving them on, whether it
7 was going to be a longer-term placement or something,
8 I don't know.

9 Q. Okay. At paragraph 56 you say that you weren't aware of
10 any procedure as such to make any complaints but you had
11 the impression that if you said something to a social
12 worker when they visited the children it would be
13 followed up.

14 A. You would have expected it to be followed up, yeah.

15 Q. Can you remember if you had any occasion to make any
16 complaints?

17 A. Well, only one time we said about 'John-Paul's' attitude
18 to being in care.

19 Q. And what did you say about that, can you remember?

20 A. Well, I told the social worker he wasn't happy and if he
21 wasn't happy and he's not going to settle, then maybe we
22 weren't the right foster parents for him.

23 Q. Okay. If we go over the page to page 13 and at
24 paragraph 61 you say that the only allegation of abuse
25 that you're aware of is the one made by 'John-Paul'; is

1 that right?

2 A. That's correct, yeah.

3 Q. And at paragraph 62, you mention that he made

4 a complaint to the police about you a few years ago.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And how did you become aware that he'd made a complaint

7 to the police?

8 A. The police come to the door and asked me to go to the

9 Coatbridge police station.

10 Q. Okay. So you just had to go to the police station

11 and --

12 A. (Witness nods). We went there there and then, yeah.

13 Q. I think you mention there that your wife wasn't

14 questioned because the complaint was against you?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And the matter didn't go any further?

17 A. Never heard another word.

18 Q. Okay. You say that you had no problems with the way in

19 which the matter was handled by the police?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Were you being questioned about matters which are

22 similar or the same as 'John-Paul' has said in his

23 statement to the Inquiry? Or was it different things

24 you were being asked about?

25 A. No, I was asked about whether I assaulted him with

1 a baton.

2 Q. Okay. If we go on, please, to paragraph 65, you talk
3 there about the length of time that each of you think
4 that you were in the placement and I think 'John-Paul'
5 in his statement says he was with you for about six
6 months. You thought it was a matter of weeks.

7 A. It was a matter of weeks rather than months, yeah.

8 Q. And I think we know it was about four months, so
9 somewhere in between the two, okay. At the time that
10 you prepared your statement, you said that you can't
11 remember him running away.

12 A. Not running away as such. There was one occasion where
13 he had gone for a walk -- this is what he told my wife
14 once, my wife and another prison officer's wife had gone
15 and picked him up, he said he was going to go to -- walk
16 to Airdrie and he was going to go and see some of his
17 relatives. That was the only time he ever done that.

18 Q. Okay. So you can't remember him running away from
19 school or from home at any other time?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 67 we see there that he says
22 that you "hit him a couple of times a week on the arms,
23 the back of the legs and my back with a wooden baton.
24 I was bruised and I showed the bruises to the social
25 workers and they asked what had happened."

1 And then he says that you say that he was in fights
2 at school and that's why he was bruised and he says that
3 he remembers getting upset and asking the social workers
4 why they didn't listen to him.

5 So did you ever hit 'John-Paul'?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you ever hit him with a baton?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you have a baton in the house?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you have anything like a baton, like a baseball

12 bat --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- or anything like that?

15 A. No.

16 LADY SMITH: Did you have one at work?

17 A. I had one at work, yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS INNES: Did you ever take that home?

20 A. Very, very rarely would it have been still in my pocket

21 when I went out the gate up to the house.

22 Q. Okay. If we go over the page to paragraph 69, you refer

23 to 'John-Paul' saying that you had your baton and

24 handcuffs in a cabinet in the house. So if you took the

25 baton home with you accidentally, as you've said, would

1 you put it into a cabinet in the house?

2 A. No. We didn't have a cabinet.

3 Q. Okay. Where would you put it?

4 A. Nine times out of ten, if it was in my pocket it's when
5 I've gone home for a meal, if I was on a day shift and
6 gone home for a meal, then it would still be stuck in my
7 pocket. But normally when I was going off shift it
8 would go into my locker in the prison and when I went on
9 shift I would take it out the locker and put it in my
10 pocket.

11 Q. He also mentions there having handcuffs in the house?

12 A. No, prison officers don't have handcuffs. We didn't
13 have them in our day. Handcuffs had to be signed for in
14 the reception when you were going out somewhere on
15 an escort and they had to be signed back in again when
16 you came back, so you never had handcuffs in your
17 possession.

18 Q. So did you ever have handcuffs at the house that you can
19 remember?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Then at paragraph 70 it quotes there from 'John-Paul's'
22 statement where it says that were you used to dealing
23 with prisoners and you brought that home with you. Do
24 you think that's right?

25 A. No.

1 Q. He says that he was a difficult child and he must have
2 annoyed you to a stage where you hit him. So would you
3 describe 'John-Paul' as a difficult child?

4 A. He was cantankerous.

5 Q. And did you get annoyed with him?

6 A. I would get upset with him sometimes if he was really
7 being anti-social, if you understand what I mean.

8 Q. What do you mean by him being anti-social?

9 A. He always used to say he didn't want to be there and
10 I said, "I've told your social worker that you don't
11 want to be here but your social worker thinks that this
12 is the place for you to be, so until such times as the
13 social worker moves you, I'm afraid this is where you're
14 going to stay".

15 Q. When you say that sometimes he could be cantankerous and
16 you might get annoyed with him, how would you get
17 annoyed? What sort of things would you do?

18 A. I'd say, "We're trying to help you, not trying to make
19 your life uncomfortable, we're trying to help you."

20 Q. He says here:

21 "I was angry and confused that I had been separated
22 from my family and was a bit of a rebel."

23 But he says that his view is that you should never
24 have been a foster carer.

25 A. That's his opinion.

1 Q. And he talks about being with you a disappointing start
2 to his journey in foster care and he says it had a big
3 impact on him. Do you have any comment in relation to
4 that?

5 A. No. We were only -- all we ever done when we fostered
6 was try and help the child go back to normality or
7 something as good as we could give them.

8 Q. Okay.

9 At paragraph 71 you say again there that you never
10 raised a hand to him and you say there another thing
11 that you would add is that 'John-Paul' said in his
12 statement that you referred to prisoners as scumbags.
13 Is that a term you would have used?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea why 'John-Paul' would say
16 these things about you and would have gone to the police
17 and made a complaint?

18 A. I haven't got a clue why this has been said or the
19 allegation was made. I haven't got a clue.

20 Q. Okay.

21 At paragraph 74 on page 16 you say there that you
22 think that records must be kept and you've mentioned
23 about records for transition of the child from one
24 placement to another and you say:

25 "Records must be kept including details of any

1 awkward conversations with the children or details of
2 any incidents that occurred."

3 Can you tell us your thoughts about that?

4 A. Well, as I've said before, it would be handy to have had
5 records so that you understood what the child was coming
6 from or what their quirks were, but as far as, as it
7 says, awkward conversations, any first conversation you
8 have with the children was awkward because nine times
9 out of ten, as I've said, they didn't really want to be
10 there and you had to convince them that this was the
11 place where -- would help them.

12 Q. Okay. And you think it would have been helpful to have
13 noted that conversation I think is what you're saying
14 here.

15 A. Yeah, if the child had been hard to deal with when they
16 first came -- I mean, some of the children when they
17 came, they were absolutely wonderful when they came in
18 the door. They were all smiles and as happy as a child
19 should be, but some of them were really really upset,
20 which is -- it's understandable a child's going to be
21 upset.

22 Q. Okay. Now, can I ask you, please, to look at some
23 records. They'll come up on the screen in front of you.
24 It's NLC-000000203 and if we can start, please, at
25 page 5.

1 These are from 'John-Paul's' social work records.
2 So the date of this is █████ 1983, so I think this is
3 after his placement with you had come to an end and it
4 says here that:

5 "'John-Paul' was placed separate from the other
6 children [I think that means his siblings] in a specific
7 foster home which would encourage structure and
8 discipline."

9 And it's referring here to your foster home. So can
10 you remember the social workers speaking to you about
11 encouraging structure and discipline with 'John-Paul'?

12 A. Not so much the discipline, but the -- we understood
13 that he was awkward and that it would take a bit of time
14 to bring him down to a level where he was willing to
15 listen and help himself and be helped rather than "I'll
16 do what I want when I want to who I want".

17 Q. And how did you go about achieving that goal?

18 A. Well, he was actually very interested in helping us with
19 the stock cars, he liked the stock car racing, he
20 thought it was absolutely wonderful, so that was a great
21 leveller with all the children that we ever looked
22 after.

23 Q. Okay. It goes on in the next sentence to say "he
24 resented being placed in care".

25 And is that correct?

1 A. Oh, he definitely didn't want to be in care.

2 Q. And it then says:

3 "He resented being placed in care and isolated from

4 his friends and resisted attempts to restrict his

5 behaviour and upgrade his standards."

6 Is that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It then says:

9 "He tried hard to respond to the wishes of the

10 social worker but refused to trust or communicate with

11 the foster parents."

12 Is that your recollection?

13 A. Oh, he definitely -- he definitely didn't want to be

14 with us and we -- we were the enemy as far as he was

15 concerned.

16 Q. Okay. It then says:

17 "He used school to vent his frustrations and was

18 often in trouble with teachers (bullying, stealing)."

19 Can you remember him being in trouble at school?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And how did you react to that?

22 A. We told him that if he kept on like that, he would

23 eventually end up in an awful lot of trouble. He just

24 couldn't continue being a bully.

25 Q. Then it says:

1 "He absconded twice and thwarted planned transfer of
2 placements by absconding from school in early June."

3 And then I think there's reference that goes on to
4 speaking about his maybe going to live with his brother.

5 But if we can go back a bit now, please, to page 1,
6 this is a minute of a fostering panel on 7 March 1983 in
7 Motherwell, and you and your wife were present at this
8 meeting. And again just for your information, he was
9 placed with you on [REDACTED], so it's [REDACTED] after he
10 was placed with you.

11 If we scroll down, please, to the bottom where it
12 says:

13 "Areas of concern as indicated in residential review
14 form."

15 At the bottom of the page.

16 A. Mm-hmm. I can just see it.

17 Q. So maybe if we scroll down a little bit further please,
18 yes, that's fine, thank you. And then it says there
19 that you and your wife:

20 " ... have been experiencing problems with
21 'John-Paul'. Last Saturday he ran away. [You and your
22 wife] alerted the police and he was found later after
23 about four hours. A woman saw him crying and took him
24 into her house and called the police. When questioned
25 about the incident, 'John-Paul' said he was going for

1 a walk but later confessed to the social worker
2 (Jack Young) that he was trying to get back to Airdrie."

3 And I think that's the incident that you mentioned
4 in your evidence that you remember?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. That he was trying to get back to Airdrie maybe
7 where his family lived?

8 A. Some sort of relatives.

9 Q. Okay. And then it says:

10 "Since Monday, [REDACTED] 1938 when this was all
11 discussed, 'John-Paul' has been [at the top of the next
12 page] behaving better, for example he tidied up his room
13 and made his bed. [You and your wife] gave him money
14 which he thanked them for and cuddled [your wife]. This
15 is something that must have taken a great deal of effort
16 for 'John-Paul' to do. John-Paul told the social worker
17 that he is always hungry at [your house]. [Your wife]
18 thinks this is probably because he was always used to
19 stuffing himself with sweets, crisps and ginger at his
20 own home and was probably bagged up by eating this kind
21 of thing."

22 Do you remember that being an issue when 'John-Paul'
23 came to live with you?

24 A. Yeah, my wife did actually speak to the doctor about it,
25 about -- there seemed to be a smell emanating from his

1 skin and [REDACTED] wondered why and the doctor said it
2 was -- like having strong curries, et cetera, et cetera,
3 or garlic, that eventually it would work itself out with
4 proper -- proper food, it eventually would come through
5 his system.

6 Q. And then it talks about you and your wife getting him
7 a watch for his birthday?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Which he thought he had to leave behind when he left.

10 A. Yeah, that was a present, so ...

11 Q. Okay. Then if we go on to the next page, please, page 3
12 and the first section there, so "[REDACTED]", I think this is
13 still in [REDACTED]. It's a home visit to you and
14 it says:

15 "It is becoming clear that you and your wife see
16 'John-Paul's' placement as a task to be completed."

17 Was that your view?

18 A. No. No.

19 Q. It says:

20 "They do not particularly like him and are finding
21 the placement hard work."

22 A. Well, the placement was hard work. I wouldn't say we
23 didn't like him. That was -- that's not a fair
24 statement at all.

25 Q. Okay. Then there's reference to the children seeing

1 their mother and then at the 23rd it says:

2 "Home visit to [you and your wife]. 'John-Paul'
3 doesn't like [you and your wife], he does not trust them
4 and they don't trust him. They have some justification
5 because he refuses to accept responsibility for any
6 misbehaviour. Basically 'John-Paul' is unable to
7 comprehend the foster parents' demand for limitations on
8 his behaviour and is trying to resist or survive being
9 forced to accept boundaries and responsibilities."

10 Do you think that's accurate?

11 A. It's very accurate. I wouldn't say we didn't trust him,
12 but we had to be careful what we allowed him to do
13 because if he was bullying other children, because of
14 where we lived there was a lot of other children there
15 as well, so we had to keep an eye on what he was doing.

16 Q. And then if we go down to [REDACTED]:

17 "Headmaster at the primary school phoned to say that
18 'John-Paul' was involved in a serious fight with a less
19 adequate boy and that there were rumours of him bullying
20 younger kids for money and sweets. I phoned ..."

21 The social worker says he phoned your house and it
22 describes you and your wife as being really uptight:

23 " ... taking the matter personally as a slight on
24 their good name."

25 Is that how you felt about the way he was behaving

1 at school?

2 A. No, I wouldn't say it was a slight on our good name. We
3 were upset that he was beginning to behave in our house
4 but still misbehaving when he was away from the house.

5 Q. Okay. Then it says:

6 "Problem is that you use withdrawal of spending
7 money as a punishment ..."

8 Was that a punishment that you can remember using?

9 A. Well, maybe [REDACTED] had told him he wasn't going to get
10 any pocket money or wasn't going to get any money for
11 sweets when the van came that night. As I say, a lot of
12 times I wouldn't have been there so I can't make
13 a comment on that.

14 Q. Then it says that 'John-Paul' seems to always be in
15 trouble. It then says, and this is the social worker's
16 comment:

17 "They also unconsciously withhold their emotional
18 support and comfort which leaves 'John-Paul' feeling
19 isolated. He cannot relate in the home setting so acts
20 up at school."

21 Do you have any comment on that?

22 A. Well, as I say, he didn't -- he didn't want to get close
23 to either of us as a family unit. He understood why we
24 were -- you know, that he was there and it was our house
25 and we had rules and people, you know, had to abide by

1 a certain standard of living, but as far as anything
2 else is concerned, he just did not want to be away from
3 where he wanted to be and he found it hard to accept.

4 Q. Okay. And then the next section is April 1983 and at
5 the 21st it says that a Cath Vass visited you. It says:

6 "We are trying to extend time between visits to
7 allow 'John-Paul' to respond naturally to [you and your
8 wife] and also to allow [you and your wife] to exert
9 their own influence and authority on the boy."

10 So it looks as though the social workers had taken
11 a view that they were going to not visit as frequently.

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. And then --

14 A. No, that was never explained to us.

15 Q. Okay. And then May 1983, the 2nd, this is an office
16 discussion between the social workers and the writer
17 says:

18 "I expressed my concern about 'John-Paul's'
19 placement. [You and your wife] have worked hard trying
20 to help 'John-Paul' adjust to living within acceptable
21 family boundaries and to some extent have succeeded in
22 making him aware of the need for rules and the need to
23 share. Unfortunately they now seem unable to back off
24 and help him overcome his emotional instability and
25 feelings of isolation."

1 Do you know what the social worker is talking about
2 there?

3 A. Well, I can see what they're getting at there, but
4 I don't see us unable to back off and help him overcome
5 his instability. All we ever tried to do was help him
6 integrate into our family that he could be happier.

7 Q. Yes, so I think we can see there a date, the 11th, so
8 it's in the bottom half of the page:

9 "Home visit to [you and your wife]. I had a long
10 talk and a long walk with 'John-Paul'. He seems to
11 understand the need to be in care but does not like [you
12 and your wife] and wants to be with his brother."

13 Is that --

14 A. That's virtually hitting the nail on the head, yeah.

15 Q. And then there's -- on the 17th it refers to there being
16 an emergency home visit because he had absconded and
17 then it says that you and your wife were at the end of
18 your tether.

19 "I explained to 'John-Paul' that I was searching for
20 suitable foster parents for him but that he had to show
21 some signs of effort with [you and your wife]."

22 And then there's reference to an issue with school.

23 If we can go over the page, please, on 24 May:

24 "Home visit. Took 'John-Paul' to see his brother.
25 This gave him a boost. [You and your wife] felt that he

1 should have been punished."

2 I don't know what that's referring to.

3 A. (Witness shakes head). No. Maybe I would have said
4 that because he's playing up, he's being given
5 everything he wants so by playing up he's getting what
6 he wants so maybe he should be deprived of -- statements
7 we used to say, "You're not getting pocket money" or
8 whatever, so if you've been told because of your
9 behaviour you're not going to go and see your brother or
10 you'll have to wait another week or whatever, I might
11 have said something like that, but to be quite honest,
12 that surprised me, saying that.

13 Q. Okay. And then at [REDACTED] 1983 on the [REDACTED] there's an entry
14 there and it says:

15 "'John-Paul' absconded from school because he was
16 accused of fighting. Home visit to [you and your wife].
17 Mutual agreement that he moves on."

18 And then there's reference to him moving and it
19 says:

20 "Took him to [your home] to collect clothes. He
21 made [you and your wife] feel guilty by thanking them
22 and giving them a big hug."

23 Can you remember him leaving?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Do you remember him leaving and what happened when he

1 left?

2 A. I can remember him being -- actually being upset. Well,
3 in my view him being upset.

4 Q. And then there's reference to the [REDACTED] and then it says:
5 "Phoned ..."

6 An Ann Loyghrin who is described as a social worker
7 for you and your wife?

8 A. I don't remember that name.

9 Q. " ... who has concerns about their suitability as foster
10 parents. I told her I was making no complaints but that
11 they had carried out good work in disciplining
12 'John-Paul', finding difficulty only in readjusting to
13 cope with his emotional state."

14 So that seems to have been the discussion between
15 the social workers after 'John-Paul' had left your care.

16 A. I'm quite surprised when it says she has concerns about
17 their suitability as foster parents. We never ever had
18 anyone question or queried our suitability as foster
19 parents.

20 Q. Okay.

21 MS INNES: Okay. That's all I want to refer to in the
22 records and I have no more questions for you, 'Bob', and
23 there are no applications, my Lady.

24 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
25 questions of 'Bob'?

1 'Derek'.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS RATTRAY: 'Derek's' statement is at WIT-1-000000018.

4 'Derek' was in the care of Strathclyde Regional Council.
5 He was in three foster placements, the first with Mr and
6 Mrs ██████ in Stevenston, Ayrshire from ██████ 1981
7 until ██████ 1982, the second with short-term
8 foster carers, Mr and Mrs ██████ in ██████ from
9 ██████ 1982 to ██████ 1983, and the third
10 placement, which is the focus of his evidence, was with
11 William Quigg (WQ) and FHE ██████ in Clydebank and then in
12 Glasgow, from ██████ 1983 to ██████ 1988, when
13 'Derek' moved out of the placement but then returned on
14 ██████ 1988 until the placement was terminated on his
15 18th birthday later that year.

16 The successor authority is Glasgow City Council.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Derek' (read)

19 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Derek'. I was born in 1970. My
20 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

21 Most of my knowledge about my life before going into
22 care is from my records, which Birthlink provided for
23 me. I was born in Renfrew. There were five kids, I was
24 the youngest. My brother was a year older than me, my
25 sister was two or three years older than me, my other

1 sister was three or four years older than me and my
2 other brother is the eldest. He may be eight or ten
3 years older than me.

4 I believe there was uncertainty about my father and
5 whether he was my father. My mother and father had
6 a strange relationship. He would work for four weeks in
7 Newcastle and then come up to Scotland for a couple of
8 weekends to be with our family. He had another family
9 in Newcastle. There's another six children down there.

10 From the reports, five of us children were living
11 with my mother. She was obviously in financial
12 difficulties. My mother found it difficult to cope.
13 Concerns were raised about her parenting skills. She
14 couldn't pay the rent and she was in debt. There were
15 threats of eviction. One day my mother went off for
16 a job interview on the Isle of Lismore and asked
17 a neighbour to watch us children. She didn't come back.

18 My father had disappeared. There is evidence that
19 my mother put adverts in the newspaper asking him to get
20 in touch and that she was in difficulties with the
21 children. There are also newspaper articles about my
22 mother going off and leaving the kids with a neighbour.
23 Social work asked my mother's mother and father if they
24 would take us on. My grandparents were retired by then
25 and taking five kids on would have been too much. The

1 five of us were put into care at Atholl House."

2 From paragraphs 6 to 19 'Derek' speaks of his
3 experiences in Atholl House in Glasgow, [Secondary Institutions - to
4 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
5
6 Secondary Institutions - to be publis

7 From paragraphs 20 to 58 he tells of being separated
8 from his siblings and sent to Barrholm Children's Home
9 in Largs [Secondary Institutions - to be published later
10 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
11

12 From paragraph 59, 'Derek' speaks of being returned
13 to his mother and her husband for a year between the
14 ages of six or seven, and where he was subjected to
15 abuse. He says it was horrendous. The abuse and
16 neglect was constant.

17 Then he recalls his mother dumping him at the door
18 of the social work department and saying that she didn't
19 want him back. 'Derek' was returned to Barrholm
20 Children's Home.

21 Moving now to paragraph 80 on page 17:

22 "The authorities were wanting to close children's
23 homes. Anyone who had been in a home for a long period
24 of time was moved out. I was 10 or 11 years old when
25 I was moved to the [redacted] family in Stevenson.

1 The ██████'s oldest daughter worked in the amusement
2 arcade in Largs. We struck up a friendship. For some
3 reason John Duffy placed me with her."

4 My Lady, earlier in his statement, 'Derek' says that
5 John Duffy was his social worker and he was nice but
6 ineffectual. John Duffy had never taken 'Derek's' view
7 which was that 'Derek' wanted to be adopted and not
8 fostered.

9 "I was 10 or 11 years old. In the house were the
10 oldest daughter, her sister, her brother and her mum and
11 dad. The children were all in their late teens. Mr and
12 Mrs ██████ were elderly. Mr ██████ was dying of lung
13 cancer.

14 Social work placed me very inappropriately. I was
15 very young. Mr and Mrs ██████ couldn't handle having
16 an 11-year-old. There was no help or assistance given
17 to Mr and Mrs ██████. It was very much that I was at the
18 ██████'s by their grace so I had better appreciate it.
19 You were not part of the family. You were made to feel
20 that. The school at Stevenston was nice. I enjoyed
21 being there.

22 One day the younger daughter and I were sitting in
23 the kitchen. I said to her, 'Shut up Mrs Sneazy'. The
24 next minute my bags were packed and John Duffy arrived.
25 I'd been there for about eight months.

1 I went to a home in Paisley near the Mills. Secondary Insti

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3
4
5 Now 'Derek' speaks about his second placement with
6 Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]:

7 "There was a woman, a man, their son and their
8 daughter. The woman and man were horrible, just nasty.
9 Their son was a year above or below me at school. Their
10 daughter was slightly older. The woman and man were
11 both alcoholics. I should never have been placed with
12 them. I ended up doing the housework and looking after
13 everybody.

14 The mother eventually took her two children and went
15 down south for three months. It's in my social work
16 records that social work accepted this was a holiday.
17 I was left to look after this grown man in his late 40s.
18 The man would have partners round and have sex. They
19 would drink. The family had a dog that pooped on a tiny
20 balcony they had.

21 There was no abuse but it was absolute neglect. The
22 man and woman had no interest in me as a child, they
23 were just getting in the cheque for fostering.
24 John Duffy visited me several times and said that this
25 was the best they had. Even when the woman left and

1 I said I was left looking after this man, John Duffy
2 said there was nowhere else for me to go.

3 I had just gone to high school. It was a long walk
4 to get there. The science teacher said to take a big
5 sniff from a bottle he had. It was ammonia, which burnt
6 the lining of my nose. My eyes and nose were streaming
7 for weeks.

8 Again out of the blue John Duffy came and said he
9 had a foster care placement with WQ-FHE .

10 I was 11 or 12 years old. Living in the house were
11 FHE , William Quigg and William Quigg's
12 adopted son. FHE was not his adopted
13 parent. William Quigg had adopted him and another
14 child, a boy. The adopted son was in his late teens.
15 He had left school. The other boy had left the house.

16 Both of WQ-FHE worked. FHE was the chief
17 accountant for an assurance company. William was in
18 charge of the Youth Training Scheme in Dumbarton.
19 Later, FHE was one of the managing directors.
20 William went from the Youth Training Scheme to the
21 Bearsden Courier and ended up being the editor. It was
22 a two or three man operation. He then worked in
23 a children's home. Before that, he had worked in
24 Quarriers and in a children's home in Jersey or
25 Guernsey. He finished up doing property development.

1 WQ-FHE had been engaged for 25 or 30 years and
2 had only married three weeks before I arrived. WQ-FHE
3 WQ-FHE told me that they married because the law had
4 been changed and a single male could no longer foster
5 children, it had to be a couple. William Quigg was
6 about 47 years old.

7 The house was a semi-detached house which had been
8 subdivided. WQ-FHE lived in the upper villa. You
9 went straight in the door and upstairs. On the ground
10 floor was the original sitting room, a small bedroom,
11 a rear sitting room with a dining area, a kitchen which
12 had stairs going out the back and a bathroom. The small
13 bedroom was the first bedroom I was in. Upstairs it had
14 an open landing and a bedroom behind.

15 I had been taken to WQ-FHE by John Duffy on
16 a couple of visits. The first visit was for the day.
17 I spent three or four hours with them while John Duffy
18 was still there. I had one weekend visit with them.
19 Within a matter of weeks, I moved in.

20 At the first visit, I thought I'd hit the jackpot.
21 WQ-FHE seemed fun and interesting. William Quigg
22 was a Scout Commissioner and FHE was involved in
23 the Scouts too. Comparative to my existence, they were
24 affluent. I thought it would be nice. I was getting my
25 own room and there was only one other guy in the house.

1 On the weekend of the overnight visit, WQ-FHE
2 had taken me out shopping and we had done some bits and
3 bobs. William was the main carer, FHE stood back.
4 After the overnight stay, I asked John Duffy if there
5 was any alternative. John Duffy said because of my age
6 no one else was going to take me so it was this or
7 nothing. I said could I not go back to Barrholm?
8 John Duffy said that Barrholm was closing, all the
9 children's homes were being closed down and this was my
10 only alternative.

11 There is also this wanting to have a family. I was
12 drawn to FHE, in seeking a mother. I could tell
13 very quickly, even in those first few visits, that she
14 didn't want that. It was very clear FHE was
15 fostering me because William wanted to. She seemed
16 subservient to William. He set the tone and direction
17 of everything. WQ-FHE was a mixed bag. If I'd
18 still been in Largs rather than at the , I'd
19 have insisted I stayed in Largs.

20 The second day I was there, FHE had gone off
21 to do shopping. The adopted son and I were in the
22 lounge with William on our own. William made
23 an improper suggestion. He was doing the usual,
24 tickling and playing with me on his knee. He started to
25 be inappropriate in terms of touching me in

1 inappropriate areas under my clothing. He asked his son
2 to come over and expose himself.

3 His son came over and exposed himself. William
4 asked me to touch his son's penis. I said no. William
5 brushed it off as a joke and being funny. William gave
6 me the heebie-jeebies. Even at that stage I knew there
7 was something not right. I didn't want to go there. If
8 there had been any alternatives, I would have taken
9 them.

10 I went to St Andrew's high school, which was around
11 the corner. FHE took a back seat from the word
12 go. William did all the day-to-day tasks. There was no
13 respite from William Quigg because he was the main
14 carer. The only respite I had from the abuse was going
15 to school. The school was tough. I was timid. I was
16 being abused at home and I was clever. Instead of going
17 home after school, I'd walk around the streets, anything
18 rather than go back home. I tried to avoid going to the
19 house but you can't avoid going home for your dinner or
20 going to sleep.

21 Christmas was usually Bill, [REDACTED], the son and
22 myself. I called them FHE and Bill.

23 What I'm about to tell you is a tiny bit of what
24 I can remember. The bit I can remember is a tiny bit of
25 what actually happened. The abuse wasn't a one-off. It

1 happened over six years. It wasn't like being in
2 a football club and when you were there someone abused
3 you but the rest of the time you were okay. This abuse
4 was all the time.

5 The abuse started almost immediately. The abuse was
6 daily. Bill would put me to bed at night. He would say
7 'we'll get you in the bath' and he'd wash me. There was
8 inappropriate touching. That is as much detail as
9 I wish to give about that. That soon escalated. When
10 Bill was drying me, he'd be touching my private parts,
11 front and back, trying to put his fingers inside me.

12 Bill would tuck me in bed at night. It started with
13 him touching me inappropriately. That is as much detail
14 as I wish to give about that. I would try and turn over
15 and move away. It was always part of some sort of game,
16 tickling and being silly. Even to this day it always
17 surprises me about FHE. For me as a parent, if
18 one parent was always putting the children to bed and
19 there was always a bit of a ruckus, I would start to ask
20 questions. I was always unsure why she never asked
21 questions. I believe now that this was because she knew
22 what was going on.

23 When Bill was putting me to bed, FHE would be
24 in the lounge or the kitchen. would never put
25 me to bed or say goodnight. I would go into wherever

1 she was and say goodnight. I became anxious about going
2 to bed and WQ-FHE then had a challenge about me
3 going to bed.

4 The first overt thing Bill did was one night when he
5 was putting me to bed. I don't know if [REDACTED] was
6 even in the house. Bill touched me inappropriately
7 while he masturbated himself. He completed the action.
8 He walked out of the room and said I'd better clean
9 myself up. I wondered if there was something I could do
10 to call him out, to catch him. That type of abuse
11 became a regular thing.

12 The abuse became more severe. The first Christmas
13 I spent at WQ-FHE Bill started not just touching but
14 trying to insert his fingers into my backside. That had
15 a physical effect, I have fissures. When I poo, it's
16 sore and unpleasant. I became constipated because I was
17 holding it in, not wanting to go to the toilet. Going
18 to the toilet reminded me of what was going on. I knew
19 there was an escalation in the abuse.

20 Quigg blackmailed me. He said I wouldn't get a BMX
21 bike unless I allowed him to do something else, the next
22 stage. That was to have anal sex, although I didn't
23 realise it at the time. The first Christmas, I never
24 got the BMX bike. It was held off until January. It
25 only arrived because FHE kept asking why I wasn't

1 getting the bike.

2 The other boy who I had thought had been adopted
3 came up on a visit. It was very clear he had been
4 sexually abused by Bill. He said to me, 'Has Quigg
5 fucked you yet?' I was astounded. I didn't really know
6 what that meant.

7 I had a couple of wee pals, two boys. I didn't
8 realise at the time but Bill was grooming me to bring
9 them to him. They stopped coming to the house. I could
10 never understand why. I asked them and one boy said
11 Bill was an old perve and had tried to fiddle with him.
12 The other boy never told me. I asked him years later
13 and he said Quigg had sexually assaulted him on a couple
14 of occasions.

15 I told Quigg about my brother. He asked if I wanted
16 him to visit and said maybe he could foster him as well.
17 My brother came on a visit. It was a one-off. Years
18 later I met him. The first question he asked was,
19 "Quigg was a paedo, wasn't he?" My brother said Quigg
20 tried it on with him and that was why he didn't stay.

21 One day very early on I thought there was nobody in
22 the house. I was looking for people and went from room
23 to room. I went upstairs. There was an open landing
24 area. I saw William Quigg on top of his adopted son.

25 The first time I brought up the abuse with FHE

1 FHE and John Duffy was very early on. It was Guy
2 Fawkes night and the neighbours had made a big bonfire.
3 I was very uncomfortable being at WQ-FHE and I had
4 seen the son being abused. FHE asked me how
5 things were going and did I like being there. I said to
6 her that I didn't like it and I wanted to go. I said
7 Bill was strange and I didn't want him to put me to bed.

8 As an adult, if one of my kids said that to me, I'd
9 immediately be suspicious, thinking what was going on.
10 However, ██████ went into a strange mode. She said
11 it was my only chance to be part of a family. FHE
12 made out it was me, I wasn't a perfect child. I was
13 confused. I asked ██████ to let John Duffy know.
14 FHE said she would phone John Duffy and tell him
15 to take me. The fear of losing a family and all the
16 rest of it kicked in and I said no, don't.

17 FHE must have phoned John Duffy because very
18 soon afterwards John Duffy came to WQ-FHE. He took
19 me out in his car. I told John Duffy I didn't like
20 Bill Quigg and I didn't want to be there. John Duffy
21 hammered home that the bottom line was: this is it,
22 you're 11 or 12 years old and nobody else is going to
23 take you. It was either WQ-FHE or back into a home.
24 I ended up staying with John Duffy in his family home
25 for a weekend after a few episodes like this.

1 John Duffy did ask why I didn't want to be at the
2 WQ-FHE . I was reasonably explicit, the more times
3 I met him. The weekend I went to stay in his house
4 I was very clear, as clear as a child could be. I told
5 John Duffy that Bill was being inappropriate with me,
6 that he was touching me and I didn't like it. I said
7 I didn't like Bill putting me to bed. Anybody with some
8 semblance of common sense would know what all that
9 meant. That weekend, John Duffy said to me that it was
10 the price you paid to have a family. He seeded this
11 doubt in my head, maybe this was the price you had to
12 pay for the other bits, knowing where you were going to
13 sleep and not having to fight for your socks.

14 For the first time, I felt absolutely destitute,
15 more so than I had with my birth mother. I thought:
16 this is it, this is what I need to put up with. There's
17 no way FHE could not know what Bill was
18 doing to the son and I.

19 At high school there was a priest who did pupil
20 guidance. I told him what Bill was doing to me. The
21 priest never sexually exploited or abused me but became
22 very inappropriate. He saw it as a green light.
23 I can't remember his name.

24 When I was about 13 years old, we moved to a small,
25 two-bedroomed house. Downstairs was the living room,

1 kitchen and bathroom. Upstairs were two bedrooms back
2 to back. We didn't stay there long.

3 I had a terrible time at school there. I was really
4 bullied and had the crap beaten out of me. I was
5 a wreck by then.

6 It was harder for Bill to abuse because we were all
7 in close proximity but he still did. Every time I got
8 changed he would be there. When I got changed into my
9 pyjamas at night he would be there. There was
10 inappropriate touching of me at the front and trying to
11 put his fingers in my backside. Bill would expose
12 himself and rub himself.

13 That was the first experience I had of Bill being
14 aggressive. I was crying, getting upset and making
15 a noise. Bill put his hand over my mouth. He told me
16 to shut the fuck up and pushed me against the bunk bed.
17 The back of the bed hit my head.

18 On at least two occasions the son walked in. He
19 just smirked, shut the door and walked back out. It
20 wasn't a smirk as in laughing or condoning it, it was
21 more an acknowledgement. He was probably thinking he
22 was glad it was me and not him.

23 I had a big fight with **WQ-FHE**. I can't remember
24 what it was about. I said to **FHE** I could get Bill
25 locked up for a long time. She knew exactly what I was

1 talking about. I don't know if Bill and FHE spoke
2 about it, but from then on I was marked as
3 a troublemaker.

4 We all moved to Glasgow. The street is a horseshoe
5 shape. There are five houses down each side of the
6 horseshoe. The house was Bill's family home. His
7 father had died and his mother still lived there.
8 FHE stayed initially but subsequently she moved to
9 her mother's house in the same street. Her mother still
10 lived there.

11 When you went into the house the lounge was on the
12 right, you went through the lounge to the kitchen and
13 through the kitchen to the scullery. There was
14 a downstairs bathroom. There was an extension for
15 Bill Quigg's mum which had an ensuite bedroom. Upstairs
16 was the front room, that was Bill and FHE.
17 There was another room which was divided. Bill built
18 a shelving unit that made one bedroom into two. One
19 side was the son's and the other was mine. There was
20 another bedroom for Bill and FHE.

21 I had to walk to school in Clydebank. It took me
22 an hour and a half every day. That never bothered me,
23 it was time away from Bill. It was so cold I'd have my
24 pyjamas on underneath my school uniform. There was
25 never any money for bus fare.

1 Later, the son found his birth mother so it was just
2 Bill, me and Bill's mother in the house. I stayed in
3 bed and didn't go to school for a while. I could see no
4 way out of it. Sometimes I could see that school and
5 education was the route. All my friends had stopped
6 coming up to the house. This was during the time of
7 AIDS and HIV and all that stuff. I carried the weight
8 of that, thinking 'Jesus, what if I got something like
9 that?' Bill played on that later.

10 Just after fourth year at school I had a part-time
11 job in Wimpy in Glasgow. Dressed up as Mr Wimpy
12 I walked up and down Sauchiehall Street. Even then,
13 kids beat the shit out of me. They toppled me over with
14 the big feet that were part of the costume. I couldn't
15 get up. That was the story of my life then. I started
16 to see some light, that the worst, getting chucked out
17 and being on the street, was better than what was going
18 on.

19 It was at the house in Glasgow that the real abuse
20 started. There was most space. It continued that Bill
21 would bath me, change me and organise bedtime. I was
22 getting older so it was more forced. Bill would come
23 into the bathroom when I was in the shower or into the
24 bedroom when I was getting changed.

25 I started to fight back. I reverted to putting

1 teddy bears in my bed and sleeping down the side of the
2 bed on the floor. Bill questioned that and I ended up
3 sleeping in the bed. Bill would come in when I had just
4 about gone to sleep. I'd feel his hand underneath the
5 bed clothes. He would start feeling my leg, then my
6 private areas, my backside and my back. Bill would be
7 masturbating.

8 On one of those occasions I was half fighting him
9 off and he grabbed me. Bill forced his penis into my
10 mouth. He forced the action of pulling my head
11 backwards and forwards and ejaculated into my mouth.
12 I got up and started shouting at him. He forced me
13 against the wall with his arm and put his arm against my
14 throat. He was shouting and he threatened me saying
15 he'd make me out to be a liar. The same thing happened
16 regularly. It was a common occurrence.

17 Another time Bill came into the bedroom and was
18 trying to put his fingers up my rear end and forcing me
19 to perform oral sex. I took a wee craft knife and
20 threatened him with it. It was laughable. He was
21 a huge man, well over six feet tall. There was no real
22 way of fighting him off.

23 On one occasion Bill forced me onto the bed and sat
24 on my face, front forward. He did the same action that
25 he'd done before, pulling my head backwards and

1 forwards. Bill's mother walked in and shouted, asking
2 what was going on. Bill didn't even lie or suggest any
3 plausible excuse. It was brushed off. He then left.
4 I was upset, in tears and physically hurt. I ran down
5 to the bathroom. Bill's mother was just standing in the
6 hall. I don't know if she was surprised but she knew
7 what was going on.

8 Sometimes the son was in the room, asleep, or
9 downstairs. He said in Bill Quigg's criminal trial that
10 by this time he was acquiescing to the abuse of him by
11 Bill because he'd been threatened that he'd be put back
12 in a care home.

13 Quigg tried to normalise all of the abuse. He tried
14 to create a wee harem for himself. Supposedly FHE [REDACTED]
15 and Bill's mother weren't getting on very well so
16 FHE [REDACTED] had moved across the road to her mother's.
17 Bill knew that was him in total charge. After a period
18 of time, his mother couldn't really get up the stairs.
19 She was down the stairs. She could physically get up
20 the stairs but she didn't.

21 After the episode where his mother had walked in on
22 Bill abusing me. She took an immense dislike to me.
23 She made me feel like Oliver in Oliver Twist. She made
24 me feel that I should count myself lucky that I was even
25 there in her house. There were family weddings and

1 celebrations I'd never be invited to, I was left at
2 home.

3 With FHE [REDACTED] gone, things escalated quickly.
4 I was 13 or 14 years old. Quigg started to use verbal
5 and physical threats, and violence as well. There were
6 many times he had me by the throat in the hall or
7 dragged me up the stairs by the back of the head. Bill
8 pushed me around and kicked me. I was a tiny, thin,
9 scrawny teenager. Bill came into my room and threw
10 things around.

11 John Duffy disappeared from the scene. From leaving
12 the first of WQ-FHE [REDACTED] homes in Clydebank to leaving
13 care, I had no social work visits at all. It is
14 documented in my social work records that social work
15 made appointments to come and see me but Quigg always
16 had a reason or an excuse why they couldn't see me.
17 Financially, emotionally and physically, I was
18 imprisoned. I had no way out. I couldn't see how
19 I could possibly leave. Social work weren't even a part
20 of it any longer.

21 The first time Quigg raped me, I was heavily
22 constipated. I told FHE [REDACTED] and she must have told
23 Bill. I went into the shower. Bill undid the lock from
24 the outside and came into the bathroom. He said he
25 heard I was constipated. I said no, it was fine. Quigg

1 said he had Fairy Liquid and I had to put it up my bum.

2 I said no, I didn't want to.

3 The shower was over the bath. Quigg grabbed me by
4 the back of the head. I was fighting, kicking and
5 shouting. He put me face down in the bath and pulled me
6 out. I cut all my arm on the glass shower screen.
7 Quigg got me down onto the carpet. The bit I always
8 remember is that my head was jammed in behind the back
9 of the toilet and the smell of the toilet, the toilet
10 fluid and the pee. Quigg put the Fairy Liquid up my
11 back passage and his fingers. Then he forced his penis
12 in. To begin with, I was shouting, telling him to get
13 off. Then I thought the best thing to do was to shut up
14 or I might not survive this. I was in fear of my life.

15 People always concentrate on the physical aspect of
16 rape. They think of the physical pain. The physical
17 pain was there. What was difficult for me after that
18 was being degraded, being forced into a position like
19 that and knowing that he was getting off on me being
20 helpless. Quigg wasn't getting off on the sexual act of
21 raping me, he was getting off on knowing that I was
22 utterly without any power to do anything about it.

23 Quigg then got up and left. I sat in the bathroom
24 for quite a while. Then I had a shower. When I left
25 the bathroom, Quigg's mother was standing there. The

1 door to her bedroom was right next to the bathroom door,
2 at the bottom of the stairs. She gave me a huge tirade,
3 calling me dirty, saying she heard what was going on and
4 it was me leading her son on. She was vile. Out of the
5 corner of my eye I could see Quigg standing down the
6 hall. Even that gave him some sort of gratification.

7 I pushed past Quigg's mother and ran up the stairs.
8 She was elderly and when I pushed past her, she ended up
9 with a black eye. I don't know if she fell over or
10 caught her face on the door. Whenever I said or did
11 anything after that, that's what they used. WQ-FHE
12 would say that they would tell the police I assaulted
13 Bill's mother. I was terrified by that.

14 It became a situation where I acquiesced to the
15 abuse. There was nothing I could do. It almost became
16 a regular event for the full time I was there. There
17 was no let up, there was no freedom.

18 There was an occasion when I was in the shower and
19 Quigg opened the door and came in. I told him to fuck
20 off. There was more and more verbal confrontation.
21 Quigg was getting more physical, holding me against the
22 wall and stuff. I fought him off. I had decided that
23 on that day I was going to fight him, whichever way it
24 came out. If I died, I died, but the abuse would stop.
25 I was naked in the shower fighting him.

1 Quigg dragged me out of the shower and we ended up
2 on the stairs. He had misjudged his footing. Then
3 I was upstairs, naked, kicking Quigg as he came up the
4 stairs. Eventually he got me by the throat, using his
5 arm against me, which he did a lot. Quigg said he was
6 going to kill me. I said to bring it on, I'd die but
7 he'd be in jail. That was the moment he realised the
8 power had shifted. I could see it. I was 16 years old.
9 For a bit, Quigg kept his distance. He would still be
10 inappropriate and would still try, but I could see there
11 was something different.

12 On several occasions I walked in on Bill performing
13 a sex act on his adopted son. You had to go through the
14 lounge to the kitchen. Sometimes I found Bill on the
15 son or Bill with his private areas forced against his
16 son's face. I asked the son why he didn't do something.
17 I said to him the next time we could cut his balls off.
18 I think he had become resigned to what was going on.

19 Sometimes the son and Bill knew I had seen them.
20 Sometimes they acknowledged that I was there. Bill
21 would tell me to get out or shout. Other times I backed
22 out of the room.

23 Quigg was also involved with other families. I'm
24 sure some of them have now come forward to report abuse.
25 He was involved with a young family in a high rise flat

1 near old Drumchapel. We would go to their flat. There
2 was a woman on her own with two sons. I had to wait in
3 the car and Quigg would go up there for two or three
4 hours. He helped another woman who was on her own with
5 a young son.

6 I went back and forward to FHE ██████'s, still
7 seeking this motherly relationship. When I was around
8 13 or 14 years old, on a visit to FHE ██████, FHE ██████'s
9 mother asked me if Quigg had ever messed around with me.
10 I told her that Bill was sexually abusing me. I had
11 said that loud enough, with the intent that ██████
12 would hear. I could see that FHE ██████ had heard the
13 conversation, she was looking uncomfortable. The
14 conversation took place in the kitchen with the lounge
15 door open. FHE ██████'s mother said I'd better not say
16 anything because it would get FHE ██████ into trouble and
17 I didn't want that.

18 On one occasion I went with FHE ██████ to visit her
19 sister who lived in Cumbernauld. We were coming back in
20 the car. FHE ██████ wet herself. She had enuresis after
21 a hysterectomy. I don't want to use the word but
22 ██████ almost resented and had a hatred for the son
23 and I. We got into a discussion. FHE ██████ was jealous
24 that her husband was more into us than her. I couldn't
25 understand why she was jealous of what I was going

1 through.

2 When we parked, I asked if she realised what was
3 actually going on. I said Quigg was abusing the son and
4 I. I said he could be locked away for life and she had
5 done nothing about it. FHE [REDACTED] slapped me right
6 across the face. She told me not to say anything like
7 that ever again. If I did, they would say I assaulted
8 Bill's mother. I said I was going to phone social work.
9 The next day they put a lock on the phone. I'm crazy
10 with myself that I never followed it up. I wouldn't
11 have known who to phone.

12 I told a neighbour about the abuse. In the 1980s
13 there was a criminal investigation and the police came
14 to talk to me in England, where I had moved to.
15 Somebody must have told the police. I've never had it
16 confirmed but during the criminal trial of Bill Quigg,
17 at which I gave evidence, the Advocate Depute said it
18 was a neighbour. It must have been the neighbour I had
19 told.

20 Some time in 1986 there was a big fight. Quigg, his
21 mother, his big sister and I were there. Quigg had told
22 his sister that I had hit his mother during an argument
23 when his mother's eye was accidentally bruised on the
24 occasion that he had raped me. I told Quigg's sister
25 that he had raped me. Quigg's sister lived in

1 Johnstone. She was a foster parent. I said Quigg was
2 a paedophile in front of his mother and sister.

3 Bill's sister said Bill had told them about it. He
4 had said it only happened twice and it was consensual,
5 I had led him on. I argued back. I asked her if she
6 was stupid. I said I was only 15 years old and he was
7 a 50-year-old man. I thought the adults around me were
8 crazy. Quigg used his mother having a black eye as
9 a threat. I just said, "And?" During the fight Quigg
10 said I'd better get myself checked for HIV and AIDS as
11 I was probably going to have it. In those days you had
12 to wait a month for the result. I was shitting myself.
13 I thought that was an evil thing to do.

14 After the fight was the first time I saw a social
15 worker from the time I was living at the first of the
16 WQ-FHE homes in Clydebank. The social worker came out
17 to the house. He was from Old Drumchapel. I can't
18 remember his name. Quigg and his mother tried to say it
19 was me, that I was unmanageable. I was very clear why
20 I was leaving. I told the social worker absolutely
21 everything about the abuse over two or three occasions.
22 The first occasion was in WQ-FHE house. Quigg had
23 told me I should get tested for HIV and AIDS.

24 The social worker from Old Drumchapel who I had told
25 about the abuse said they didn't have anywhere that

1 I could go to. I had to go to Stopover in Glasgow.
2 That was a homeless unit in Govan. He arranged for me
3 to go to Stopover.

4 It was 1987. I was 16 years old. I was in
5 a homeless unit with druggies and alcoholics around me.
6 The other residents were older than me, teenagers to
7 people in their early 20s. I went from Stopover in the
8 centre of Glasgow to Clydebank to do fifth and sixth
9 year of school. I got my O-levels and my highers.
10 I did reasonably well. I knew the one thing Quigg
11 couldn't take from me was school, the foundation to do
12 something, to move forward. I was bright.

13 There was no help from social work or from WQ-FHE
14 WQ-FHE. I had no contact with my family. I was lost.
15 I was still trying to get any kind of engagement from
16 FHE that would be a form of love or support.
17 I was still chasing that mother relationship. ██████████
18 said Bill wanted to see me. I said no. This went on.
19 FHE said Bill wanted to settle things with me.
20 I thought he wanted to apologise or bribe me. I thought
21 if I got away with a couple of hundred quid, fuck it,
22 I'm walking out the door with something. I was naive.

23 I met Quigg at the back of what had been Goldberg's
24 shop in Argyll Street. It had all been knocked down.
25 Quigg parked his Ford Granada on the waste ground. He

1 had no remorse. He was savage. Quigg had me against
2 the window, shouting and bawling at me, saying I was
3 dirty and if I told anybody I'd be made out to be
4 a liar. Quigg said his sister agreed I'd led him on.

5 That was the last time Quigg sexually assaulted me.
6 When we were fighting in the car, Quigg got me into
7 a position where he made me perform a sex act on him.
8 That is all I want to say about that. At that point
9 I knew, no matter how many times I went back to that
10 situation, what I was hoping for, family and apology,
11 was never going to happen."

12 And now to paragraph 164:

13 "I met the same male social worker who had come to
14 Quigg's house in a café in Glassford Street, Glasgow.
15 I told him everything about the abuse. I was very
16 angry. I wanted to sue the council. The social work
17 were bastards. The social worker said I couldn't sue,
18 nobody would believe me and I had no evidence. They
19 knew about time limits for civil actions. Imagine, you
20 are thrown out of care, you are on the streets trying to
21 survive what's happened to you and you are expected to
22 raise an action within three years. You wouldn't even
23 know what that meant at that stage. I wouldn't have
24 known who to raise an action against. The social worker
25 said the best they could do was give me a moving-on

1 bursary. It was £300 or £400. To a 16-year-old who is
2 on the street, you think okay. You almost saw it as
3 a settlement.

4 Social work's response was not appropriate. They
5 were told about the abuse. They had a corporate
6 responsibility to action that and to reflect on their
7 practice that had failed. They would have realised
8 their mistakes, the fact that they hadn't seen me for
9 four or five years when they were made aware of what was
10 happening. They didn't do anything about it.

11 I met up with FHE [REDACTED] whilst I was at the
12 Stopover hostel. [REDACTED] asked me if Bill had ever
13 touched me. I broke down and told her everything from
14 start to finish. [REDACTED] astounded me. She looked me
15 straight in the eye and said if I ever opened my mouth,
16 they would crush me.

17 I was 16 years old. I had £36 and no options.
18 I went to Buchanan Street bus station. I asked where
19 I could go for £36 that wasn't London. The guy said
20 that there was a bus going to the Midlands. I imagined
21 a little village with a Pickett fence.

22 When I was down south, FHE [REDACTED] got back in touch
23 with me. I didn't know what the motive was.

24 FHE [REDACTED]'s niece said FHE [REDACTED] wanted to talk to me
25 about what went on, she still couldn't grasp what

1 happened. I had gone to Scotland to see my real
2 grandmother. We met in Glasgow. ██████ asked me all
3 the same questions. I wasn't telling her anything she
4 didn't already know.

5 ██████ FHE drove me back to my grandmother's house.
6 She said to me, 'You do know nobody will ever believe
7 you, it's your word against ours'. ██████ FHE said I'd
8 better not tell anybody. She and Bill were in the
9 process of adopting two boys. They'd moved to
10 Weymss Bay. I thought okay, there you go again.

11 When I was 17 or 18 years old, after I'd moved to
12 England, ██████ FHE got back in touch with me. Her niece
13 had come down south to start work and was a bit lost.
14 My friend and I took the niece under our wing. One of
15 the first questions she asked me was if Bill Quigg was
16 abusing me. I said he had. She said it was openly
17 discussed in the family that Quigg was abusing us, they
18 all knew about the son and I were being abused. None of
19 them did anything about it.

20 I asked why ██████ FHE hadn't done anything about the
21 abuse. The niece tried to argue ██████ FHE didn't have
22 the self-worth or confidence to do anything. You can't
23 be the director of a multinational organisation and have
24 no self-confidence.

25 Around that time, I went for a job interview in

1 Aberdeen where FHE [REDACTED]'s brother lived with his
2 wife. He was the only sensible one out of all of them.
3 I went to stay with them and the first question they
4 asked me was whether Bill Quigg had abused me. I always
5 thought it was the neighbour I had told or the brother's
6 wife who grassed Quigg up.

7 Years later, when I was about 30 years old, I got to
8 know the son of the people who lived in the
9 horseshoe-shaped street in Glasgow. He asked me if
10 Quigg was a paedophile and had he abused me. I said he
11 had. He said everybody knew."

12 From paragraphs 174 to 176, 'Derek' speaks of his
13 life after care. He adopted two children, not because
14 he wanted to be a dad but because he could give them
15 a better life than they would have had in care.

16 Moving now to paragraph 177 on page 37, where
17 'Derek' speaks about impact:

18 "Going through this whole narrative about abuse,
19 what has really struck me about my own experience is
20 that when I spoke to the Confidential Forum and the
21 police everybody concentrates on the physical and sexual
22 abuse that happened, particularly William Quigg. The
23 abuse is also neglect and a lack of consideration of
24 children's needs. It's only recently, when you start to
25 look back, you think what we thought was normal was

1 child abuse. We thought it was daily life, being
2 whacked with slippers, slippers flying up and hitting
3 you on the head, being hit with the belt and being
4 roughly treated. We all got the belt at school so you
5 thought if you got the belt at school and hit at home
6 with a slipper, that's the way adults do it.

7 According to my social work records, throughout my
8 time in care I was never a management problem. I was
9 a little mouse as a kid, very quiet, did what I was
10 asked and went to school. I was a pleasant, pleasing
11 child. I remember moving with my things in plastic bags
12 as a child. When I moved house, there is not one
13 plastic bag to be seen. I buy lots of containers and
14 everything gets put away."

15 And now to paragraph 180 on page 38 and the last
16 sentence of that paragraph:

17 "During the night I wake up with chest pain, the
18 shakes and dreams about Quigg and the abuse."

19 And now to paragraph 184:

20 "Looking back at my time at WQ-FHE, I often
21 thought about suicide. There were no positives there in
22 any shape or form. What you need and want as a child in
23 terms of support, love and compassion, I got from
24 neither of them. Some people might argue FHE
25 didn't have self-esteem or Bill was controlling but not

1 that I could see. Bill wasn't abusive towards
2 FHE . There was no reason FHE didn't have
3 the wherewithal to do something about it.

4 I visited ██████████ for respite but was treated as
5 the instigator of Bill's behaviour. I was seen as the
6 one responsible. That was very disappointing. That has
7 been very hard for me to accept throughout my life.

8 FHE chose not to do anything about the abuse.
9 I sought a mother-son relationship with her but that was
10 not forthcoming. I am standoffish with women. I hold
11 them at arm's length and see them as untrustworthy.

12 The effect of the abuse on my life has been huge.
13 It pervades every aspect of my life. William Quigg
14 inserting his fingers into my backside had a physical
15 effect. I have fissures. There is damage down there
16 which makes it uncomfortable. When I poo, it's sore and
17 unpleasant. The whole thing of going to the loo is very
18 unpleasant for me. I get constipated because I don't
19 like going to the loo. I can go for a shower and all of
20 a sudden start thinking about those years.

21 I feel that if the abuse hadn't happened, my
22 operating level would be eight or nine out of ten.
23 I operate at five or a six. For most people, their
24 operating level is a five or a six. It's only recently
25 I've realised I need to operate at a lower level,

1 quieter, slower, with less challenges and short-term
2 goals. I've never reached my potential. When I was in
3 Stopover I was destitute. I thought how do you get out
4 of this? It's only now I've started to put myself
5 first.

6 When I left for England I reflected on what had
7 happened. I knew that none of what happened was my
8 responsibility, I've always known that. I thought about
9 every instance of abuse and neglect. I wrapped it up,
10 put it in a box, wrapped it in a bow and threw it off
11 the bus. We'd probably call it cognitive behavioural
12 therapy now. It was a way for me to say they robbed
13 your childhood, your innocence, your adolescence, the
14 joy of your life. You can either deal with the
15 consequences of that for the rest of your life, which
16 you do anyway, and let it instruct and direct your life,
17 or you can say it's not mine, I'm not going to own it.
18 That's what I did. It's not mine and I don't own it.

19 I'm very sad for the loss of my innocence and
20 childhood, for the loss of my teenage years and young
21 adulthood. I will always grieve for that, no matter how
22 wonderful life becomes.

23 The abuse has had a massive effect on work. I was
24 a senior manager earning £60,000 a year.

25 I travelled to India and Australia. I could never

1 sustain a job. After a time, it would become
2 overwhelming because I can go for a shower and the abuse
3 is there. I can go to bed feeling quite nice and then
4 have a whole night of terror. I'll never the long
5 career I hoped for.

6 There's been a huge impact on my relationships.
7 I don't know if I'm gay or straight. If I'm gay, is
8 that because of the abuse? I feel lost regarding sex
9 and intimacy. It brings me out in a cold sweat. My
10 initial reaction is to pull away. I'm not comfortable
11 with gay sexual acts, being with a man and being classed
12 as gay. I don't know how to learn to enjoy
13 relationships. Sexual exploration that people do when
14 they are teenagers has always felt dirty. It's
15 something I don't want to do. I feel it's something
16 I have to do for my partner. I'm not keen to do it.

17 Certain touches and approaches can change my
18 reaction immediately. My initial reaction is to defend
19 and attack. I don't like my partners or my children
20 touching me around the neck, even when the children were
21 toddlers. I have found it difficult to navigate the
22 physicality within the relationships with my children.
23 I often found their need to be on top of me, clinging to
24 me uncomfortable and threatening. Now they are young
25 adults I feel myself withdraw from physical contact with

1 them. This has had a detrimental effect on them and our
2 closeness.

3 In relationships I've put up with things I shouldn't
4 have put up with. I don't know when to say enough is
5 enough. I don't know when it's okay to be angry and to
6 show anger. I'm not sure when it's okay to say fuck
7 off. I would like some lessons in that. In every
8 instance I back off, except when it's litigious. I'm
9 a great letter writer.

10 I often experience a state of awareness where I'm
11 vigilant to what's going on as if I'm getting ready for
12 an emergency. When I take a shower I have a dark
13 feeling, an unpleasantness. It's linked to the way the
14 water hits my body. It triggers memories of sexual
15 abuse I experienced whilst showering.

16 I don't know if I'm a people person who pulls away
17 from society or an introvert who feels forced into
18 society. I would never drive on the motorway, I avoid
19 the volume of people. I have sought comfort in
20 inappropriate ways by overspending and irrational
21 spending. I have run up debts seeking to create the
22 feeling of stability and niceness.

23 I carry anger with me but I've never caused society
24 one day's grievance. I've been respectful and
25 courteous. I've never been arrested, I've never taken

1 drugs, I've never overdone alcohol. There is no
2 recognition for that. Nobody has ever said well done.

3 When we adopted the children and the social workers
4 had completed looking at my background, the social
5 worker said the most offensive thing to me. She said
6 they were amazed by me and my resilience. The social
7 worker said I was doing so well. She was judging me by
8 the big house, the big car and the big job. The social
9 worker didn't judge me by how happy I was. The social
10 worker said she didn't know how I got to where I was
11 because she usually found people like me in the gutter.
12 I said to her that said more about her expectations of
13 survivors of child abuse than it did about the actual
14 survivors.

15 I am emotionally fatigued by the processes of
16 reporting my abuse. I've had to push for the police
17 reinvestigation. That has taken a massive amount of
18 energy. At some point you have to drop it. You are in
19 victim mode for a certain amount of time, you do a lot
20 of work and become a survivor. We shouldn't spend our
21 lives being survivors. We should get beyond that, we
22 should just become 'Derek'.

23 I have been diagnosed with complex post-traumatic
24 stress disorder. The best way to describe it is
25 a computer has hardware and software. I've done

1 cognitive behavioural therapy, neurolinguistic
2 programming and all these other things. That is
3 software. If you have a fault in the software, you can
4 take it off, put new software on and fix the fault. If
5 you have a fault on the hardware, no matter what
6 software you put on, the computer will never work
7 correctly.

8 Cognitive behavioural therapy doesn't work. It's
9 trying to change software. I am always consciously
10 having to make my machine work. It takes energy and
11 emotional cognisance to do that. I just want to be
12 'Derek' without having to think about all of that. If
13 I want to challenge if I'm gay because of the abuse or
14 because I would have been gay and be happy with what
15 I find out, I need something more in depth. I've found
16 counselling wishy-washy. I need someone who can
17 challenge me and make me really think about it.

18 I'm getting help from Future Pathways. The idea is
19 right but they don't have the resources. They've paid
20 for a holiday for us and put me in touch with The
21 Anchor, who gave the first diagnosis of complex
22 post-traumatic stress disorder. The Anchor passed me
23 over to my general practitioner, who handed it to local
24 services. I was told I'd have a wait of three to five
25 years for counselling. I'm paying privately for

1 one-to-one support.

2 The first police investigation came about because
3 the neighbour I told about the abuse had reported Quigg
4 to the police because WQ-FHE were going to adopt
5 again. Out of the blue, in 1989, ██████████'s niece got
6 a call from the police to say they wanted to interview
7 me with social work about Bill Quigg. I met them at the
8 Royal George Hotel in Langham Square, London. The head
9 of social work from Port Glasgow came. She was a woman
10 in her late 50s with auburn hair. There were two police
11 officers. They took a statement from me. The social
12 worker's comment was that you'd never guess because
13 Bill's such a nice man. That was it.

14 Nothing came of the police investigation. I found
15 out later that the kids who were living with Bill were
16 removed. I wonder if those kids were abused. I felt my
17 job had been done. I had stopped the kids from being in
18 the same position as me. I was in survival mode trying
19 to build a life. My school friend was part of the first
20 criminal investigation too. I got one phone call from
21 FHE saying Bill had sent a letter from Canada.
22 I said to burn it. Bill had gone to Canada and
23 ██████████ was still in Glasgow.

24 In 2002 when my partner and I were going through the
25 adoption process to adopt our children, social work had

1 to get my social work file. When the social work
2 dealing with the adoption were talking to Glasgow social
3 work, everybody knew who Bill Quigg was, knew the case
4 and everything about it. Social work said in reading my
5 file it was obvious Quigg was a paedophile.

6 I feel I've had to push for the subsequent
7 investigations. I had to go to the Police
8 Investigations and Review Commissioner. If I hadn't
9 done that and had been less challenging towards the
10 police and their approach, that would have all
11 disappeared. There might never have been a conviction,
12 Quigg might have died. It worries me that people might
13 be getting away with abuse because of apathy.

14 The second police investigation was in 2009. I went
15 back to the police and said I wanted them to look at the
16 case again. I went to a police station near Kelvingrove
17 art gallery. Detective Sergeant Greening took all of my
18 statements. He came to interview me in England a few
19 times. FHE [REDACTED] denied everything. At that time
20 the adopted son also denied everything. There was some
21 confirmatory evidence from emails I'd sent to my
22 schoolfriends. However, they would have had to come and
23 give a statement. That was that. It was left.

24 The third police investigation was in 2011. I asked
25 the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner to

1 review the investigation. The police came back and did
2 all the statements again. The Detective Chief Inspector
3 in charge said they would re-open the investigation. He
4 came back to me and said there were holes in the case,
5 lots of circumstantial evidence but no one who could
6 corroborate my evidence. There was one female police
7 officer in the reinvestigation who was sympathetic and
8 was respectful. The rest were of the opinion that the
9 case was definitely not a priority.

10 In 2017 or 2018 all of a sudden the adopted son came
11 forward and gave a statement. That gave the police
12 corroboration.

13 Before I gave my evidence I was taken to be shown
14 the court. The bit I found very difficult was being
15 told the trial was happening the next week. You get
16 yourself all ready for it and then you were told, no,
17 it's next month. So you get all ready for it again. It
18 got to the point that the trial was supposed to happen,
19 I was asked to come through on the Monday because the
20 trial was definitely going ahead. I got the 5 am train.
21 I got to the court and they said I wasn't needed that
22 day, come back tomorrow.

23 I went the next day and they said come back
24 tomorrow. That went on the whole of that week. Then
25 they said I was definitely needed on Monday. One of the

1 jurors was sick. The juror was sick on Tuesday and
2 Wednesday too. My son is learning disabled and can't be
3 left alone. He is not a child so you can't get
4 financial support to get someone to care for him.

5 When I eventually gave evidence, I had someone from
6 the witness support service in court. Having someone
7 come into court just to stand with you, how is that in
8 any way support?

9 Entering court was a total release. I started
10 crying as soon as I was asked to confirm my name.
11 I cried the whole day I was giving evidence. The
12 Procurator Fiscal was very good on the phone in the
13 lead-up to giving evidence, asking questions and trying
14 to guide where you were. It was onerous on me, giving
15 statements and clarification. On the day, especially
16 when the defence lawyer gets a hold of you, you are fed
17 to the lions. A couple of times I asked the judge for
18 help to control the defence lawyer.

19 At first when the defence lawyer asked me questions,
20 he didn't look at me, he looked at the jury to get them
21 to look at him. If he looked at me, that would be
22 acknowledging me. It was his tactic. I said I was
23 sorry but could he look at me because when he talked
24 I was finding it a little hard to hear and if I could
25 see his lips it would make it easier. The Advocate

1 Depute said after no one had found a way of ruining this
2 guy's tactic.

3 Quigg's defence was one of consent. He said none of
4 the abuse happened but I had consensual sex with him
5 when I was 17 and 18 years old. I found there was no
6 way to get clarification about the defence lawyer's
7 questions. When I asked the defence lawyer a question
8 the lawyer said to me he was asking the questions, not
9 me. I asked the judge and he said I could ask the
10 question. If I started to say something which the
11 defence lawyer knew wasn't going his way, he would try
12 and cut it. I said to the judge: surely if the lawyer
13 asks me a question the jury should hear the answer, even
14 if it doesn't suit him. I had to say that to the judge.

15 I clarified that the lawyer was saying I consented
16 to sex in 1986 or 1987. I asked him if 1994 meant
17 anything to him. He said it didn't. I told the lawyer
18 that 1994 was when the age of consent was lowered from
19 21 years to 18 years of age. I said his client was
20 claiming to have had consensual sex with me when I was
21 under age. I shouldn't have had to do that on my own.
22 I would have liked someone to represent me.

23 At Quigg's trial, the defence lawyer said to me that
24 seemingly I'd gone around telling everybody about Quigg
25 and no one had done anything about it. That said more

1 about those people and the community than it said about
2 me.

3 FHE [REDACTED] was called as a Crown witness.

4 [REDACTED] said she didn't know about the abuse, she
5 didn't see anything going on. She said that I had
6 hinted at it and had kind of told her that William Quigg
7 was abusing me five or six times. My expectation after
8 that would be that the police would turn up at her door
9 and say that she knew about this, she could have
10 reported it and stopped it. Why didn't she? FHE [REDACTED]
11 FHE [REDACTED] was enabling it to happen. She was an employee of
12 the council as a foster carer.

13 My records have been passed around. The Procurator
14 Fiscal had a redacted copy from the council. I got
15 involved and eventually the council gave him
16 an unredacted copy. I got my lawyers to raise
17 an interim interdict preventing the Fiscal from
18 returning the file to the police, who would have
19 returned it to the council. I thought the council would
20 try to dispose of the evidence. The file was sent from
21 the Fiscal to my solicitors. I had to pay £2,500 in
22 legal fees. It shouldn't have had to happen that way.

23 Birthlink built up a really good timeline of all the
24 historical information from my records. There is
25 a large social work file about my mother's inability to

1 cope. There is a piece of paper in my records which
2 says that prior to my going to stay with WQ-FHE, the
3 fostering panel raised concerns about Quigg being
4 a paedophile. I haven't seen my records. I'm not
5 bothered about seeing them. They're still with my
6 solicitors.

7 Government has to implement legislation that states
8 how councils behave and respond to people with historic
9 child abuse complaints. It can only be led from
10 government. The minute you tell the council you want to
11 sue for historic child sex abuse, suddenly your file
12 disappears. It should be that when a council gets
13 a request, they cannot remove it or redact it.

14 One of the benefits of a children's home in
15 comparison to foster homes is that in foster homes the
16 foster family are always saying at first that the child
17 is not settling in and is not part of the family. The
18 expectation is on the child to fit in, open up and be
19 part of the family. In a few months or years, the
20 foster family will say the child is part of the family,
21 he's trusting the foster family and settling in. Then
22 the foster parents retire or move on. From my own
23 experience I knew the situation in the children's home.
24 I knew these people cared and were paid to look after us
25 but they didn't love us. There was no mistaking. That

1 was quite easy to deal with. We might have lost
2 something in terms of the good children's homes that
3 were once there.

4 It's okay to give the message 'I'm here, I care
5 about you, I'm here in a professional capacity to look
6 after you and it's not about a falsehood of all being
7 happy families".

8 That is something we've lost. We don't understand
9 that kids can cope with that message. From my own
10 experience and from being on the Children's Panel for
11 ten years, I've found that kids who go through foster
12 placement after foster placement get very confused about
13 where they fit into it.

14 There was institutional failure by social work and
15 councils as corporate parents in every placement I was
16 put into. William Quigg has been prosecuted and has
17 gone to jail. That's fine, but what about his wife, who
18 admitted in court that she knew he was abusing children?
19 What about social workers, who knew there were concerns
20 about Quigg being a paedophile and still placed me with
21 him? This is getting missed in the debate.

22 It's easy for society to say he was the abuser, she
23 was the abuser. It's not enough for the focus to be on
24 Quigg. It's about widening that up and saying as
25 corporate parents, as community and as institutions we

1 failed these people. I met with Michael Russell and
2 John Swinney and raised with Nicola Sturgeon that
3 government should make it a legal requirement that if
4 you know somebody is abusing and you don't report it,
5 you are culpable. It should be a criminal offence.

6 The government's argument was that these failures
7 were covered by aiding and abetting legislation. They
8 are not. I called the police and said that

9 **FHE** had just admitted in a criminal case
10 that she was aware Quigg was abusing me, that is I had
11 told her about it. John Duffy was told about it. They
12 chose not to do anything about it. The police were very
13 clear saying it's not aiding and abetting. To aid and
14 abet you actually have to be actively involved in the
15 abuse.

16 I think the Scottish Government are progressive,
17 having set up the Inquiry, the Confidential Forum,
18 Future Pathways and removing the time bar for civil
19 actions. Where I feel let down, firstly, is that
20 government are not recognising that society and
21 community let children down, not just the corporate
22 parent. There was awareness of abuse that people chose
23 not to act on. People knew Quigg was a paedophile.
24 Secondly, I feel let down that perpetrators are
25 facilitated by the lack of action of others. Is that

1 not equally complicit?

2 The Scottish Government have put in place a remedy
3 for people abused as children in care. It would be fair
4 of government to ask the perpetrators like Quigg to fund
5 the remedy scheme. If you take a civil case and it is
6 successful, the amount you were awarded by the
7 government is taken off. I did the consultation about
8 the redress scheme. I see it as two different things.
9 I am suing Glasgow City Council in a civil case because
10 of the abuse by Quigg. The remedy should be about the
11 corporate parent saying, 'We failed these people so we
12 have a responsibility'.

13 My civil case against the council has been going on
14 for three and a half years. The council should be
15 admitting responsibility in the civil cases where the
16 abuse is proved, not saying that they won't accept
17 liability for this case or that bit. They shouldn't be
18 saying I need to prove this and do that. The council
19 should formally apologise, the apology should be from
20 a person, not a letter that comes out. That should be
21 part of any remedy.

22 In England, the average amount a survivor of abuse
23 is awarded in the civil courts is a million pounds.
24 There's no way at the moment the Scottish courts would
25 award that. They see a number and think it's a big

1 number. People are walking out the door with £120,000
2 for years of systemic abuse. The cases should be dealt
3 with with respect. Government should say 'These people
4 are not asking for something they are not due, they are
5 asking for something we should be offering'. Could the
6 claims be taken outwith the judiciary and not go through
7 the courts?

8 I am told the amount claimed for in my civil case
9 will be groundbreaking only because I had two or three
10 high level jobs. Loss of earnings does that for me. In
11 Scotland the recompense is for loss. There is no
12 punitive element to it. I think there should be
13 a punitive element. If you and I go through the same
14 experience and you're a cleaner, why should I get more?
15 Your life could be altered even more than mine.

16 People who are ill or elderly can apply now and get
17 £10,000. It's not enough. What government should be
18 doing is making these people's Indian summers the best
19 they can possibly be. The goal should be to move people
20 on. There should be no pound sign.

21 If survivors use Future Pathways, then in their
22 civil case, when they say how their life has been
23 affected, the lawyers can say they have had three years'
24 help from Future Pathways. There should be no get-out.
25 The only way people can be recompensed is by being given

1 enough money.

2 I wonder what would have happened at Quigg's trial
3 if I hadn't been articulate and able to stand my ground.
4 I wasn't able to say can I sit down or I feel unwell.
5 Particularly with historic child abuse, where you're
6 almost reliving it and the perpetrator's there for the
7 first time in a long time, there should be someone there
8 giving you proper support, not giving you legal advice,
9 but giving you procedural advice. I think the law
10 should be changed in that respect. I would have liked
11 a lawyer at the trial for my benefit to say what the
12 defence lawyer was and wasn't allowed to ask and what
13 questions I should and shouldn't answer.

14 Quigg is in jail and has lost his liberty. He's
15 a wealthy man. His lawyer said he had liquidated all
16 his assets. He's probably given them to
17 **FHE**. The council's insurance company will
18 be paying out sums of money. When Quigg gets out of
19 jail, he'll have money and come back to a nice life.
20 The criminal justice system should strip him of every
21 asset he has and the money should be paid towards
22 repaying the council or the insurance company.

23 We don't like that concept in Scotland because we
24 don't like punitive justice. We say removal of liberty
25 is enough. But what about the removal of my liberty?

1 The spring of my life was stolen, the summer was sullied
2 by a dark hue sitting above it. It's only now at the
3 age of 48 that I'm able to reclaim my life.

4 For Quigg to get ten years in custody, knowing he
5 can immediately apply for early release after five
6 years, is disgraceful. He could be out when he's 82
7 years old. The automatic release system is not
8 appropriate. Quigg has taken 31 years of my life. At
9 the time of sentencing the judge said he was taking into
10 account the seriousness of what Quigg had done but also
11 that, since then, nothing else had happened. Another
12 four people have come forward. The judge had no right
13 saying that, he has no knowledge of whether anything
14 else has happened because it's not yet come to light.

15 You should give your statement and evidence once.
16 It should be used for the criminal case, the civil case,
17 the Confidential Forum and the Inquiry. You shouldn't
18 have to go through it again. It traumatises you every
19 time. It means that the evidence you give the final
20 time will be of a lesser quality than the first time
21 because you are emotionally exhausted by it.

22 There should be an external person who can pop their
23 head in and say to a child in care, is everything all
24 right here? The person should ask, is this child's
25 potential being realised? They shouldn't be a Named

1 Person because I don't agree with that policy, nor
2 a social worker because they can be complicit. Social
3 work still doesn't understand about creating aspiration
4 in children in care. It's still about meeting basic
5 needs. You have a resource in volunteers who can come
6 into the children's lives. The Steiner model could be
7 used for kids in care.

8 There should be an external system within local
9 authorities and the care environment, not Childline,
10 where a child can hit the red button. In
11 an organisation that I worked in, we set up a red button
12 on the organisation's home page for harassment and
13 bullying. You clicked on the button and it generated
14 a form. You filled in the form and it went straight to
15 the chief executive's office. There were three people
16 from different teams who dealt with all the complaints.
17 If kids in care knew about something like that, they
18 would know they could press the red button and it would
19 be dealt with at a senior level.

20 We expect too much of the victims and survivors. We
21 expect too much in terms of the negative behaviours some
22 people have as a consequence of their abuse. Some
23 people rely on alcohol and drugs. Society wants
24 survivors to shut up and get over it. Society has to
25 accept that they caused the problem. We also expect too

1 much of the survivors as the survivors have to drive the
2 police, criminal and civil processes, whilst dealing
3 with the consequences with their experience. Survivors
4 should be allocated an independent advocate to push the
5 processes through on their behalf. A lot of people walk
6 away as they are too fatigued to carry on.

7 Government has to lead the way in telling councils
8 to behave responsibly, in treating survivors with
9 respect, in fully funding Future Pathways. I hope the
10 Inquiry report will instruct real change. The Inquiry
11 should roar at Scotland, saying you were all complicit.
12 The Inquiry should commission a documentary once it has
13 made its findings, pinpointing all those at fault.

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 And 'Derek' signed his witness statement on
19 10 December 2019.

20 My Lady, before we rise for the break, I will make
21 one brief reference to a record.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS RATTRAY: Which is at JUS-000000080.

24 We can look at it or not as the case may be but that
25 simply confirms that on 13 February 2019, William Quigg

1 was convicted on six charges, being lewd and libidinous
2 practice and behaviour, indecent assault and indecent
3 assault with unnatural carnal connection to injury in
4 respect of both 'Derek' and William Quigg's adopted son
5 and he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

6 We don't need to look at them, but details of the
7 charges are at pages 2 and 3 of this document and the
8 offences against 'Derek' range from 16 August 1983 to
9 1 February 1987.

10 At pages 4 and 5 we see that leave to appeal against
11 sentence was refused, as was the appeal against refusal
12 of leave, on the basis that the appeal was unarguable.
13 The first judge considering leave to appeal commented
14 that:

15 "One of the complainers was prepared to undergo
16 abuse rather than risk to be returned to Local Authority
17 care. The conduct involved a particularly serious abuse
18 of power and trust in relation to vulnerable boys."

19 These were reasons with which the judges who were
20 considering the appeal against refusal of leave entirely
21 agreed.

22 My Lady, 'Derek' was speaking about his civil
23 action. Since signing his statement, 'Derek' won his
24 civil action for damages against Glasgow City Council in
25 2021 and was awarded a sum in excess of £1.3 million.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 MS RATTRAY: Perhaps we take the break now.

3 LADY SMITH: We will have the afternoon break now, thank you
4 very much, Ms Rattray.

5 (3.14 pm)

6 (A short break)

7 (3.30 pm)

8 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

9 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady. My Lady, the final read-in
10 for today is a statement of an applicant who wishes to
11 remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Thomas'.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS RATTRAY: 'Thomas's' statement is at WIT.001.001.1504.

14 'Thomas' was in the care of Tayside Regional
15 Council. He was in two foster placements, the first
16 with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] near Crieff from [REDACTED] 1977
17 until [REDACTED] 1977 and the second with Mr and
18 Mrs LNH/SPO in [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] 1982 to [REDACTED]
19 1982.

20 In 1983 he also stayed with Mr and Mrs LNH/SPO for
21 a respite foster care whilst living with his mother.

22 The successor authority is Perth and Kinross
23 Council.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Thomas'. I was born in 1971."

1 From paragraphs 2 to 7 'Thomas' provides some
2 background information on his significant health
3 problems.

4 Now moving to paragraph 8 on page 2:

5 "I was previously married but my wife has passed
6 away. I had three sister and one brother. Two of my
7 sisters and my brother have died. My father is still
8 alive. I still see him. My mother has died.

9 My parents lived in Govan, Glasgow. I was the
10 second of five children. My sister was 15 months older
11 than me. My brother died at 8 months old and his twin
12 sister died at birth. They were born between me and my
13 other sister, who is three and a half years younger than
14 me. I vaguely remember my little brother. I was just
15 coming up for 2 when the twins were born.

16 I remember being at home with my mum and dad and
17 I remember the furore when one of the twins died.
18 I have an image of him but I was only two and a half so
19 I can't remember everything. After he died that was the
20 first time that me and my older sister got put into
21 care.

22 When I was an adult, probably about 35 years old,
23 I found out that the reason we had been in care was
24 because my mother was arrested over the death of one of
25 the twins who died but I don't know if she was charged

1 with anything or not or even if she was held in custody
2 for any period of time. I remember going to court and
3 they left me with the court police officer while my
4 mother went to a private hearing and that's the part of
5 the furore I was talking about."

6 From paragraphs 13 to 48 'Thomas' speaks of being in
7 care at Nazareth House for about six months before being
8 returned to his parents, where he lived in Perth and
9 then in Glasgow. His parents separated and his mum and
10 aunt took him to live in Perth. From there he says he
11 was admitted to Colonsay House, Perth, which he thinks
12 was in 1976.

13 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

14 He recalls spending time back at home before being
15 readmitted to Colonsay House in early 1977.

16 Moving now to paragraph 49 on page 10:

17 "I think the social worker came and me and my older
18 sister got taken out of school early and taken back to
19 Colonsay where they told us they'd found us foster
20 parents. The social worker that took us out of school
21 was the big woman who had previously sat on me.
22 I didn't understand what was happening at the time but
23 I think my sister had a better grasp of what was going
24 on.

25 I honestly thought it was normal that this happened

1 to every family and you got passed from pillar to post.
2 I was thinking that I would have to change school again.
3 It was explained that we were going to foster parents
4 whom she described as temporary parents but she used
5 different words. I didn't realise that it wasn't
6 another children's home and I didn't know that they
7 would have their own children. My sister and I had been
8 told by the social worker that this was different from
9 going into a home and that it was going to be better and
10 that this was going to be our new mum and dad.

11 I think my sister had asked how long we would be
12 there for but they didn't know. We didn't know if this
13 was short term or if it was going to be permanent.

14 We were told this at the room beyond the office at
15 Colonsay House. When the social work came in for the
16 meetings that's where they took place. I was with my
17 sister when we were told. I just remember her, she was
18 upset and she was saying that she wanted her mum. My
19 younger sister was only one and a half at that time. We
20 were taken to a doctor for a medical and then me and my
21 older sister were taken straight to the foster carers.

22 My younger sister got to stay with my aunt. We were
23 told this at the same meeting at Colonsay when my older
24 sister and me were told we were going into foster care.
25 I think I assumed she was going with aunt because she

1 wasn't of school age, wasn't as problematic as my sister
2 and I and aunt was happy to look after my younger sister
3 but not to take on my older sister and I.

4 I don't remember visiting or being introduced to the
5 [LNG/SPO] before me and my sister went there. We were
6 just taken there and we didn't get an affectionate
7 welcome at the house.

8 They were Mr and Mrs [LNG/SPO]. I don't know their
9 first names. We just called them Mr and Mrs [LNG/SPO]
10 They lived and ran a business halfway between Perth and
11 Crieff. It was a hamlet. There were no shops or
12 anything like that, not even a group of houses. The
13 business has since been sold and houses have been built
14 on it.

15 They had their own children, a boy and a girl.
16 Their son was a year older or the same age as my older
17 sister. The girl, whose name I can't remember, was just
18 slightly older than me. They were not there the day we
19 arrived because they were at school.

20 The business building was separate to the house. It
21 was of two storeys sheet metal construction, and the
22 office was upstairs. I don't like heights and it had
23 a very rickety metal staircase and a pathway you could
24 see through. It was just off the main road. The house
25 had three or four bedrooms which were upstairs, at least

1 I remember that our bedrooms were upstairs. It was
2 a big house. I shared with bedroom with the son and my
3 older sister shared a room with their daughter.

4 Mrs LNG was an evil bitch.

5 On the first morning I was in trouble from the
6 moment I got up. I hadn't done something right, like
7 I hadn't washed properly or something like that. There
8 was something they weren't happy with and it just seemed
9 over the top. I was used to getting up and getting my
10 breakfast before we did anything else, then we would go
11 and have a bath or a shower, in case you spilt your
12 breakfast down you. This was the normal arrangement
13 when I was at home and I think it was the same as
14 Colonsay House. We had our breakfast before we got
15 washed.

16 In a normal day at the LNG/SPO, we would get taken
17 to school by Mrs LNG, who would drive the four of us
18 there. She would sometimes pick us up at the end of the
19 day but sometimes we would walk back because it was
20 downhill.

21 When we got home I was nervous the whole time
22 because of everything that happened. You didn't know if
23 you had done something during the day at school or even
24 before school that would set off Mrs LNG. It would
25 be the most illogical thing that would set her off.

1 We would see Mr [REDACTED] at breakfast and teatimes.
2 If we were told to give him a message, or in the passing
3 when we were playing outside. To be honest I can't even
4 remember hearing that man speak at any time. After tea
5 we were put up to our rooms so we didn't see him.
6 Crossroads was often on the television when we were
7 having our tea, so we were finished about 6 o'clock.
8 After tea we were all put to our rooms, usually by about
9 7, and there was a rule that we were to be in our beds
10 by 7.30. That was in summertime as well.

11 I am not sure if it was her mother or his mother but
12 one of the [REDACTED] mothers lived not too far away in
13 a cottage up on the hill and whenever the [REDACTED] were
14 doing something they would leave us with her. She was
15 the first woman I had met with hair on her chin.
16 I hadn't seen that before. She had a wooden poker with
17 a branch like a prong at the top. It was called
18 a Schiehallion or something like that. She was very
19 quick to hit you over the back of the legs with it. She
20 hit us with that every time we were there. You didn't
21 have to do anything. You couldn't speak or even move.
22 If there was any nonsense she would whack you once over
23 the back of your legs. She kept it within easy reach.

24 I had marks and bruises quite a lot. If we had any
25 bruises when we went to a medical they were explained

1 away as being my fault.

2 They gave us Alpen for breakfast, which I had never
3 had before so I said 'What's this?' and Mrs LNG
4 called me a stupid boy. I can't remember verbatim what
5 she was saying, I just know that she started shouting at
6 me for what seemed like absolutely no reason whatsoever.
7 I could see my sister a wreck anyway. She was as timid
8 as a mouse. I don't know if this was Mrs LNG way
9 of just putting us in our place and that she realised
10 I was the stronger one.

11 It was made obvious from that first day that we were
12 different to her two children and thinking back that is
13 understandable but it's not what you would expect
14 professional foster parents to say. Basically she was
15 saying 'You're just the scab of the earth and we are
16 getting paid a fortune for looking after you'.

17 Mrs LNG said this regularly. She always called
18 me a stupid little boy and that I would never see my mum
19 again. All the horrible things that you could think
20 someone in that situation could say, taking advantage of
21 you mentally like they hold the power over you. She
22 said I wouldn't get my pocket money and I wouldn't get
23 my clothes. The LNG/SPO were given a clothing allowance
24 and pocket money so it didn't come out of their funds.
25 When we went to the LNG/SPO, we never ever got any

1 pocket money and I know they were given money.

2 I asked for Weetabix because I always had Weetabix.
3 I was told that the Alpen was good for me, that I would
4 eat it and it would still be here at tea time if
5 I didn't eat it. All four of us children would have
6 breakfast together at the dining table in the kitchen
7 with Mrs **LNG** Mr was there sometimes but
8 often he would be at work.

9 There was a cupboard with biscuits and crisps and
10 they used to be handed out by Mrs **LNG**. She gave
11 them to her children but didn't see them taking anything
12 themselves. We must have been given something from the
13 cupboard at some times but I can't remember.

14 I remember the daffodils when we were out I started
15 going to school so it must have been around March. The
16 school was about a mile and a half away from the house.
17 I vividly remember the daffodils coming out on the
18 verges because this was something I hadn't seen before
19 and we were out in the country, which was all new to me.
20 I would have been just six and still in Primary 1 when
21 we went there. My sister would have been 7 or 8 when he
22 got there and in Primary 3.

23 I think for the last two months of Primary 1 I was
24 at the school and it was fine there. Me and my sister
25 got on okay at this school.

1 I finished Primary 1 there and we were there over
2 the summer holidays. We didn't go anywhere on holiday
3 with them. We occasionally got taken to the shops. We
4 played outside most of the times. We got to play within
5 the grounds that they had. There was lots of machinery
6 and stuff like that, things for a young boy to
7 investigate, but not so much for my sister. Sometimes
8 we would go to the grandmother's.

9 My aunt came after about three weeks and she took us
10 occasionally. She must have come before the social
11 worker came. We told aunt everything about the
12 **LNG/SPO** that it wasn't a nice place, the same as
13 I have told you in this interview. My sister would
14 start speaking up too.

15 I think aunt believed us and she told us that she
16 would tell the social work, although she called them the
17 welfare. Aunt later told us that she had told the
18 social worker, I presume the social worker who brought
19 us to the foster carers.

20 We saw our aunt maybe three or four times after that
21 first visit when we told her everything that had been
22 going on and she told the social worker. She would come
23 and pick us up as she had a car. There is a milk bar on
24 the Kinross to Kincardine road and that's usually where
25 my aunt and uncle would take us.

1 In the four months that we were at the [LNG/SPO], we
2 didn't really see my mum until nearer towards the end of
3 our time there. She didn't visit us at the [LNG/SPO].
4 We were taken to see her at my aunt's. We saw my mum
5 towards the end of our time at the [LNG/SPO] at a meeting
6 with social work and it was with a view to us going home
7 to live with my mum.

8 It was about a month after we went to the [LNG/SPO]
9 before we had a visit from a social worker. I think
10 this was standard practice for a 28-day visit. I don't
11 know why she was there. We came home from school and
12 she was there speaking to Mrs [LNG] at the dining
13 table. I can't recall if she ever spoke to us but if
14 she did we didn't mention anything that we had told my
15 aunt. We wouldn't have said anything because
16 Mrs [LNG] was there all the time.

17 When the social worker went away after that first
18 visit Mrs [LNG] went off on one. She said we were
19 telling lies, that none of these things happened and we
20 were never going to be believed anyway and called us
21 'the scum of the earth'. Maybe not these exact words
22 but something like it. She said she had taken us in and
23 had nothing but good for you. She went on and on that
24 she was doing this wonderful thing for us and how could
25 we betray her. She was angry and me and my sister got

1 sent to our beds without any tea. All books and toys
2 were taken away and we stayed in our beds.

3 Mrs LNG told us that the social worker had told
4 her. She didn't ask if we had told aunt or ask us how
5 we had told the social work.

6 I think another social worker came another time and
7 I am not sure if it was a different social worker. It
8 was another woman. I can't remember how many visits we
9 got in the four months we were there.

10 After that time when the social work told
11 Mrs LNG and we were sent to our beds we didn't
12 mention it again to my aunt as it hadn't worked.

13 I don't recall aunt ever asking later on or during
14 any of her visits if things had improved. She did say
15 something, maybe the year after, when we saw Mrs LNG
16 in Marks & Spencer's. Aunt pointed her out and
17 mentioned some of the stuff about that we had told her
18 about, so she obviously hadn't forgotten.

19 We didn't get on with the LNG/SPO children.

20 Everything that happened in that first week set the
21 whole thing off with the family. The tortoises died,
22 I think it was something to do with them getting too
23 much lettuce. Mrs LNG went ballistic when they died
24 and blamed me, saying I was told not to give them
25 lettuce. But she had given me the lettuce. I just

1 remember they died and I got the blame. I couldn't
2 understand because I had just given them what
3 Mrs [LNG] gave me to give them. I was sent to my bed
4 again as a punishment.

5 We didn't really play with her children.
6 Mrs [LNG] didn't want us associating with her children
7 because we were beneath them and it was made painfully
8 obvious that we were different. I can accept that the
9 children were their blood and they would get treated
10 differently but not as blatantly as it was done then.
11 They got sweets and treats. Sometimes there was a bit
12 of interaction between us if we were playing in the
13 house. The only treat I can remember was getting to go
14 to a concert.

15 We didn't get any pocket money but there were no
16 shops or anything nearby where we could have spent it
17 anyway. There were books in the house but I wasn't
18 allowed to touch them because of what I had done to
19 a toy camera thing which I was accused of breaking.

20 Her son did have a kaleidoscope in his room and
21 sometimes I played with it but I got caught and got into
22 trouble. There were no books in his room that I would
23 read. I had been reading since I was three. My dad had
24 always taken me on his knee to read the newspaper when
25 he came in from work so even by that time I was reading

1 Enid Blyton's Famous Five or Secret Seven or
2 Secret Island or something along those lines. The
3 **LNG/SPO** didn't have any books like that, they were more
4 like baby books.

5 Sometimes their son would let me play with his toys
6 but other times he would grab them off me. He didn't
7 seem to mind on most occasions when we were in the room.
8 I don't know if I was being naive or if he set me up
9 sometimes if he knew his mum was coming up the stairs.
10 When I was playing with the kaleidoscope Mrs **LNG**
11 came in and she caught me with it. She was angry and
12 she told me that I was not allowed to play with the toys
13 as I break things and I would never get any pocket money
14 at this rate.

15 I felt indifferent to what she was saying. I knew
16 by then that this place was way, way wrong. I did have
17 similar thoughts as I had when I was in Colonsay when
18 I set fire to it, but thankfully I didn't do that this
19 time. One of the reasons I didn't was because Colonsay
20 was set up for people to escape from fires, whereas the
21 **LNG/SPO** house obviously didn't have fire doors and fire
22 escapes and even at that age I understood there could be
23 serious consequences. I did have thoughts about setting
24 it on fire though.

25 I think it was either the first or second day when

1 we were at school at lunchtime we were given fish in
2 bread crumbs which I had never had and I really liked
3 it. The school dinner lady said there was some left and
4 she gave me another half. I never thought anything of
5 it but Mrs LNG kids must have gone home and told
6 her that I'd asked for seconds. Mrs LNG took this
7 that I was telling the school that she wasn't feeding
8 me.

9 We sat down for tea and we got through to pudding
10 and she brought out two trays of bread and butter
11 pudding. She asked me to stand up and go to the
12 counter. Basically she then pushed my face into one of
13 the trays of bread and butter pudding. She said words
14 to the effect that 'If we are not feeding you, you are
15 not telling anybody' or something along those lines.
16 She then forced me to start eating the tray of bread and
17 butter pudding. It was a normal size for a baking tray
18 and probably had about 24 slices of bread. She put one
19 on the table and one on the worktop. She went off on
20 one about me asking for seconds. She was really angry
21 that no one from her house would be apparently hungry
22 and this was a real insult to her.

23 I tried to explain that I hadn't asked for seconds
24 and they had offered it. I know I was crying the whole
25 time and couldn't understand what she was going on

1 about. She held my face in the tray for a few seconds,
2 then she handed me a wooden spoon and told me I was
3 going to eat it until it was gone. I didn't even get
4 a quarter of the way through when I was sick into the
5 tray. She kept saying that if I didn't eat it, it would
6 still be there at breakfast and lunch until it was gone.

7 My sister was sitting there petrified and she was
8 shaking and crying. When I had eaten it all, including
9 what I had brought up, I was sent to my bed. I have
10 never eaten bread and butter pudding since that day.

11 There was another incident that happened soon after
12 that where Mrs LNG turned even more vociferous. Her
13 son had a toy that was like a camera that had circular
14 disks that you put in and you viewed through them. If
15 you put the camera up to the light you could see the
16 picture and you could press the clicker at the side to
17 move it to the next picture. He broke it and blamed me.
18 Mrs LNG said we weren't getting my pocket money
19 because that had to be paid for and also because
20 apparently I killed the tortoises as well, which
21 I didn't. I will admit to things I did do, but I didn't
22 do that.

23 This was the first week that we were there. Even
24 being that young, you could see that there was something
25 not right with things. You were constantly worried that

1 you were going to do something wrong and you didn't know
2 where the next row was coming from. How is a child
3 supposed to understand all of this?

4 Mrs LNG had a very short fuse and had a bad
5 temper. When you got up in the morning you just did not
6 know how she was going to be. In fact she was very
7 similar to my mother.

8 If nothing really happened to make Mrs LNG angry
9 she acted very indifferent to us. She either called me
10 by my name or 'stupid little boy'. She never gave me
11 a cuddle, a hug, a kiss, or sat me on her knee and
12 rubbed my hair, nothing. She never showed any affection
13 at all to me and she always spoke to us in a short,
14 sharp manner.

15 In the first week my sister started wetting the bed
16 and all hell broke loose. One time Mrs LNG made me
17 and my sister stand outside in the rain, and it was
18 dark, so I assume it was nighttime, probably not long
19 after my sister had gone to bed.

20 All I remember was that we were all in our beds when
21 Mrs LNG came into the room and dragged me out of my
22 bed. Her son was awake when I left and he would have
23 seen me getting taken out. I don't really know why she
24 pulled me out the bed but I think it was just her way
25 that if one child did something we were both

1 responsible. All I remember was seeing my sister
2 standing outside in the rain when I went outside and
3 then me standing beside her. I was in a pair of pants
4 and my sister was wearing a pair of pants and a vest.
5 Mrs LNG was going on about us being filthy dirty
6 gits or beggars or whatever, didn't know where we had
7 been brought up, and that we had no manners, and she was
8 saying that she didn't know why she bothered.

9 I would imagine that my sister must have got up and
10 told Mrs LNG that she had wet the bed as she
11 wouldn't have lain in it. If she had woken up and felt
12 it was wet, she would have got up and said.

13 I think it was when we got outside that she must
14 have said something to make me know that my sister had
15 wet the bed. Mrs LNG was going on about 'you're not
16 sleeping in those beds if you're going to wet them, I'm
17 not forking out and doing washings every day' and things
18 along those lines.

19 I am not sure how I was wearing pants as normally
20 I would wear pyjama tops and bottoms. I can only think
21 that she got me to change. I remember her checking to
22 see if I had wet the bed but I hadn't. My sister was
23 wearing white pants and a vest. All the time my sister
24 was shaking and crying.

25 Mrs LNG shut the back door with me and my sister

1 outside and it was raining and it was dark. We were out
2 for a couple of hours. Eventually my sister calmed down
3 and managed to give me more details. She told
4 Mrs LNG that she had wet the bed and she had gone
5 bonkers, hit her with the hairbrush. I know the brush
6 as it is wooden and was big and had a big broad back and
7 had spiky things on the front. This brush was normally
8 on one of the cabinets, because she used it in the
9 morning to brush all of our hairs.

10 Mrs LNG, I'm fairly sure, had hit me with this
11 brush before. She used to hit me and my sister higher
12 on the legs than the grandmother used to hit us.

13 Mrs LNG would hit you on the back of the thighs or
14 the bottom, probably hit you two or three times.

15 I don't know how many times she hit me with the brush.

16 Me and my sister were standing all the time on the
17 gravel to the side of the house. We never moved after
18 we were put out and she put us there. We were too
19 scared to move and too scared to talk to each other.
20 There was no cover where we were standing and it was
21 raining. It was honestly a couple of hours and by the
22 time she brought us in, my legs were shaking and I was
23 cold.

24 I can't remember how me and my sister got back into
25 the house and I can't even remember if it was

1 Mrs LNG that brought us in. I remember when me and
2 my sister were in the house in the bathroom and
3 Mrs LNG was with us when we were towelling off and
4 I got changed back into my pyjamas. We were bedraggled
5 because the rain was heavy. My sister said that
6 Mrs LNG told her that she was a baby for wetting the
7 bed. I remember getting back into my bed and pulling
8 the covers over my head because I was cold. I can't
9 remember if the son was awake when I went back to my
10 bed.

11 I knew by the next morning after me and my sister
12 had been put outside that we couldn't do anything right,
13 even if we did anything perfectly. I think I fell
14 asleep at school the next day.

15 I think my sister wet the bed almost every night for
16 a while. They put horrible rubbery sheets on both of
17 our beds. They were horrible to lie on. They put them
18 on my bed even though I had never wet the bed. There
19 was another sheet on top of them but they were still not
20 nice to lie on.

21 Mrs LNG got quite vindictive towards my sister
22 over the bed-wetting and she seemed to regularly get hit
23 with the hairbrush. If I said anything about it not
24 being fair then I would get it as well. Sometimes she
25 would make my sister strip the bed herself and take the

1 sheets downstairs. She would hit her on the back of the
2 legs, sometimes two or three times. Mrs LNG would
3 call her a dirty little girl and vitriol like that.
4 I don't think she realised that the more she was making
5 my sister nervous, the more it was affecting her. My
6 sisters had been off nappies before me.

7 The bed-wetting did stop eventually but only a few
8 weeks before we left. There was a period before that
9 when my sister did stop but it started again. I'm sure
10 she stopped a few weeks though before we left. They
11 always changed the sheets if they were wet, they didn't
12 leave them on the bed.

13 Another time Mrs LNG asked me to take a message
14 to Mr [REDACTED] who was in the office. I left the house
15 and climbed up the rickety steps which were outside and
16 go up to the office. I slipped on some oil on the
17 platform leading to the office and I fell onto my
18 backside but carried on into the office. I had oil on
19 the shorts I was wearing and I had also wiped my hands
20 on the front of my top.

21 Mr [REDACTED] phoned Mrs LNG and she came upstairs
22 into the office and went off on one again. She went on
23 about how I was a stupid little boy, 'you got yourself
24 filthy, I have to do another washing' and 'do you think
25 I'm made of money'. I had to get stripped off at the

1 washing machine and Mrs LNG did something else to
2 embarrass me but I can't remember what it was.

3 Mr did not react but he was cheesed off because
4 he knew Mrs LNG was going to be angry again.

5 Another incident was when they took me and my sister
6 to a Lena Martell concert and on the way back they
7 bought us a bag of chips to share. Their children
8 weren't there that night and this is the only time that
9 I remember they took me and my sister to anything
10 without their children. I don't know where their
11 children were. I can't remember any time when all six
12 of us were in the car.

13 My sister doesn't travel well and the chips were not
14 a good idea and she was sick in the footwell behind the
15 front passenger seat where Mrs LNG was sitting.
16 Mrs LNG made her lie on the floor and she had to
17 curl up in a ball in the footwell and lie in the sick.
18 I made some comment about it not being right or probably
19 not being fair and I was made to lie in the other
20 footwell.

21 Me and my sister stayed in the footwells of the car
22 all the way back to the LNG/SPO house. I can't
23 remember getting out of the car. I remember enjoying
24 the concert at the time when we were there probably
25 because I had never been at anything like that before.

1 That was the only time we went out in the car apart
2 from to school or the grandmother's or sometimes
3 Mrs LNG used to take us to the shops to Perth or
4 Crieff. She sometimes took us to do her food shopping
5 in Marks & Spencer, which I thought was funny because it
6 was so expensive. I'm not sure if she went into other
7 shops. Sometimes we would go with her into the shops
8 but sometimes we would have to wait in the car. She
9 wouldn't leave us at home even if Mr ██████████ was working
10 nearby. There was one time I remember all four of us
11 going with Mrs LNG to Crieff and she got us an ice
12 cream then. She went off and maybe got a hair cut or
13 something and we played in the park for a while. It was
14 quite a pleasant trip but not if she left you in the
15 car.

16 I don't even remember hearing her shouting at her
17 own children and never saw her hitting them. Everything
18 was just a hassle to her. My opinion is that she just
19 wanted the money but didn't want any hassle.

20 I think we were at the LNG/SPO for about four
21 months.

22 At the end we had a meeting with my mum,
23 Mrs LNG, a head social worker, our aunt and my
24 sister and myself, and it must have been decided that we
25 were going to go home. When we were told we were going

1 back to live with my mum I was perversely glad to be
2 going home. My sister was definitely glad to be going
3 home.

4 I don't really remember saying goodbye to the
5 [LNG/SPO] or leaving the house but the social work drove
6 us to Perth.

7 We went back to live with my mum and I was glad to
8 be leaving the [LNG/SPO] and glad to be going home to my
9 mum's. There was me, my mum and a man who I think is
10 probably her mum's partner and my two sisters.

11 The bullying at school started again but that was
12 just normal. It was still the same class that I had
13 before and they knew my background.

14 At home my mum was still angry and she was obviously
15 still not well. It bothered me more than the way I was
16 treated by Mrs [LNG] as she was my mum who should have
17 been affectionate and caring rather than Mrs [LNG] who
18 was getting paid to do the basics.

19 We ended up in Colonsay again as my mum either [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]."

21 From paragraphs 125 to 136, 'Thomas' says that after
22 leaving foster care, he spent periods in children's
23 homes and periods back at home with his mum. 'Thomas'
24 describes this as a chaotic time in his life. He says
25 that things are a bit hazy for him over an 18-month

1 period because he was in three or four homes and with
2 unofficial foster parents.

3 Moving now to paragraph 137 on page 27 where
4 'Thomas' tells of life with his unofficial foster
5 parents.

6 My Lady, in relation to the unofficial foster
7 parents, our understanding from the records is that they
8 weren't official foster parents but it was noted in the
9 social work records that the children were staying with
10 them.

11 LADY SMITH: Right. Had they been put there by his mother?

12 MS RATTRAY: By his mother, yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS RATTRAY: "When me and my sister were in Perth my mum had
15 started us attending at a church and the people who ran
16 the church were lovely people. When they found out that
17 my sister and I were in the home at Nimmo Place, the
18 minister and his wife took my sister to stay with them
19 and the assistant minister took me to live with them.

20 The minister and assistant minister were from the
21 [REDACTED] church in Perth and they travelled
22 around in a minibus advertising Sunday School and they
23 picked us up to go to church. Sometimes my sister and
24 I would have lunch with them. None of them were
25 registered foster parents but this was arranged by my

1 social worker, Amy Galloway.

2 We were with them three to four months on this
3 occasion and when we were there we went to primary
4 school. I stayed there until [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of 1981.

5 The minister and his wife didn't live near to us but
6 we saw them often. I kept in touch with my sisters
7 through the church and saw them three or four times in
8 the week.

9 The assistant minister and his wife were the
10 loveliest people and I wish I could have stayed with
11 them, although they had no television and there was lots
12 of Bible bashing. At their home, things were great.
13 The assistant minister would teach me things and would
14 take time to show me what he was growing in the garden,
15 and made sure I had plenty of books to read. They just
16 involved me in their family life. The ministers and
17 their wives were all just lovely people and there were
18 never any issues with them.

19 I don't recall seeing my mum when we were with them.

20 At primary there was bullying because I wasn't there
21 from the start. I didn't fit into the school and was
22 treated as an outsider.

23 Me and my sisters had to leave the ministers because
24 my mum demanded that we go back to her, and because it
25 wasn't official, the minister and the assistant minister

1 had no option but to hand us back.

2 I was with them on three occasions before secondary
3 school between Primary 4 and Primary 6, and I moved
4 between primary schools every time I moved. I never
5 spent a Christmas with them. Every time I went to the
6 assistant minister's, my sisters went to the minister's.

7 When I was back at my mum's in Perth it was just the
8 same chaos. One of the times when we came back from the
9 minister's we went to live with my mum at one of my
10 mum's friends just outside Kinross. We got given to my
11 mum on the Friday and we started at this little school,
12 but I can't remember the name of it.

13 By 11 o'clock on the day we started at the school,
14 my social worker Amy Galloway was there to pick me and
15 my sister up because my mother had started her nonsense
16 again and had done something.

17 After this I went to another set of registered
18 foster parents, Mr and Mrs LNHSPO in ██████████, but
19 I don't know the address. I don't know their first
20 names. I think I was with them when I was in Primary 6
21 in 1982. I remember I was definitely in care and I am
22 sure it was with the LNHSPO in ██████████ 1982 because we
23 went to a caravan park in Pitlochry with the LNHSPO
24 and I remember watching a football game on television
25 between Brazil and Italy in the second round of the

1 World Cup. It was only me that went to the LNH/SPO
2 and I think I was with them twice. My younger sister
3 went to registered foster carers at a farm just outside
4 [REDACTED]. I can't remember where my older sister was
5 the this time.

6 I seem to think I was there before I went to the
7 assistant minister for the third and last time.

8 Mrs LNH [REDACTED] was very defensive of her two boys and
9 again it just seemed to me that I was there to get the
10 blame for everything. Mr [REDACTED] had very little to
11 do with us and there were no problems with him.

12 Mrs LNH [REDACTED] wasn't very nice to me, and on
13 a couple of occasions she is hit me with a wooden spoon.
14 She hit me on the shoulder. We had been playing
15 football and her son said that I had put in a nasty
16 tackle but it was a game of football. She took umbrage
17 with the fact that I had defended myself and she
18 expected me to just stand there when her son hit me.
19 When I answered her back, she blew her top and hit me
20 with the wooden spoon. She hit me twice in the time
21 that I was there. There was a lack of affection but
22 compared to other places they were fine.

23 We were with them in total for about five to six
24 months over the two visits.

25 The last time I left the assistant minister, I went

1 back to live with my mum in Perth. Everything at home
2 was all the same at this time. Violence for the same of
3 violence.

4 There was an incident when I was 14 when my mother
5 came home from work at 5 o'clock in the morning and she
6 hit me with a belt all over my legs. My legs swelled up
7 to the size of my waist, and she sent me out to school
8 at 6 o'clock in the morning.

9 I sat and waited for the nurse to come in at 8.30
10 and the first thing she turned round and said to me that
11 I must have done something really bad to deserve this.
12 I was angry at her saying this. Because of her reaction
13 I never told anyone else about it. I had marks on my
14 legs and my back but never went to the doctor's
15 Although I told the nurse, nothing happened.

16 The next day I stole £1 from a friend's purse
17 because I didn't want to go back home. I was honestly
18 fearful for my life. I went straight from school to
19 Roslin House where I told them what had happened and Amy
20 agreed that I should be put back in care. I told her
21 that I needed protection. I stole the money to get
22 attention so somebody would actually do something."

23 From paragraphs 157 to 196, 'Thomas' speaks of
24 experiences in other care settings **Secondary Institutions - to be**
25 **Secondar** before again being returned to his mum when he was

1 in first year at high school. He says that he would
2 rather have stayed in a children's home than being
3 returned to his mother. He said that he and his sister
4 were still on the "at risk" register and attended
5 Children's Hearings. Notwithstanding this, at one point
6 his aunt's twin babies were placed in his mum's care.
7 He says that this baffled him and asked how it can be
8 that he and his sister were at risk, but small babies
9 were placed with his mum.

10 He ran away on multiple occasions from abuse at his
11 mother's home but was always returned.

12 Moving now to paragraph 197 on page 39:

13 "I usually ran away because I was getting battered
14 by my mum or because I knew I was going to get hammered.
15 There was never any point in telling anyone why I was
16 running away.

17 My mum admitted to my social worker Amy, probably
18 not to the full extent, that she was taking her
19 frustrations out on me. I don't really know what she
20 admitted to, but she was able to convince Amy that
21 I must have deserved it and Amy covered up for my mum.

22 In terms of all the to-ing and fro-ing from
23 establishment to establishment, I didn't have a suitcase
24 or anything that I could take with me. Sometimes we
25 would go straight from school for a medical then on to

1 the next place. Someone, possibly Amy Galloway, would
2 go to my house and get clothes and other things for me.

3 When I went to the hearings that were set up
4 I basically never said anything because there was no
5 point and I was close to crying and couldn't talk.
6 I wasn't going to cry in front of them. I never got to
7 hear what was said at those hearings, I was only allowed
8 in for the last five minutes. They had their two-hour
9 discussion and I was there for the last five minutes.

10 Amy was supposed to be looking after my interests
11 and was supposed to be my social worker but she wasn't,
12 she was my mum's social worker and she defended my mum
13 to the hilt. There was even one point I actually stayed
14 over at Amy Galloway's house for a weekend maybe when I
15 was in first year at secondary school, because there was
16 nowhere else for me to go.

17 In [REDACTED] 1986, that's when I went back to live
18 with my mum and I left Pitlochry and I never went back
19 to care after that. I moved in with my cousin in Wishaw
20 and went to another school, but can't remember the name
21 of it. I could have left school at the end of fourth
22 year but I only had five O grades and standard grades.
23 In my fifth year I took my English, maths, history and
24 accounts at highers because I wanted to do accountancy.
25 I got a professional place in Glasgow University and

1 needed two highers in sixth year.

2 I was still on course to go to university and
3 everything was going fine until my cousin decided she
4 didn't want me to stay there any more so I had to go
5 back and live with my mum in 1988. It was fine at home
6 until March or April 1989 when my mum threw me out.
7 I came home and my mum had put all my stuff in black
8 bags. This was only six weeks before my school exams.

9 I thought that even though I was 18 and I was still
10 on the 'at risk' register so thought the social work
11 would pick me up and help me finish those last six weeks
12 at school. I went to Roslin House to see Amy Galloway
13 but I saw someone else. They told me I would have to go
14 to the council to sort out accommodation. They didn't
15 deny that I was still on the register and that I was
16 still under the social work and I thought for the sake
17 of six weeks and how it would affect someone's life they
18 would see sense and help me. They didn't.

19 I went to the council housing office and they told
20 me to go back to the social work as they had a list of
21 all the bed and breakfast places. I went back to the
22 social work and again tried to plead my case to help me
23 get past the exams but they didn't want to engage and
24 just gave me a list of bed and breakfast places.
25 I didn't know who would pay for it and no one gave me

1 any advice.

2 I sat down at the social work office one time and
3 told them I wasn't moving until I got help but they just
4 threatened to phone the police.

5 I went to look at one place but it was stinking and
6 there were too many people in one room so I just slept
7 on the street in North Inch. I went to the school and
8 explained to them what was happening but they said they
9 couldn't help me. All my school books were still at my
10 mum's and I went back multiple times to try and get them
11 but she just called the police. I never got back to the
12 school and I didn't sit my exams.

13 A priest saw me one night and he found me a homeless
14 hostel place in Perth. I stayed there but not for very
15 long and I decided to join the army, it was my only
16 option."

17 From paragraphs 209 to 214, 'Thomas' speaks of his
18 life after care. Moving now to paragraph 215 on
19 page 42:

20 "I'm sure that my sister and I reported the **LNG/SPO**
21 to the social work. We definitely told my aunt and I'm
22 sure the social worker at the time was also told by me
23 and my sister. Their response at that time was that
24 they had used the **LNG/SPO** for years and had never had
25 any problems and that they wouldn't do that. I'm not

1 sure if Amy Galloway was involved in this but she was
2 there from 1980 but I am not sure before then. We just
3 reported this once to the social work."

4 From paragraph 216, 'Thomas' speaks of reporting
5 abuse in other care settings and impact. He says that
6 there was little or no protection from any abuse and
7 there was a definite lack of support all through his
8 childhood. As the details of the impact on 'Thomas'
9 have to be understood in the context of his overall care
10 experiences, including multiple moves of home and school
11 and the abuse he suffered at home, I'll move to
12 paragraph 230 on page 45:

13 "The person most to blame in everything is Amy
14 Galloway, my social worker. Obviously my mum is the
15 biggest one to blame, but Amy Galloway was there for
16 a reason and she never once acted in a way that was
17 beneficial to me apart from that one time I demanded to
18 be put into care because I was frightened to go home."

19 And now to paragraph 235 on page 46:

20 "I tried to get my records and a social worker
21 called Claire at Cupar social work office tried to help
22 me and all they said at that time was that I would have
23 to go through to the Perth office and someone would have
24 to sit with me to look at the records. She said they
25 couldn't give me a copy of my records and that any names

1 other than my own would be redacted. I did try to
2 follow it up by phone to Perth social work and that's
3 when they said they couldn't find them anyway because
4 they had been flooded.

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

9 And 'Thomas' signed his statement on 25 October
10 2016.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

12 MS RATTRAY: And that --

13 LADY SMITH: I take it that's it for today, Ms Rattray?

14 MS RATTRAY: -- concludes the evidence for today, my Lady.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 Before I rise I should mention some foster parents'
17 names, the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], LNG/SPO and LNH/SPO [REDACTED],
18 that are covered by my general restriction order, not
19 for repetition outside this room.

20 Otherwise, I rise until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning
21 and we will start with ...?

22 MS RATTRAY: With further oral witnesses tomorrow, my Lady.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

24 (4.13 pm)

25 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

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