

1 Tuesday, 4 October 2022

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the first day this  
4 week of evidence in relation to our foster care and  
5 boarding-out case study.

6 We're due to hear from three witnesses giving oral  
7 evidence today. I think that's still the plan, is that  
8 right, Ms Innes, with one of them ready to give  
9 evidence?

10 MS INNES: Yes, that's correct, my Lady.

11 The first witness this morning is Pol Martin.  
12 Pol Martin was a foster carer with Tayside Regional  
13 Council and then Perth and Kinross Council from  
14 3 December 1993 to 8 January 1999.

15 By way of background, Pol Martin refers to himself  
16 as a Mainstay carer. This was something which we  
17 understand was introduced by Tayside Regional Council  
18 and then taken on to some extent by the successor  
19 authorities. We heard about it in evidence from  
20 Glyn Lloyd from Dundee City Council on Day 287,  
21 20 May 2022, beginning at page 45 of the transcript and  
22 following, where he is referring to a document which has  
23 the reference DUN-000000694 at page 8, where it says:

24 "In 1985, Tayside Regional Council established its  
25 first professional foster carers scheme called Mainstay

1 with the introduction of a financial reward or fee  
2 element in addition to the allowance for the child.  
3 Specialist fostering schemes were being established  
4 across the country and were introduced to provide foster  
5 placements for older children where it had been  
6 traditionally difficult to place them in foster care.  
7 The fee was in recognition that additional skills and  
8 knowledge would be required to provide for older  
9 children's needs."

10 The document goes on to say:

11 "Initially it provided for older children aged 9 to  
12 17."

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS INNES: An applicant with the pseudonym 'Anthony' was in  
15 the care of Tayside Regional Council. He was in  
16 a foster care or Mainstay placement with Pol Martin in  
17 Perth from [REDACTED] 1993 until about [REDACTED] 1995. His  
18 statement was read in on Day 327, 27 September 2022.  
19 Perth and Kinross Council is the responsible authority.

20 Your Ladyship will also recall that at that time  
21 reference was made to the conviction of Pol Martin,  
22 which is at JUS-0000000087. I don't know whether  
23 Your Ladyship wants to see that conviction at present?

24 LADY SMITH: I think we probably should. We've done that  
25 with the other ones who've had convictions. I think

1       it's been helpful to see the text of it at the outset.

2   MS INNES:   JUS-000000087.  On 20 October 2008 Pol Martin  
3       pled guilty to five charges of sexual offences against  
4       four complainers -- for the avoidance of doubt, not the  
5       applicant that I've just referred to -- and one charge  
6       of failing to appear at a diet.

7       The charges, which I'll go on to in a moment, if we  
8       move to page 2, the charges covered various periods, the  
9       earliest of which was 1 December 1988 and the last was  
10      30 November 1999.

11   LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

12   MS INNES:  Just looking at the charges.

13       At charge 2 we see a charge of lewd and libidinous  
14       practices and behaviour towards a boy then aged between  
15       14 and 15, and that was between [REDACTED] 1994 and  
16       [REDACTED] 1995.

17       Charge 3 is in respect of the same complainer but  
18       for a different period, [REDACTED] 1995 to  
19       [REDACTED] 1997, and is an assault.

20       If we go over the page to page 3, we see various  
21       occasions between January 1993 and 30 July 1997,  
22       a charge of lewd and libidinous practices and behaviour  
23       towards a boy then aged between 11 and 15.

24       Charge 6 is a single occasion between  
25       1 December 1988 and 30 November 1999, a charge of

1 assault.

2 Then over the page at charge 8, various occasions  
3 between [REDACTED] 1995 to [REDACTED] 1996, a charge  
4 of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour  
5 towards a boy then aged 15, who I understand was a boy  
6 who was in foster care with Mr Martin at the time.

7 Then the final charge is the charge in respect of  
8 failure to appear without reasonable excuse.

9 If we go back to page 1 and scroll down a little,  
10 we'll see that the sentence was of six years'  
11 imprisonment in cumulo in respect of charges 2, 3, 4, 6  
12 and 8, and two years and three months in respect of  
13 charge 12, running consecutively.

14 LADY SMITH: It's striking that the accused's age across the  
15 span of those charges was still -- he was quite a young  
16 adult. I think the earliest, he was 21 and the last of  
17 them he was almost 30 but hadn't reached his 30th  
18 birthday. Is that right?

19 MS INNES: Yes. I think Mr Martin says in his statement  
20 that at the time that he was approved as a foster carer,  
21 which was in 1993, so in the middle of that period, he  
22 was 25.

23 LADY SMITH: Yes. But he'd started offending before then,  
24 as it turns out?

25 MS INNES: Before then, yes.



1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 Pol Martin (affirmed)

3 LADY SMITH: The first question I have for you is one which

4 I hope you'll find easy to answer. How would you like

5 me to address you, by Pol or Mr Martin?

6 A. Pol.

7 LADY SMITH: Pol, you'll see there's a red folder there,

8 that has your statement in it. You'll be taken to that

9 in a moment.

10 Also, I think you're in quite a good position for

11 that microphone. If I could ask you to keep in a good

12 position, we need to hear you through the sound system.

13 Separately, Pol, I do appreciate that we've brought

14 you here to answer questions which take you back to

15 a time of your life that you no doubt are not

16 comfortable with and you find it difficult to revisit.

17 I make no apologies for doing that. We do it in the

18 interests of children, children in the past, children

19 now and children in the future. That's what this public

20 inquiry is all about.

21 But I appreciate it may be difficult for you at

22 times, it may be upsetting, and if you want a break,

23 just let me know. Sitting there, leaving the room, we

24 can accommodate that. My wish is to do anything I can

25 to enable you to give your evidence as clearly and

1       carefully and accurately as you can, so if handling the  
2       evidence session in a particular way is something you'd  
3       ask me to do, do let me know.

4   A.   Okay.

5   LADY SMITH:  Before we turn to your evidence, of course I do  
6       know, Pol, that you were convicted of a number of  
7       charges some years ago, but it may be that you feel that  
8       some of the questioning we have for you takes you into  
9       an area in relation to allegations of which you have not  
10      been convicted.

11         This is a public inquiry, it's not a court, but you  
12      are in a place where you're giving evidence in public,  
13      a transcript is being made of your evidence, and it's  
14      important that you understand what you say could be  
15      relied on outwith the Inquiry.  In these circumstances,  
16      let me warn you that if you are asked any questions the  
17      answers to which might incriminate you in relation to  
18      something of which you have not been convicted, you're  
19      not obliged to answer them.

20   A.   (Witness nods)

21   LADY SMITH:  If you choose to answer them, you must do so  
22       fully, but I'm sure you appreciate that follows.

23         If at any time you have any doubts or want to check  
24      about that, do speak up and let me know.  Have you any  
25      other questions at the moment?

1 A. No.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you. If you're ready, I'll hand over to

3 Ms Innes.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

6 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

7 Questions from Ms Innes

8 MS INNES: Pol, we understand that you were born in 1966.

9 Is that correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Sorry, could I just -- I'm having trouble hearing.

12 Q. Right, if I try and carry on, is that okay?

13 A. That's a bit better, yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: Sorry to interrupt, Pol, were you able to hear

15 me all right?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Fine, thank you.

18 Ms Innes.

19 MS INNES: Thank you.

20 Can I refer first of all to your statement, please,

21 and we give it the reference WIT-1-000000932. If we can

22 look, please, at the last page of it to begin with,

23 page 34, and at paragraph 148, we see there that it

24 says:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
2 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
3 true."  
4 I believe you signed the statement electronically on  
5 9 March 2022; is that right?  
6 A. Correct.  
7 Q. I want to go back to some of the things that you tell us  
8 at the beginning of your statement.  
9 You tell us at paragraph 3 a little bit about  
10 various things that you did before you became a foster  
11 carer. I think that one of those things was working at  
12 a community centre, Letham Community Centre, in Perth?  
13 A. Correct.  
14 Q. You worked there as a leisure assistant?  
15 A. (Witness nods)  
16 Q. I think you'd also worked at something run by PGL  
17 Leisure --  
18 A. Correct.  
19 Q. -- at Dalguise Activity Centre?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. What sort of work did you do there? Was that with  
22 children or with adults?  
23 A. It was as a group leader with children.  
24 Q. Okay. Where did the children come from to --  
25 A. All over Scotland.

1 Q. Okay. Were these children who had social work  
2 involvement or not?

3 A. No. The majority of the customers were schools.

4 Q. I see, okay.

5 You then say that after your time working at Letham,  
6 you then say around this time you became a foster carer,  
7 and we'll come back to that in a moment. You say you  
8 also have a diploma in social work as well?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. When did you undertake that?

11 A. The date -- I think I graduated in 1996?

12 Q. Okay. What length of course was that, can you remember?

13 Was it --

14 A. Two years.

15 Q. A two-year course, okay.

16 Then you say that you went to work with the National  
17 Foster Care Association?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. You worked as a development worker?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. You talk about being based in Glasgow at the  
22 time?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Were you still living in Perth and working as a foster  
25 carer --

1 A. Yes, I was. Yes.

2 Q. -- at the time that you were doing that job?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was that a full-time role or a part-time role?

5 A. It was a full-time role.

6 Q. You say that your role was to work with different Local  
7 Authorities across the country developing through  
8 care --

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. -- for young people? Okay.

11 If we can move on, please, to page 2 and  
12 paragraph 7, you talk about how it was that you became  
13 a foster carer.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Why did you decide to become a foster carer?

16 A. Well, I was working with children and young people when  
17 I was at Dalguise and I had a good rapport with them and  
18 I had had a good upbringing myself, so I thought that it  
19 would be something I wanted to do.

20 Q. So what did you say your own upbringing? Sorry,  
21 I didn't quite catch what you said.

22 A. I had a very good upbringing myself, a very positive  
23 upbringing.

24 Q. Right, okay. And you say that you became friendly with  
25 some of the support workers, including a Steve Waugh?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Who was based at Colonsay Avenue?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is that an office or is that a residential home?

5 A. It might have previously been a residential home, but it

6 was when I knew it as an office.

7 Q. You talk about this person bringing young people -- was

8 that to Dalguise?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You say that they were mainly boys and they would stay

11 for two and sometimes three months in the summer?

12 A. No, that's not correct. I've just seen that there.

13 Sometimes they only came for a day and they might stay

14 for two or three nights depending on their needs, but it

15 was always over the summer months, the two to three

16 months of the summer.

17 Q. Okay, so what you mean is it was over the summer that

18 that was happening?

19 A. Yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: And was it mainly boys?

21 And was it mainly boys, as your statement says?

22 A. Yes, it was, yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS INNES: If we go on over the page to the top of page 3,

25 you say that you had a chat with some of the staff in

1        what was called Mainstay fostering for Tayside Regional  
2        Council.  
3    A.    Correct.  
4    Q.    Why was it that you spoke to people involved in this  
5        particular type of fostering?  
6    A.    I -- I can't actually recall why it was that team, but  
7        Steve worked in -- Steve Waugh was in the same building  
8        as the Mainstay team in Perth, I think it might have  
9        been to do -- for that reason.  
10   Q.    Okay. You say at paragraph 8 that you believed because  
11        of the work you were doing at the time that was enough  
12        experience suitable to become a foster carer?  
13   A.    Yes.  
14   Q.    I just want to be clear, was that your thoughts or was  
15        that the approach of the social work department?  
16   A.    That was the approach of the social work department.  
17   Q.    Okay. You say as long as your employer gave you a good  
18        reference and checked you out, as well as any police  
19        references, that was sufficient?  
20   A.    Yes.  
21   Q.    Was that all that you can remember Tayside doing before  
22        you were approved as a foster carer?  
23   A.    No. There was a training course we had to attend as  
24        well.  
25   Q.    Okay, we'll come to that in a moment. So there were



1 references that had to be checked and you had to attend  
2 training?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. Okay.  
5 A. And obviously we had to be approved by the child  
6 protection panel -- I can't remember exactly, but you  
7 had to be approved.  
8 LADY SMITH: By the child protection ...?  
9 A. Panel.  
10 LADY SMITH: Paul, I think you're sitting back from the  
11 microphone just towards the end of each answer.  
12 A. Right.  
13 LADY SMITH: Don't sit back from it, if you stay close to  
14 the microphone so we can hear every word.  
15 A. Okay.  
16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
17 MS INNES: At paragraph 9 you note that you were 25 at the  
18 time.  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. You say at the time you thought that was quite young to  
21 be a foster carer?  
22 A. Yes, I did.  
23 Q. So why did you go ahead with it if you were concerned  
24 about your age at the time?  
25 A. I think there was a belief in me and I had a belief in

1       myself that I would be able to do it.

2   Q.   When you say there was a belief in you that you would be  
3       able to do it, who had that belief?

4   A.   Well, the Mainstay team and the social workers who were  
5       involved in that.

6   Q.   Okay. You talk about them coming to assess your flat  
7       and checking that out.

8   A.   (Witness nods)

9   Q.   Okay.

10  A.   I didn't actually have a flat at the time that I was  
11       going through the training process and I was still at  
12       Dalguise, but then when I moved into Perth, I was still  
13       undergoing the training and assessment process, and then  
14       when I moved into my flat they assessed the flat then.

15  Q.   Okay. So did you move into your flat during the  
16       assessment process?

17  A.   Yes.

18  Q.   Okay. Then you talk about the training at paragraph 11  
19       and what did that training involve? How frequent was  
20       it?

21  A.   It was on Monday nights, I think it was either four  
22       weeks I think or five weeks, and it was for a couple of  
23       hours with other people who were considering being  
24       foster carers.

25  Q.   Okay.

1 A. But it wasn't just for Mainstay, it was for anybody  
2 considering foster caring.

3 Q. So it was general training for all --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- people considering fostering at that time?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. Can you remember any of the topics that were being  
8 covered at that training?

9 A. Each week there was sort of a different thing going.  
10 A lot of it was spent -- you would have foster -- people  
11 who are already approved as foster carers coming along  
12 and sharing their experience of what it was like, but  
13 there was information evenings on the children's panel,  
14 what happened at them, reasons why young people come  
15 into care, and safe caring, and there was a variety of  
16 different topics touched on.

17 Q. Okay. You say in the paragraph that we're looking at,  
18 paragraph 11, that the assessment report went through,  
19 it seemed to go okay, you didn't get told anything at  
20 the time. So I think this is at a meeting that you  
21 attended?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So this might be the panel that you were referring to?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 12 that there was quite

1 a lot of involvement from social work?

2 A. There was, yes, initially.

3 Q. Was that from a social worker who was assigned to you or

4 was that from the children's social workers?

5 A. It was both.

6 Q. You talk about them for the first year visiting your

7 flat once or twice a week?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Would you know that they were coming or would they --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- come unexpectedly?

12 A. No, they would come unexpectedly. Sometimes there was

13 a phone call to say, "Are you in? We're coming over".

14 Q. Okay. At paragraph 13 you say that you think that there

15 were reality checks in the training about how difficult

16 it could be?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. However, you talk about I think a lack of support at the

19 weekends and after hours --

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. -- at the time? Can you explain that?

22 A. When we did the training and assessment, you know, we

23 were told what support would be available, the Mainstay

24 team would be there during the day, social work should

25 be ... and then there was an out-of-hours service

1 available from Dundee through the night and at  
2 nighttime. Invariably if you needed to call that team,  
3 and there was a contact, they were busy, they were in  
4 Dundee. It's not that far away, it's only half an hour  
5 but it's still half an hour, and I just felt that there  
6 was a lack of support out of hours, credible support out  
7 of hours.

8 Q. Okay. I think you're saying that those were the times  
9 when you might need support --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- because the boys were in the house?

12 A. Yeah. It was.

13 Q. Okay. At the bottom part of page 4 you talk a bit more  
14 about the training. If we can move down to  
15 paragraph 15, you say that there was no specific  
16 training on children with different life experiences  
17 such as neglect.

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. Can you explain that a bit more?

20 A. The training that we got was very generalised and, you  
21 know, there was a variety of reasons why a child or  
22 young person couldn't live at home with their family,  
23 whether that be educational problems, problems in the  
24 family home, a whole variety of reasons, they were not  
25 being looked after right, there was concerns from the

1       welfare, but nothing specific.

2   Q.   Okay.  At paragraph 16 you talk about child protection  
3       training and was that delivered prior to you becoming  
4       a foster carer?

5   A.   There was -- it was covered in the training prior to  
6       being a foster carer, but then when we were approved as  
7       foster carers there was probably every six to eight  
8       months there was covers -- it was covered in bi-monthly  
9       meetings that we had, foster carers' support group.

10  Q.   It was covered at one of the support group meetings?

11  A.   Yeah.

12  Q.   Okay.  You say that the focus was probably on you being  
13       a single male carer.  Can you explain that, please?

14  A.   Yeah, because it was unusual and there were certainly  
15       female foster carers in Tayside Region but there  
16       wasn't -- there was one other single male carer that  
17       I knew of, [REDACTED] so there was a lot of focus on making  
18       sure that I was doing the right things and they were  
19       doing the right things.

20  LADY SMITH:  What do you mean when you say "focus"?  In  
21       practice, what did that amount to.

22  A.   Well, for me it felt like -- you know, that I was being  
23       supported, being more visits than probably would usually  
24       happen, because my support network wasn't as great as  
25       probably family carers were.  That there was things put

1           in place to try and support me, whether that be  
2           out-of-school clubs, activities for the boys, whatever.  
3   LADY SMITH: Are you telling me that was because you were  
4           a single foster career --  
5   A. Yes.  
6   LADY SMITH: -- or particularly because you were a male  
7           single foster carer?  
8   A. I think specifically because I was a male foster carer.  
9   LADY SMITH: What was it about what they were doing that was  
10          directed towards your needs as a male foster carer?  
11   A. Because I was running a house on my own and I was also  
12          working and to try and ensure that the placement was  
13          a success.  
14   LADY SMITH: Well, that might apply to a woman.  
15   A. Sorry?  
16   LADY SMITH: That might apply to a woman just as much.  
17   A. It might have, but I have no experience of what happened  
18          with the women, but to me it felt like -- certainly was  
19          said to me because I was a single male carer, that there  
20          would be extra supports there for me.  
21   LADY SMITH: I just wondered, you said that some of the  
22          things that you were told was about taking care how you  
23          interacted with the children and then issues around  
24          sexuality.  
25   A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: What was that? What were you told?

2 A. Because of the age of the boys that I fostered, they

3 were teenagers, there was some talk around from the sort

4 of what was appropriate what to speak to them about and

5 how to handle issues of sexuality and what went on the

6 there.

7 LADY SMITH: How were you to handle them?

8 A. Delicately. Be careful what I said. Use the right

9 terminology and things like that.

10 LADY SMITH: All right. Thank you.

11 MS INNES: Okay. If we can go on over the page, please, to

12 page 5 and paragraph 17, where you talk about a lack of

13 training in terms of disciplining children.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Were you told about how to manage behaviour?

16 A. Well -- yes, I was told how to manage behaviour. You

17 know, try and remain calm, and I was restricted in what

18 I could do. I could take away pocket money, ground

19 them, not allow them out and activities could not take

20 place, but that was about the sum of it. But

21 anything -- anything that needed to happen, I should

22 consult with the social worker first.

23 Q. Okay. And what about restraint? Were you given any

24 training in relation to the use of restraint?

25 A. No. No.



1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Not that I can recall, no.

3 Q. If we can move down, please, to paragraph 20, you talk  
4 about some written information that you were given and  
5 you say that all that you received was an A4  
6 double-sided leaflet?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Did that have multiple pages in it or was it just --

9 A. Not, it was just double sided. Double sided.

10 Q. Did that contain any useful guidance about your role as  
11 a foster carer or not?

12 A. It contained information of who you could -- who you  
13 should contact, what your contact should be with parents  
14 and why the kids were in foster care and role at  
15 children's panel hearings and schooling, medical. The  
16 general bits of information.

17 Q. Okay. You then go on at paragraph 21 to talk about  
18 verbal instruction or guidance and you say that every  
19 social worker had a different opinion on how things  
20 should be approached and every support worker had  
21 a different concern. Do you mean there that what the  
22 workers were doing was tailored to the individual child?  
23 Or do you mean that they had their own opinions and it  
24 varied between workers?

25 A. Well, it depended on the individual child, the social

1 worker for that child had things that they wanted done  
2 for that child. So yeah, it was specific to that child.

3 Q. Okay. Now if we go on over the page to page 6 and  
4 paragraph 22, you say that you hope that the training  
5 has changed and essentially I think you're saying that  
6 the training was superficial --

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. -- and it didn't adequately prepare you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Can you explain your thoughts in relation to  
11 that? How did it not adequately prepare you?

12 A. The training that we received gave you an overview of  
13 what -- of situations what could happen, how could we  
14 ... we had experience from other foster carers, but it  
15 didn't prepare you for the reality of somebody  
16 kicking -- a boy kicking off and the swearing and  
17 shouting and kicking and it just didn't do that and how  
18 you were to manage that. Because, yes, the guidance  
19 was, well, just ring for support, but in the heat of the  
20 moment you can't ring for support, you had to manage the  
21 situation, and I don't think it did -- the training  
22 did -- gave you an overview but it would be like me  
23 reading an iPhone manual and I can see what it can do,  
24 but until I start doing it, I don't know how it's going  
25 to work.

1 Q. You said you might ring for support, but if that was out  
2 of hours you might have a problem in doing that. Were  
3 you able to discuss with your support worker how you  
4 might manage these issues if they arose again? Were you  
5 given verbal guidance?

6 A. Yes, you were, yeah.

7 Q. What was the advice, can you remember, about how to  
8 manage behaviour?

9 A. Deescalate the problem as best as possible, walk away  
10 from it and let them calm down.

11 Q. At paragraph 23 you talk about a person coming to stay  
12 with you and we are using the pseudonym 'Anthony',  
13 I think you know who I'm referring to, so the applicant  
14 who has given a statement to the Inquiry, whose  
15 statement you have seen and responded to --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- in your own statement. You say that you met  
18 'Anthony' while you were going through the assessment  
19 process?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How did that come about?

22 A. I think that -- I'm not sure how it came about to be  
23 honest with you, but my feeling was that the Mainstay  
24 team identified that FIY [REDACTED] might be suitable -- as  
25 I might be a suitable placement for FIY [REDACTED] to have,

1       because I was in Perth and I could meet his needs.

2   Q.   Okay. How soon after the first meeting did he move in

3       with you, can you remember?

4   A.   It was very quick. I think Steve Waugh brought him

5       round to meet me, we spent a couple of hours together,

6       and it was within a couple of days that he was --

7       I think he was -- if memory serves, he was in a -- in

8       a house in Crieff with some support workers and it

9       wasn't working out there for him.

10  Q.   Okay. At this point you hadn't been approved?

11  A.   No, I hadn't been formally approved as a foster carer.

12  Q.   Had you completed all of the training at this point?

13  A.   Yes.

14  Q.   You say here that you were asked if you would take him

15       on a short-term basis, even although you hadn't been

16       approved?

17  A.   Yes.

18  Q.   How did you feel about that? Did you have any concerns

19       about that or not?

20  A.   I had some concerns about it, but I'd already met FIY

21       and he came across as affable and -- I thought we'd be

22       able to get on together. And I knew my hearing -- my

23       meeting was in a couple of weeks' time and I felt, well,

24       if the Mainstay team feel I can do it, then why not?

25  Q.   If we can just have a look at a couple of documents just

1 to see the chronology here, so first of all  
2 PKC-000000153, page 2. This is a meeting with 'Anthony'  
3 and a Lesley Lovatt and you --  
4 A. Yeah.  
5 Q. -- on [REDACTED] 1993. Can you remember who  
6 Lesley Lovatt was?  
7 A. Lesley Lovatt was one of the Mainstay support workers.  
8 Q. Then it says:  
9 "Brief meeting went very well. Arranged further  
10 meeting next week (Thursday) between [you] and  
11 'Anthony'."  
12 Then if we can move on to another document, please,  
13 it's PKC-000000154, and if we can look, please, at  
14 page 7. This is a social worker's report for a case  
15 review. If we can look down the page we see that it's  
16 a review on 8 December 1993. If we look down to the  
17 text, it says:  
18 "Present circumstances:  
19 'Anthony' is presently residing [with you] in  
20 a respite care situation. 'Anthony' was moved to  
21 you ..."  
22 The date there is [REDACTED] 1993. So I think, as  
23 you've said, your recollection was that you met him and  
24 very shortly?  
25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- thereafter he moved to live with you and that's borne  
2 out by this document?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Then if we scroll down a little, please, the next  
5 paragraph talks about 'Anthony' having moved to Nimmo  
6 Place Children's Home:

7 "It was recommended that the placement should be  
8 short term with him moving eventually to a Mainstay  
9 foster placement. By [REDACTED] 1993 with no Mainstay  
10 placement available, his behaviour had reached a level  
11 of concern whereby he, with residential staff, had moved  
12 to a property in Crieff, [as you've mentioned] where  
13 staff remained with him on a one-to-one basis to relieve  
14 the crisis. There was still no Mainstay placement  
15 available at this stage, however, a prospective carer  
16 [you] was about to go to the foster panel, all checks  
17 and assessments having been completed."

18 Then it says:

19 "It was considered that [you] would be a suitable  
20 carer for 'Anthony'. It was considered therefore that  
21 pending a foster panel for [you] and a Children's  
22 Hearing for 'Anthony', he could go to you on a respite  
23 basis and to assess the compatibility of both of you."

24 Then I think if we go on over the page, at the top  
25 of the page we see:

1 "Due to illness and cancellation of two foster  
2 carers panels, you weren't formally accepted until  
3 Friday, 3 December."

4 I think that would have been when the panel took  
5 place --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- that you mentioned where you were approved as  
8 a carer?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. But by that stage 'Anthony' had been with you since

11 [REDACTED] --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- as we've seen. Okay, thank you.

14 If we can go back to your statement, please, and if  
15 we can look at page 7, paragraph 26. You say that you  
16 thought of yourself as employed by the Local Authority?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you explain why you did?

19 A. Mainstay carers were different from other foster carers,  
20 in that we got an allowance every fortnight --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- for having the boys and girls with us.

23 Q. Okay. So you regarded yourself as being employed by  
24 them?

25 A. I regarded myself as being in the service of Tayside

1 Regional Council. I didn't pay tax or National  
2 Insurance on any of the money I got from the Local  
3 Authority.

4 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 30, if we look down the page,  
5 you say that you viewed foster care as both a profession  
6 and a vocation. Can you explain that, please?

7 A. It really took over your life, what you were doing, and  
8 I got a lot out of it, but it took a great part of your  
9 life in doing it.

10 Q. Okay. At the end of this page at paragraph 31 you say  
11 that thinking about things now, you think foster carers  
12 should have childcare qualifications. Why do you think  
13 that?

14 A. I think it's obvious from the mistakes I made and you  
15 know if I'd been better prepared, better trained, then  
16 I wouldn't have made those mistakes and people should go  
17 into it with their eyes fully wide open and know that  
18 every child is individual, every child is different and  
19 will present different issues and difficulties, but  
20 there really has to be an in-depth either support  
21 network or training network for that.

22 Q. Okay. You say here that you learned a lot more about  
23 child development during your course at Perth College --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- than you had done in the previous three years of



1       being a foster carer.

2   A.   (Witness nods)

3   Q.   I think you told us that you -- is this the

4       qualification that you told us that you finished in

5       1996?

6   A.   No, this was --

7   Q.   Is this something else?

8   A.   Yeah, this is a social care qualification.

9   Q.   When did do you that?

10  A.   I did that I think it was 1994/1995. No, 1993/1994,

11       because it's a two year course for the social work. It

12       was just a one-year course.

13  Q.   Okay, so was this before you did the --

14  A.   Social work.

15  Q.   -- social work course?

16  A.   Yes.

17  Q.   Okay. From what you're saying -- well, 1994/1995 is

18       during the time that you were a foster carer?

19  A.   Yeah.

20  Q.   Okay. You mentioned in your answer a moment ago that if

21       people had childcare qualifications they wouldn't make

22       the mistakes that you made?

23  A.   Mm-hmm.

24  Q.   I'm trying to understand that in a context where you did

25       have a qualification?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. Can you explain that?

3 A. No, I can't explain it.

4 Q. When you say the mistakes that you made, what mistakes  
5 are you referring to?

6 A. I'm referring to the abuse that I inflicted upon some of  
7 my victims.

8 Q. Okay. Do you think having a qualification would have  
9 made any difference?

10 A. I'm not saying the qualification would have made any  
11 difference, but the knowledge and being able to, you  
12 know, understand what -- because sexual abuse or abuse  
13 of any kind, neglect, wasn't covered in the training  
14 that we got. It just wasn't covered and it was very --  
15 it was mentioned, it was an overview, but there was no  
16 in depth.

17 Q. Okay, well, you told us a moment ago that you had child  
18 protection training --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and there was safe caring you mentioned as well?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Surely that would contain an element of basically  
23 telling you that you shouldn't abuse children in your  
24 care?

25 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

1 Q. Okay.

2 If we can move on from that in your statement to

3 page 8 and paragraph 35. You talk about two of the boys

4 who you admitted to abusing and were these boys who had

5 social work involvement in their lives?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. How was it that you got to know them?

8 A. I got to know them when they -- the older one came to

9 Dalguise.

10 Q. Okay. You talk about being friends with their parents?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And they would come and visit you and stay over?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You then say:

15 "Their staying over was approved by the social work

16 department."

17 A. Yes, the social work were certainly aware of it.

18 Q. Was this before you became a foster carer that they were

19 staying over?

20 A. Yes, it was.

21 Q. So why were the social work department aware of it if

22 there was no social work involvement in their lives?

23 A. Because I told them about them, because you had to --

24 you know, let the social work department know of anybody

25 staying over.

1 Q. I'm just trying to understand why you would think that.  
2 I mean, if you have a private arrangement to have  
3 somebody stay over at your house, why would you tell the  
4 social work department about that?  
5 A. I'm not understanding your question, sorry.  
6 Q. Okay. Say you have a friend who wants you to babysit  
7 for their children. You're friends, and they come over  
8 and they stay. And even if that's a regular arrangement  
9 normally, you wouldn't tell the social work department  
10 about that. That would just be a private arrangement  
11 between you and your friend.  
12 A. (Witness nods)  
13 Q. But here you're saying that when these boys came to stay  
14 over with you, the social work department had to approve  
15 that?  
16 A. They didn't approve it on every occasion, but they were  
17 aware that they were staying over.  
18 Q. How were they aware that they were staying over?  
19 A. I'm sure I would have probably told them.  
20 Q. If this was prior to you becoming a foster carer, how  
21 was it that the social work department became aware?  
22 A. Because it probably would have came up in the assessment  
23 who my support network was and their parents would have  
24 been as part of my support network.  
25 Q. I see, so you're referring to them knowing about it

1           during the assessment process?

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   Okay. During your assessment process, do you know if

4           the social workers spoke to the boys or to their

5           parents?

6   A.   I can't recall.

7   Q.   Okay. At paragraph 37 you talk about issues going on

8           with their family and you describe them as being

9           deliberately kept from the social work department by you

10          and the boy's mother?

11  A.   Mm-hmm.

12  Q.   And this concerned drug use?

13  A.   Yeah.

14  Q.   Just again in terms of the timing, when was this going

15          on? Was this before you became a foster carer or after?

16  A.   It was before and after.

17  Q.   Okay. You go on at the bottom of this page, at

18          paragraph 38, to talk about the number of children that

19          were fostered by you. I think you say that in total you

20          fostered seven children?

21  A.   I believe so, yes.

22  Q.   That's not all at the same time --

23  A.   No.

24  Q.   -- that's at different periods?

25  A.   Yeah.

1 Q. In terms of the number of boys that you had with you at  
2 any one time, what was the maximum number that you had?  
3 A. In foster care?  
4 Q. Yes.  
5 A. Three at one point I think it was.  
6 Q. Okay. At that point did you still have the two boys  
7 that we've talked about coming over to stay for --  
8 A. Not both of them at the same time, it wouldn't be. It  
9 would be one or the other.  
10 Q. Okay. So there could be maybe three or four boys in the  
11 house at the one time?  
12 A. Mm-hmm.  
13 Q. If we move on to page 12, paragraph 49, you say there  
14 that when you think now about how things should have  
15 been different, you think that you shouldn't have had  
16 more than one placement?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. Why is that?  
19 A. Well, at the time I thought I was Superman, I could  
20 manage anything that the social work department could  
21 throw at me, and -- but I was masking a lot of the time,  
22 I wasn't doing a great job. And, you know, hindsight's  
23 a great thing and -- you know, I was causing damage.  
24 And I think that could have been, should have been  
25 picked up earlier.

1 Q. How do you think it could have been picked up earlier?

2 A. Other than a social worker living with me 24/7 and, you

3 know, support visits tended to be on the clock and you'd

4 have 15/20 minutes, how are things going? Everything

5 okay? And there was very little in-depth conversations,

6 very little in-depth knowledge.

7 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 15, paragraph 66, you

8 talk about going to the United States.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I think you took some of the boys that you've mentioned

11 there?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So 'Anthony' was taken to the United States by you; is

14 that right?

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. 'Anthony' was taken --

17 A. Yes, he was.

18 Q. -- by you.

19 The two boys who you had the informal staying over

20 arrangement with --

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Did they go there as well? Okay.

23 This was to Vacation Camp for Rehabilitation for the

24 Blind?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You describe that you were a programme director for  
2 that?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. And you would go in the summer and spend from the end of  
5 June to the second week in August there?  
6 A. Mm-hmm.  
7 Q. Did you do that every year during the time that you were  
8 a foster carer or not?  
9 A. No, no, I did it for three years. I'd done it prior to  
10 being a foster carer.  
11 Q. Right, okay.  
12 A. And I'd done it for two years prior to being a foster  
13 carer and then I continued it for a further two years.  
14 Q. I think you took 'Anthony', as we've said, and I think  
15 you took another boy who was also in foster care with  
16 you?  
17 A. (Witness nods)  
18 Q. If we look at page 16, paragraph 67, you talk about  
19 another boy being there --  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. -- with you but in the winter --  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. -- for a short period of time?  
24 A. Mm.  
25 Q. If we move on to page 18, paragraph 79, you discuss



1        issues of discipline there. And you describe yourself  
2        as feeling at times out of your depth.

3    A. Yes.

4    Q. Why was that?

5    A. Probably my own life experiences. I grew up in a small  
6        rural part of Northern Ireland during the time of the  
7        Troubles, where we were surrounded by violence and my  
8        own father wasn't violent and we never experienced any  
9        violence in the home, and you know certainly we would  
10       not -- in my generation we would not talk back to our  
11       elders and we would not disrespect them, we would not  
12       kick out at them. And this was a totally new situation  
13       that I was in and I struggled with it at times.

14   Q. Okay. You say that because the way in which the boys  
15       behaved, it was quite intimidating and whilst you saw  
16       yourself as in a position of responsibility, you didn't  
17       feel like you had a position of authority?

18   A. Correct.

19   Q. Then I think you go on to the top of page 19, where you  
20       say you think you tried to go out of your way to be  
21       their best pal?

22   A. Yes.

23   Q. You think that's maybe where some of the issues came  
24       from?

25   A. Yeah.

1 Q. Can you explain that?

2 A. Yeah, I wanted to be their best friend, their big  
3 brother, their uncle, because they weren't looking for  
4 a father or mother figure, they had their own parents,  
5 and they didn't want somebody replacing them. But it  
6 could be very difficult to have authority over that.  
7 And when, you know, a lot of the boys felt that the  
8 position of authority was the social worker and the  
9 children's panel, not their foster carer.

10 Q. Okay. If we look down on page 19 to paragraphs 82 and  
11 83, you talk about there being training in respect of  
12 hugging?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So that would suggest that there was some training in  
15 relation to physical touch?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. At paragraph 83 you talk about there being a slide about  
18 a good hug and a bad hug --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- with a good hug involving not too close contact --

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. -- whereas a bad hug was a proper hug?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. So it looks as though you were given some training  
25 about --

1 A. This training was completed during support meetings, not  
2 the actual assessment process.

3 Q. So this was later on?

4 A. Yeah. This was later on. And it was a slide and  
5 a handout of the slide.

6 Q. Okay. If we can move on to page 21 and paragraph 89,  
7 you talk there about meetings with the social workers  
8 and you say that you think that there's a need for more  
9 formal meetings rather than informal?

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 Q. Why do you say that?

12 A. The support group meetings were very informal affairs,  
13 you know, a chat over a cup of tea and a coffee, and you  
14 weren't required to attend and they weren't mandatory  
15 for you to attend, but you were encouraged to attend and  
16 it was a very convenient setting, couches, sitting  
17 around having a chat about what was going on and what  
18 issues you were going to cover. I felt that there could  
19 have been more structure and, you know, formal training  
20 brought in to those evenings than like -- we did one on,  
21 which was probably covered in ten minutes, tactile  
22 hugging, but -- and they were few and far between.

23 Q. Okay. What about the meetings with your support worker?  
24 Did you feel that these were informal?

25 A. Yeah, they usually took place in the home.

1 Q. Okay. Do you think these should have been more formal?  
2 That you should have had more formal meetings with your  
3 support worker?  
4 A. I think getting the right balance of formal and  
5 informality would have been better.  
6 Q. Okay. If we move on, please, in your statement to  
7 paragraph 107 on page 25. You talk about doing the  
8 Making Changes Moving Forward programme for sex  
9 offenders when you were in prison and you say that you  
10 learned a lot through this about yourself and what went  
11 wrong. What did you learn about what went wrong?  
12 A. That I got it wrong. I allowed things to spiral out of  
13 control. I masked what was happening. And I was using  
14 illegal substances to get me through the day and I was  
15 taking on too much at one time and that I wasn't a good  
16 person any longer.  
17 Q. Okay. If we move down to paragraph 109, you say that in  
18 1997 you remember not being well and having depression,  
19 and you say that when this was brought up you felt under  
20 attack?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Can you explain that?  
23 A. Yeah, when it was brought up through my medical records  
24 and me disclosing it to them that I wasn't doing well,  
25 it was like -- I felt that I was being, you know, being

1 put down and, you know, well, what can we do to help  
2 you? What can we do? Are you fit for this? Are you  
3 going to have a breakdown? Are you thinking about  
4 suicide? Those were the sort of things that were being  
5 said to me and that wasn't where I was. And I just felt  
6 that I was -- you know, for the work I put in, that  
7 I was under attack at that point.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And I went looking for support and I went away feeling:  
10 I'm not going to get support. And, you know, that they  
11 were trying to cover their backs.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I think that was borne out when I had a -- my  
14 registration being renewed and I went to the  
15 registration meeting and it was horrible sitting there,  
16 people discussing -- 12 people I didn't -- nine people  
17 I didn't know, discussing my mental health. But not  
18 discussing it with me, discussing it at me.

19 Q. Okay. Was that around the same time in 1997 --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- or was that later?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Did you carry on being a foster carer after that?

24 A. No. No. My last placement was that year.

25 Q. Okay. Why was it that you stopped being a foster carer

1           then?

2    A.   Because I wasn't -- I couldn't do a full-time job.

3           I couldn't look after a young person at the same time.

4           I just couldn't do it.

5    Q.   Okay. Then if we look at pages 26 and 27, you refer to

6           the various convictions that you have?

7    A.   Yes.

8    Q.   You tell us at paragraph 111 that you pled guilty to six

9           charges and that plea was accepted?

10   A.   Yes.

11   Q.   Okay. You set out, I think, the terms of some of those

12          charges there.

13                 At paragraph 121 on page 27, I think you're

14          addressing the question of how it was that you were able

15          to commit these offences undetected?

16   A.   Yeah.

17   Q.   And how was that?

18   A.   On face value I was doing a good job as being a foster

19          carer, being able to manage full-time work and looking

20          after young people, but my life was spiralling out of

21          control, I was hiding a lot of things.

22   Q.   Did you think that the boys might tell anyone what was

23          happening?

24   A.   I -- it didn't even enter my head at the time as to why

25          would they? I just felt in my state of mind at the time

1       that this was okay, I justified it to myself that this  
2       was okay. It wasn't and I know it wasn't okay. But  
3       that's how I justified it to myself. That why would  
4       they tell? There was nothing wrong. Nothing wrong,  
5       nothing -- there was nothing wrong with it.

6   Q.   Okay. Did you threaten them not to tell anyone, for  
7       example?

8   A.   No, I didn't.

9   Q.   Were you offering them treats or incentives?

10  A.   I probably would -- the two that weren't in foster care,  
11       I was probably buying them clothing, taking them on  
12       trips, stuff like that, but it wasn't an outward -- it  
13       wasn't a bribe, it was just my way of thinking I could  
14       show them this is how I love you, this is what love is  
15       about.

16  Q.   Okay. You say that, I think, in a similar vein at  
17       paragraph 122 where you say that you knew what you were  
18       doing was wrong but you couldn't stop yourself and in  
19       your own twisted head at the time you told yourself it  
20       was okay and that "we would both enjoy it"?

21  A.   Yes.

22  Q.   Okay. At paragraph 123, you talk about your own  
23       background and you talk about having an abusive  
24       [REDACTED].

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. I think you say he was violent and he also sexually  
2 abused you, and you say that you couldn't talk to anyone  
3 about it at the time. You were between 7 and 11 at the  
4 time. Is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say:

7 "I think that might have helped my processing and  
8 that I might have felt protected by that, by my own  
9 thinking not by theirs. I don't know if they did or not  
10 or if they felt they could tell anyone."

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. Are you saying there that because of your own experience  
13 you hadn't told anyone, you thought the boys wouldn't  
14 tell anyone?

15 A. Yes, I think I was. When, you know, it had happened to  
16 me and I didn't tell anyone until my [REDACTED] had  
17 died and then it turns out that there were four or five  
18 other cousins who had the same experiences. It  
19 devastated my family, it devastated my father, it really  
20 devastated him, and -- but that that's why -- because --  
21 in my mind it was like, well, did it do me any harm?  
22 And why didn't I tell when I was that age? I didn't  
23 because [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and he was  
24 respected by everybody.

25 Q. During the time you were going through your assessment



1 as a foster career, did you tell anyone what had  
2 happened to you?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Were you asked?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Later during the time that you were a foster carer, did  
7 you ever talk to your support worker about what had  
8 happened to you?

9 A. No. Not that I recall. Because it -- it only became  
10 known within the family after [REDACTED] had died.

11 Q. When was that?

12 A. That was 1996.

13 Q. Okay. So after your [REDACTED] died, did you have any  
14 conversations with your social worker about it?

15 A. No, not that I can recall.

16 Q. Okay. At paragraph 124 you talk about being given  
17 permission to show a video channel for teenagers about  
18 sex?

19 A. Not a video channel, a video, it was a VHS cassette.

20 Q. Okay. In what context were you given permission to show  
21 this?

22 A. Because the issues were coming up in the home about  
23 development and -- you know, sexual development, and  
24 this was available from Channel 4. "Sex for Young  
25 People" I think it was called.

1 LADY SMITH: What do you mean when you say the issues were  
2 coming up about sexual development in the home? What's  
3 happening? Who was saying what?  
4 A. Well, the -- they were interested in girls and what  
5 happened between boys and girls and sex in general.  
6 LADY SMITH: How old were the boys that you had in the home  
7 at that time?  
8 A. They were 14, 15, 16.  
9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
10 Ms Innes.  
11 MS INNES: You go on to speak about it again at  
12 paragraph 125. You say that you think you had spoken to  
13 a support worker, Anna, that you had, about it.  
14 A. Yeah.  
15 Q. You say this was before you had started abusing boys?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. With the two boys who had stayed with you before you  
18 were a foster carer, you say that you'd discussed it  
19 with their mum and partner?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. "I think it gave me permission to start abusing."  
22 Can you explain that, please?  
23 A. Perhaps that's the wrong term, give me permission to  
24 abuse, but, you know, it was out in the open what sex  
25 was about, bodies and the difference between, and I felt

1       then at that point I could take the -- you know, this  
2       could develop further. You know, you can have intimate  
3       relationships.

4   Q. Okay, so in terms of the two boys that you mentioned,  
5       I think that in terms of what you pled guilty to, the  
6       abuse started at the beginning of January with the older  
7       boy?

8   A. Mm.

9   Q. And a year earlier than that, 1 January 1993, with the  
10      younger boy, so that was before you were approved as  
11      a foster carer.

12  A. Yes.

13  Q. Okay. In terms of the things that you pled guilty to,  
14      there is reference to you showing the boys pornographic  
15      films.

16  A. Mm-hmm.

17  Q. So is that this video or something else?

18  A. Yes, that's the only one that I can recall, yeah.

19  Q. It's the only one that you can recall, okay.

20       If you can move on, please, to page 29 and  
21      paragraph 128, you talk about who the children could  
22      have spoken to about any concerns and you say that there  
23      wasn't a lot of trust from foster care children towards  
24      the social workers?

25  A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Why was that?

2 A. I don't know why it was, but I don't recall -- I don't  
3 recall any information being given of how to handle  
4 this.

5 Q. Or the boys feeling that they could speak to their  
6 social worker, which I think is what you're talking  
7 about here?

8 A. I think it was made abundantly clear to them that they  
9 could talk to their social workers about anything, but  
10 there was often a lack of trust because the boys felt  
11 that they often -- that the social worker was the one  
12 punishing them for not being at home. So they were  
13 reluctant to share stuff with them.

14 Q. You mention Barnardo's there. Were you just a carer for  
15 Tayside and then Perth and Kinross?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you ever apply to Barnardo's?

18 A. I think at one stage I made some enquiries, but I didn't  
19 apply.

20 Q. Okay. If we move on to the specific allegations that  
21 you know that 'Anthony' mentioned in his statement. At  
22 paragraph 132 you say that you were quite surprised to  
23 read what he had said?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But I think you say there and then later on in your

1 statement that you do remember I think being spoken to  
2 by the police about allegations that 'Anthony' had made?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. I think they maybe came and visited you when you were in  
5 prison?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Was that in relation to allegations of sexual abuse?  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. You then set out the allegations that 'Anthony' has made  
10 against you and he says that you sexually abused him.  
11 Did you do that?  
12 A. Sorry?  
13 Q. Did you sexually abuse 'Anthony'?  
14 A. No, I did not.  
15 Q. If we look at paragraph 136, he talks about you trying  
16 to get him to masturbate you and do other things? Did  
17 you do that?  
18 A. No, I did not.  
19 Q. Then he also talks about you asking him to give him  
20 a blowjob. Did you ask him to do that?  
21 A. No, I did not.  
22 Q. Then at paragraph 137 he talks about a video being put  
23 on and he calls it "'The Joy of Sex', or something like  
24 that". First of all, pausing there, is that the video  
25 that you've already mentioned?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Was that the title of it?

3 A. No, that wasn't the title of it.

4 LADY SMITH: What was the title of it?

5 A. I think it was "Sex for Young People", it was  
6 a Channel 4 production. I'm not sure -- I can't recall  
7 the exact title, but that wasn't the title of it.

8 MS INNES: This was the video that you believe that's  
9 referred to in your conviction in respect --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- of the pornographic videos?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you remember 'Anthony' watching those videos with  
14 the other boys?

15 A. I can't remember 'Anthony' watching them, no.

16 Q. Is it possible that he did that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. He also talks about essentially the boys masturbating  
19 when the video was put on. Did that happen?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Then he also talks about you putting your hand down your  
22 jogging bottoms while you were watching it. Is that  
23 something that you did?

24 A. No. I certainly wore jogging bottoms, I worked at  
25 a leisure centre, but I --

1 LADY SMITH: Are you saying you did wear jogging bottoms?  
2 A. Yes, I did wear jogging bottoms. I worked at a leisure  
3 centre.  
4 MS INNES: Then at paragraph 138 you note 'Anthony's'  
5 allegation that he was sexually abused by you when he  
6 went to America. Did that happen?  
7 A. No, it didn't.  
8 Q. He mentions the other boys being there at the same time  
9 and you say that you've admitted your guilt in abusing  
10 them there?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. You say at the bottom of this page at paragraph 139, you  
13 talk about the police coming to speak to you.  
14 A. Yeah.  
15 Q. You say:  
16 "They said they wanted a statement from me about the  
17 facts but I never abused 'Anthony' either physically,  
18 mentally or sexually."  
19 Is that your position?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. Okay. Do you have any thoughts as to why 'Anthony' is  
22 saying what he is saying?  
23 A. No, I don't know why he's made these allegations. He  
24 never made them at the time. His placement ended quite  
25 positively. He still remained -- came and see us after

1 the placement ended. He went to stay with my family in  
2 Ireland, you know, so -- I don't know why he's made  
3 these allegations.

4 Q. Okay. Well, did the other boys who made allegations  
5 against you that you've admitted, did they make the  
6 allegations immediately or after the event?

7 A. No, after the event.

8 Q. Did you feel that you had a positive relationship with  
9 them at the time?

10 A. Yes, somewhat.

11 Q. I would like to ask you to look at some documents from  
12 the records, okay. If we start, please, with  
13 PSS-000024384. This is dated 27 February 1995 and is  
14 a statement by 'Anthony' in respect of an incident  
15 between you and him. If we look into the first  
16 paragraph it says:

17 "'Anthony' stated that he had been in the house on  
18 the morning of the 27th."

19 You had asked him to look after another boy who was  
20 also in placement with you.

21 Just so that you understand who's being talked about  
22 here, this is a foster child so is protected by the  
23 general restriction order, but it is [REDACTED]

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. I guess you remember him being in placement with you, do



1       you?

2    A.   (Witness nods)

3    Q.   You then see that if we can go down to a paragraph that  
4       begins with a blank:

5               "Blank [so that's 'Anthony'] said he was made to go  
6       downstairs but you slapped him across the side of his  
7       face from behind. He turned and took a swing at you but  
8       he missed and you punched him above the bridge of his  
9       nose. 'Anthony' said that you had pushed his head down  
10      and kneed him in the chest. You then held him round the  
11      neck in a headlock and ran with him in the headlock  
12      towards the other boy's bedroom door. 'Anthony' said he  
13      hit his head on a door and a door post. 'Anthony' said  
14      that he hit you on the side of the face at this stage.  
15      Your grip changed to holding 'Anthony' around the neck  
16      from behind and putting your knee into 'Anthony's'  
17      back."

18             It then goes on:

19               "'Anthony' stated that you began saying 'you can't  
20      take me -- do you understand?' 'Anthony' retorted 'fuck  
21      you've. You threw him to the ground and before he could  
22      get up you sat astride him and pinned his upper arms to  
23      the ground with his knees. 'Anthony' continued that you  
24      had said 'I'm harder than you, 'Anthony', you can't take  
25      me -- do you realise that?' you were slapping him across

1 the face with open palms of the hands. 'Anthony' said,  
2 'A real hard man would have hurt me by now'. You  
3 started punching him across the side of his face with  
4 the inside part of clenched fists."

5 Then I think 'Anthony' had run away to Nimmo Place  
6 and had made this statement.

7 Can you remember anything like that happening when  
8 'Anthony' was in your care?

9 A. I can remember lots of incidents where 'Anthony' kicked  
10 off and he could be very violent, but I -- I actually  
11 don't recall this -- this particular incident.

12 Q. If we go on to the next page of this, so there's  
13 reference to a meeting between L Lovatt, who is a social  
14 worker we've already seen, and it says there:

15 "... was informed that 'Anthony' had been put out of  
16 your house after a confrontation during which you had  
17 restrained him and he had refused to calm down and was  
18 threatening to kill the other boy. Went to Nimmo Place  
19 to discuss with Alan Keep."

20 Who you think is 'Anthony's' social worker; is that  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. "'Anthony' arrived shortly afterwards to talk to Alan so  
24 I visited you. You were feeling angry with 'Anthony'  
25 but doesn't want to give up on him. You said that you

1       were trying to mediate between the boys when 'Anthony'  
2       lost the place and lashed out, whereupon you restrained  
3       him. Alan then telephoned to say that 'Anthony' was  
4       alleging that you had assaulted him and broken his nose  
5       but didn't want to involve the police, said he'd get  
6       friends to sort you out. You were angry about this and  
7       saying you'd prefer if the police were involved. You  
8       saying that his face could have been marked in the  
9       struggle, but you had not hit him."

10       So at the time it appears that you accepted that you  
11       had tried to restrain him --

12   A. Mm-hmm.

13   Q. -- and there'd been some kind of struggle, during the  
14       course of which 'Anthony's' face could have been marked.  
15       Can you remember that happening or --

16   A. Honestly, I don't. I don't recall it.

17   Q. Okay.

18       I want to ask you to look at some other material in  
19       the records, so this is at I think PKC-000000166,  
20       starting at page 11.

21       We see this is dated 13 December 1994. It says it's  
22       a joint visit with Geoff Pearce at the request of  
23       John Pease and Andy Turnbull?

24   A. Yes.

25   Q. These must be social workers, I think. It says this was

1 to follow up by allegations made by [REDACTED], the boy who  
2 we've already mentioned who was in foster care:

3 "... that you had slapped his face twice and kicked  
4 him after he was brought back to the house after being  
5 missing. Geoff told you the purpose of our visit, which  
6 was to ask you about what [REDACTED] had said. You appeared  
7 very surprised and said you would never hit a child.  
8 You said that you'd been angry with him and had held him  
9 by the arms whilst speaking to him. You said you'd also  
10 given him a playful boot on the arse when he was going  
11 upstairs to bed, but this was later and when they had  
12 talked everything through and the atmosphere was calm."

13 Do you have any recollection of this boy making  
14 allegations that you'd hit him?

15 A. I don't recall this allegation specifically, but there  
16 was many times with this particular boy where, you know,  
17 allegations were investigated.

18 Q. I think we know that he remained in your care after this  
19 and if we go back in this document to page 9, and this  
20 is dated 20 April 1995. It's a home visit to you, it  
21 appears, in the evening, 8.30 to 11 pm, and the boy was  
22 missing and police had been informed. It says:

23 "Other children and 'Anthony' were in the house plus  
24 visitors that you had."

25 It describes that you were very upset, there were

1       scenes of damage in the kitchen.

2   A.  Mm-hmm.

3   Q.  You then described that you had been planning to take

4       [REDACTED] and one of the boys with whom you had the informal

5       arrangement to football training. [REDACTED] had agreed but

6       then refused to go altogether.

7       Then in the next paragraph it says:

8       "His behaviour escalated more and more and he tried

9       to get out of the windows. You'd pulled his jacket

10      sleeve, he had slipped out of it and fell downstairs --

11      unhurt. He then called the police on 999 and said he

12      was being kept prisoner by his carer who was a 'poof'

13      and who abused him. He then pulled everything down out

14      of the cupboard and jumped on it."

15      Can you remember this --

16  A.  I remember this incident.

17  Q.  Okay. What is it that you remember about this incident?

18  A.  That [REDACTED], the tornado that he was, he absolutely

19      wrecked the kitchen and parts of the house, pulling

20      stuff down.

21  Q.  Can you remember him phoning the police and accusing

22      you --

23  A.  I can't, no.

24  Q.  -- of being an abuser?

25      Then in the next paragraph:

1           "Discussed with you what could have led him to  
2       behave like this. You said that you feel that if he  
3       can't get his own way, he knows no other reaction than  
4       to go berserk."

5           Then I think this is you speaking:

6           "You went back to the events of last week when they  
7       were in Nairn. He told me that on that occasion he had  
8       slapped [REDACTED]. I requested more detail -- what kind of  
9       slap, how hard? You said that you'd reasoned and  
10      pleaded with him for a long time. He had started  
11      throwing stones at your car and at this point you lost  
12      the head and slapped him. You demonstrated an open palm  
13      slap on the side of his face."

14          Can you remember that happening?

15   A. Yes, I can. Yes.

16   Q. Okay. Then I think it says that the social worker in  
17      the next paragraph told you that certain standard  
18      procedures would follow and that you would hear from her  
19      tomorrow.

20          If we just go back for completeness to page 7, this  
21      is a note of a meeting between you, Mr Turnbull and  
22      L Lovatt on 15 May 1995. If we go down to the body of  
23      the minutes, I think it's saying there that you say that  
24      you had told Anna Bowman, I think your support worker at  
25      the time --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- about the incident on 18 April. This wasn't recorded  
3 on the file and according to the support worker she  
4 wasn't informed until 20 April when a further incident  
5 happened. You said there were no other incidents which  
6 they hadn't been told about and you talked about feeling  
7 isolated.

8 If we go down to the paragraph just above the word  
9 "action", it's noted there:

10 "The incident in Nairn appears to be a one-off and  
11 the relationship between you and the boy is close."

12 I think the action was to work with the boy on anger  
13 management and to provide you with some support.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Okay.

16 Again, I think he remained in your care at that  
17 point. I think there maybe came a time when you asked  
18 for him to be removed?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. Then if we look, please, on page 6 of this document,  
21 this is dated 23 January 1997. This is an allegation  
22 made by someone called a Mrs [REDACTED]. Am I right in saying  
23 that her son was living in foster care with you?

24 A. Yes, for a short time.

25 Q. It says here that she came into the office on two

1 occasions, she has raised a number of complaints and  
2 there was some discussion about the child and in the  
3 bullet points -- well, it is said that he had an extra  
4 earlobe and that you were alleged to have replied, "Just  
5 as well it wasn't three balls he had". Is that  
6 something that you can remember discussing with --  
7 A. No.  
8 Q. -- Mrs [REDACTED]?  
9 A. Can I just say, I've never seen or known about these  
10 allegations until now, about what's coming out, so.  
11 Q. Okay. Did you have some awareness of the general terms  
12 of the allegations?  
13 A. At the time?  
14 Q. Mm-hmm.  
15 A. No. I didn't.  
16 Q. Okay. Well, we'll look at another document in a moment,  
17 but if we look at the specifics of this --  
18 A. Yeah.  
19 Q. -- in this document. In the bullet points we can see  
20 that the allegations are that you had allegedly asked  
21 the boy if he wanted. Is that something that you did?  
22 A. No. It's not a term I would use.  
23 Q. Might you have used another term?  
24 A. I might have done, but I don't recall.  
25 Q. Then the next bullet point is that while the boy was



1       away on holiday with you at the new year, you were  
2       alleged to have let him get drunk and when he awoke the  
3       next morning he found an 18 year boy lying in bed beside  
4       him who had given him a love bite. Can you remember  
5       that happening?

6   A. No. I don't remember that.

7   Q. Is it possible that it happened?

8   A. I can't say.

9   Q. Then it says whilst the mother was visiting you, she  
10       alleged that you during a conversation about the Spice  
11       Girls said to the boy, "What do you get up to with the  
12       Spice Girls magazine in your bedroom?"

13       Is it possible that that's something that was said?

14   A. It is possible, but I don't recall.

15   Q. Okay. Then there were other complaints that she made,  
16       like the boy's bedroom being like a prison cell.

17       I think you said you weren't aware that those  
18       specific allegations were made?

19   A. Yes.

20   Q. But if we go to page 5, please, and scroll down to --  
21       well, there's a lot of entries on 27 January 1997, but  
22       the middle of the page:

23       "Telephone call to you at my home."

24       It's at the bottom of the screen at the moment. You  
25       received a telephone call from the mother this evening.

1            "... states she was very abusive and demanding that  
2            you take the boy's belongings to her house. Stating  
3            that if he does not do so she will come and cause  
4            a scene."

5            There's some phone call to you from the mother.

6    A. Mm-hmm.

7    Q. Can you remember that?

8    A. I remember that the lady in question would often just  
9            turn up at the house or ring at all times of the day and  
10           hours.

11   Q. Okay.

12   A. I don't remember that particular conversation, but she  
13           did it regularly.

14   Q. Then if we go back to page 4, please, 28 January 1997,  
15           a home visit to you:

16           "Wished to collect the boy's belongings. You were  
17           angry and upset as you'd received a telephone call at  
18           7.30 am from a reporter from the Daily Record asking if  
19           the boy had been in care with you and if it was true  
20           that you were an abuser."

21           Can you remember being contacted --

22   A. No.

23   Q. -- by the press?

24   A. I can remember a phone call, yes, from I think it was  
25           the Daily Record.

1 Q. Can you remember, having looked at this now, that they  
2 seemed to be suggesting that you were an abuser?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If we can look back to page 3 of this -- sorry, hang on  
5 a minute.

6 If we can look to page 3 of the document, please,  
7 again 28 January 1997, and if we look at a telephone  
8 call to John Neil, which I think we can see on the  
9 screen:

10 "John and Pauline McDougall have interviewed the boy  
11 regarding allegations this morning. No new allegations  
12 made. They won't be able to interview you today."

13 If we go down to the entry of 30 January 1997:

14 "Telephone call to you. You had still not heard  
15 whether you were to be interviewed. You were aware that  
16 your friends are to be interviewed today."

17 The friends that are mentioned are the two boys --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- that we know about with the informal arrangement. It  
20 was agreed that you were going to find out if you were  
21 to be interviewed.

22 Then if we look down to 3 February 1997:

23 "Update of situation. Another boy who had been in  
24 your care wasn't to return to you at the weekend. The  
25 police had advised you that they would not be

1       questioning you as there are no criminal charges to be  
2       answered."

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   I think that if we move back to page 1, we see a bit  
5       more detail about what happened at this time and if we  
6       look at the bottom of the page, the entry  
7       30 January 1997, there was a visit to you and it's said  
8       that you were visibly under considerable strain. The  
9       police officer had outlined some of the details of the  
10      investigation and you were distraught to learn that you  
11      were thought to be a possible sexual abuser.

12  A.   Yes.

13  Q.   When I asked earlier about you being aware in general  
14      terms of the abuse, it appears that you were aware --

15  A.   Sorry, yes, I was, yes.

16  Q.   So that was the nature of the abuse, you didn't know  
17      about the specifics?

18  A.   Yes.

19  Q.   You say that you were angry about the level of distress  
20      your friends' boys had suffered as a result of the  
21      investigation process the previous evening. Is it  
22      possible that you were concerned that those boys might  
23      disclose what you had been doing to them?

24  A.   Possibly, but I -- you know, I -- I can't say for  
25      definite whether I was or not.

1 Q. You were unhappy that the other boy who had been in your  
2 care couldn't return home, but you were accepting of it.  
3 Then there's reference to what the other boy thought.  
4 It then says at the end:  
5 "Let you air your feelings fully and tried to be  
6 supportive towards you. You asked the social worker how  
7 you could be a better carer and we discussed possible  
8 safety mechanisms that could be considered."  
9 Then it says:  
10 "Unfortunately, this whole experience is going to  
11 make you frightened to be open and spontaneous and this  
12 might well prove to be counter-productive."  
13 It's said that you had told your parents about the  
14 situation and somebody at work.  
15 Then it says the social worker's view is:  
16 "... you had suffered considerable damage by the  
17 events of the last 10 days and would need a period of  
18 intensive support to work through your hurt and anger  
19 and to have the chance to rebuild your self-confidence."  
20 Okay? So was there any truth in the allegation that  
21 you'd sexually abused this boy, [REDACTED]?  
22 A. No.  
23 Q. Just finally going back to your statement, at  
24 paragraph 144 at the end of that paragraph you say that  
25 it frightens you what may happen going forward:

1            "... but I have still got to live day to day."  
2            I wasn't entirely clear on what you were referring  
3            to.  
4    A.    I'm sorry, could you repeat that again? I was a bit  
5            lost.  
6    LADY SMITH: If you look at the last sentence in that  
7            paragraph, Pol, that's where Ms Innes is. Do you see?  
8            There.  
9    A.    Yes, yes, I see that there.  
10   MS INNES: It's highlighted.  
11            In that paragraph you're talking about you don't  
12            want to see what happened to the children that you  
13            abused happen to any other child or young person within  
14            the care system. It's not just foster care, it's  
15            endemic throughout the care system. Then you say:  
16            "It frightens me what may happen going forward but  
17            I have still got to live day to day."  
18    A.    Yeah.  
19    Q.    I wasn't entirely clear what you meant by that. Are you  
20            referring to being frightened about the system as  
21            a whole or being frightened about your own position?  
22    A.    Both.  
23    Q.    Okay. In terms of the system as a whole, what are your  
24            concerns?  
25    A.    My concerns are probably going back 20-odd years and,

1       you know, prison gave me a chance to reflect and having  
2       counselling and doing the "Making Changes Moving  
3       Forward" allowed me to see the damage that I'd done and  
4       why I'd given myself permission to do that.

5             And, you know, you read about it every day. Sexual  
6       abuse is prevalent not just children, young people,  
7       adults and it's being talked about more and I think  
8       that's a good thing that it's out in the open and it's  
9       not being hidden any more.

10            Obviously when this -- when the notification came to  
11       me to give evidence, I was absolutely shocked, you know,  
12       that I was being asked -- I didn't know why I was being  
13       asked to give evidence at the time, you know. My wife  
14       and my life had moved on. I'd been out of prison for  
15       ten years. We've rebuilt our lives, we've rebuilt our  
16       relationship. For that I'm eternally grateful. And  
17       then for this suddenly to appear out of the blue.

18            And then when I did get details of what the  
19       allegations that 'Anthony' had made, that shocked me  
20       too. And I was very, very surprised at it. So that's  
21       why it frightens me as well.

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

25   LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for

1 questions of Pol?

2 Pol, that does complete all the questions we have

3 for you.

4 Thank you very much for engaging with us as you have

5 done, both by giving your detailed written statement and

6 coming today to give your oral evidence to add to that

7 statement and explain what we've asked you to explain.

8 I'm grateful to you for being as frank as you have done.

9 As I said at the beginning, I'm sure you appreciate why

10 we are doing what we're doing.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 LADY SMITH: For all children --

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: -- in the position of being in care and being

15 at risk.

16 A. (Witness nods)

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you for your contributions and I'm now

18 able to let you go. I'm sure it's been tough for you,

19 having to answer our questions, and I hope the rest of

20 the day is more peaceful.

21 A. Thank you.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 LADY SMITH: We'll take the morning break now and move to

24 the second witness after that.

25 Thank you.



1 (11.43 am)

2 (A short break)

3 (12.00 pm)

4 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

5 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

6 The next witness remains anonymous and has chosen  
7 the pseudonym 'Eleanor'. 'Eleanor' was a foster carer  
8 for Grampian Regional Council and then Aberdeen City  
9 Council from 1985 until about 1996. She, together with  
10 her then husband, was approved as a temporary caretaker  
11 in 1985 and then approved as an emergency carer in 1987.  
12 In 1992, they were approved as long-term carers for  
13 a specific child.

14 An applicant with the pseudonym 'Kelly' gave  
15 evidence on Day 324, 21 December 2022. She was in the  
16 care of Grampian Regional Council and was placed with  
17 'Eleanor' and her then husband in Aberdeen from --

18 LADY SMITH: Sorry, it can't have been 21 December 2022.

19 MS INNES: That's when -- 21 September. Did I say  
20 "December"?

21 LADY SMITH: You said "December".

22 MS INNES: Wishful thinking on my part.

23 LADY SMITH: It can't have been the 31st.

24 MS INNES: 21 September 2022.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS INNES: She was in the care of Grampian Regional Council  
2 and was placed with 'Eleanor' and her then husband in  
3 Aberdeen from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] 1992. Aberdeen City  
4 Council is the relevant successor.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Eleanor' (sworn)

7 LADY SMITH: 'Eleanor', we do need you to use the microphone  
8 because we hear you through the sound system, including  
9 the stenographers, who hear you through the sound system  
10 in their earphones.

11 That red folder, if you're wondering about that, has  
12 your statement in it and you'll be taken to that in  
13 a moment, but we'll also bring the statement up on the  
14 screen in front of you and go to the various parts of it  
15 that we need to discuss with you as we go through your  
16 evidence. You might find it helpful to consult those,  
17 but you don't have to. They're there if you want to use  
18 them.

19 'Eleanor', apart from those practicalities, could  
20 I just assure you that I know what we're asking you to  
21 do here is difficult. We're asking you to give evidence  
22 about what happened quite a long time ago when you were  
23 a foster carer, and you'll know we have some questions  
24 for you that you might find particularly difficult if  
25 not upsetting. I do understand that.

1           I don't really make any apologies for putting you  
2           through this, because we're doing it for children,  
3           children in the past, children of the present and  
4           children for the future, as here at the Inquiry we're  
5           trying to ascertain what the best and safest systems  
6           will be for the future and we listen to people who have  
7           not been heard for generations, in some cases here,  
8           which is also very, very important.

9   A.   (Witness nods)

10  LADY SMITH:  If at any time you're feeling it's so upsetting  
11           that you want a break, that's absolutely fine, just let  
12           me know, or if there's anything else I can do to help  
13           you give your evidence as clearly and carefully as you  
14           can, please speak up, don't hold back.

15           Before I hand over to Ms Innes, one other thing I'd  
16           like to mention to you, 'Eleanor'.  This is, as I've  
17           said, a public inquiry.  It's not a court hearing, but  
18           you are giving evidence in public, you need to be aware  
19           that a transcript is being made of everything you say  
20           and it's important that you appreciate that that  
21           transcript could be relied on outwith the Inquiry.

22  A.   (Witness nods)

23  LADY SMITH:  In these circumstances, let me warn you that if  
24           you are asked any questions the answers to which could  
25           incriminate you, you aren't obliged to answer them.  Do

1           you understand that?

2   A.   Yes.

3   LADY SMITH:   Any doubts about that at all, please speak up

4           and check with me at any time, or indeed anything else

5           you want to ask, feel free to do so.

6           If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and

7           she'll take it from there.   Is that all right?

8   A.   Yes.

9   LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

10                               Questions from Ms Innes

11   MS INNES:   'Eleanor', we understand you were born in 1948.

12           Is that right?

13   A.   Yes, yes.

14   Q.   I'm going to look first of all at your statement, which

15           we give the reference WIT-1-000001002.

16           If we can go to the final page of your statement at

17           paragraph 114, you say there:

18           "I have no objection to my witness statement being

19           published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

20           I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

21           true."

22           I believe you signed the statement on 31 May 2022;

23           is that right?

24   A.   Yes.

25   Q.   Thank you.   I'm going to go back to the beginning of

1       your statement and you tell us a bit about your  
2       background.

3             At paragraph 3 you say you can't remember when you  
4       became a foster carer. I think we know from the records  
5       that it was in 1985, so you're correct there in what you  
6       say about your memory of the time. You mention that you  
7       had a son at that point who was five or six?

8   A. Yes.

9   Q. Did you have any other children at that point?

10 A. Two girls.

11 Q. Two girls, and were they older than [REDACTED] or younger?

12 A. Older.

13 Q. Okay. You say that you were married at the time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Over the page on page 2 at paragraph 4 you talk  
16       about your initial interest in fostering and why was it  
17       that you became or how was it that you became aware of  
18       being a foster carer?

19 A. Just what I saw on television.

20 Q. Okay, so was it being advertised at the time?

21 A. It was being advertised, yes.

22 Q. We know that you applied to Grampian Regional Council  
23       and was it -- you mention Aberdeen Council there, was it  
24       an office --

25 A. Aberdeen Council.

1 Q. So it was an office in Aberdeen that you applied to?  
2 A. Yes.  
3 Q. Then in the next section you talk about some meetings at  
4 paragraph 5 and you say that you remember there being  
5 meetings with other people who wanted to become foster  
6 parents?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. What sort of information were you given at those  
9 meetings? Was it information or was it training, can  
10 you remember?  
11 A. I can't remember. I'm sorry, I just can't remember.  
12 Q. Okay. You remember anyway going to some meetings with  
13 other people who were thinking about becoming foster  
14 carers like you were?  
15 A. Yes.  
16 LADY SMITH: Can I just interject there, 'Eleanor', I do  
17 understand that it's difficult to remember and don't  
18 feel bad about simply saying, "I can't remember".  
19 A. Thank you.  
20 LADY SMITH: All right? It's a long time ago that we're  
21 asking you about details. If any details pop into your  
22 head, do tell us --  
23 A. Yes, I will.  
24 LADY SMITH: -- but if you can't, say. Don't guess --  
25 A. Okay.

1 LADY SMITH: -- and don't speculate, all right?

2 A. Okay.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: In the same paragraph you talk about them coming

5 to visit your house?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was that social workers that came?

8 A. It was one social worker came, spoke to me, and then

9 came and spoke to my ex-husband separate times.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Just so that we're clear, you mention your

12 ex-husband. You're talking about he was your husband at

13 the time?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. Subsequently you've divorced?

16 A. Divorced and remarried.

17 Q. Okay. Right, so they came and spoke to you and your

18 then husband. Do you know if they spoke to your

19 children at all?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you know how your children felt about you becoming

22 a foster carer?

23 A. I think they were quite excited. They didn't really

24 understand. You tried to explain to them, but until it

25 happens ... they were too young to really understand.

1 Q. Okay. At paragraph 6 you talk again about training and  
2 you say:  
3 "I dealt with a lot of children who had been abused  
4 but I didn't really get any training for that, you had  
5 to use your instinct."  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Are you able to explain what you mean?  
8 A. When a child comes into your care, a lot was emergency  
9 with me. I've had a three-year-old come into my care  
10 covered top to toe in bruises, crying, needing love, and  
11 you couldn't give them that hug because you'd hurt them.  
12 So you had to just try and speak to them. You just knew  
13 what to do, how to deal with the child.  
14 Q. Okay. When you say you just knew what to do, how did  
15 you know that?  
16 A. Just a feeling. Just a mother's feeling. You treated  
17 the child like your own, what you would do with your own  
18 child.  
19 Q. You say you didn't get any training from the council  
20 about how to deal with issues that children might have  
21 in their backgrounds?  
22 A. No.  
23 Q. Okay. So you didn't get that before you started and you  
24 didn't get that during the time you were a foster carer?  
25 A. I learned being a foster parent by every individual



1 child that came into my care had something wrong with  
2 them, they'd been abused mentally, sexually, physically.  
3 Sometimes you didn't know, but I just learned -- I just  
4 knew how to deal with them.

5 Q. In terms of training, you also say that you didn't  
6 receive any separate training on how to deal with  
7 short-term or emergency fostering?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You've mentioned emergency fostering there and I think  
10 from your records we know that initially you were  
11 short-term foster carers?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you explain what's meant by a short-term foster  
14 carer?

15 A. Short-term should be short-term, but it sometimes lasted  
16 up to a year.

17 Q. Okay. How long was it supposed to last?

18 A. A few weeks to a couple of months at the most, until  
19 they got them moved on, but ... that never happened.

20 Q. Okay. Then in terms of emergency placements, what was  
21 the difference between short-term and emergency?

22 A. Emergency you got them 24 hours a day. Didn't matter  
23 the time. They should have moved on quickly, but a lot  
24 of them still stayed with me. They couldn't move them  
25 on. They had nowhere to put them.

1 Q. When you say they should have moved on quickly, how  
2 quickly?

3 A. Within a couple of days they should have moved on to  
4 short-term foster parents.

5 Q. Okay

6 In terms of the emergency care, were children  
7 generally coming to you from care with their parents or  
8 other family members and coming into foster care for the  
9 first time?

10 A. What do you mean?

11 Q. When a child came to you in an emergency, were they  
12 usually coming from their parents?

13 A. They were taken from their parents, yes.

14 Q. Okay. They weren't coming from other foster carers --

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. -- or from residential homes?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. You say at the end of paragraph 6 that you can't  
19 remember there being any child protection training?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You say at paragraph 7 that there were no written  
22 instructions and you weren't given a handbook?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Didn't get anything like that from the Local Authority?

25 A. No. Oh no.

1 Q. You say that you were just left to get on with it?

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Oh yes.

4 Q. Did you get any support from a social worker?

5 A. I had a social worker, supposed to be my social worker,

6 but she had hundreds of things. So getting them on the

7 other end of the phone and that, you just -- what I mean

8 when you're left to get on with it, I mean that. You

9 just had to do what you thought was right.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Paragraph 8, you say that again, that you were left

12 to get on with it and there was no continuous

13 training --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- after you became a foster parent? You mention though

16 that you were in the Foster Care Association --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and you talk about being able to speak to other

19 foster parents.

20 A. (Witness nods)

21 Q. Was there a group that met in Aberdeen? Or was it a

22 national --

23 A. Aberdeen Foster Care Association.

24 Q. Okay. Was that part of a larger organisation?

25 A. Very large group, yes.

1 Q. Did they have meetings?

2 A. Yes, once a month.

3 Q. Okay. What was the purpose of those meetings?

4 A. To tell you the truth, I can't remember.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I just remember I went there -- I was [REDACTED]

7 there and I just can't remember.

8 LADY SMITH: Do you have any feel for how many other foster

9 parents were involved with the association, the foster

10 parents association? Did it have a big membership?

11 A. Very big membership, yes. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Did it extend beyond Aberdeen?

13 A. No. Aberdeen. Aberdeenshire was different.

14 LADY SMITH: This is a local Aberdeen association?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Which should mean that the people who were

17 members would be able to get to meetings and so on quite

18 easily?

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: I see that. Thank you.

21 MS INNES: Can you remember -- you might not have any sense

22 of this -- whether the meetings were for foster carers

23 to support one another or if they were for training

24 purposes?

25 A. Oh, just support one another. No training involved.

1 Q. Okay.

2 At paragraph 9 you refer to social workers being  
3 sent from university to you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you explain what was happening?

6 A. You get girls come out of university, want to be  
7 a social worker, they think they know everything and  
8 they don't know nothing.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Don't know how to look after children. Some have never  
11 had children. And they used to come to me for one day  
12 and you try and explain in six hours how it is. It was  
13 very difficult. They had no idea. They shouldn't have  
14 been foster -- social workers, sorry.

15 Q. Okay. Were these people who were students studying for  
16 a social work qualification --

17 A. Oh no, they were social workers. They had passed their  
18 exams, they'd become social workers.

19 Q. Okay. Was this some kind of training that they were  
20 being given at the outset of their careers?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay. At paragraph 10 you say there:  
23 "You couldn't discipline the children, that was  
24 a no."

25 A. It was a definite no.

1 Q. What do you mean by that?

2 A. I don't believe in capital punishment at all?

3 Q. Do you mean "corporal punishment"?

4 A. "Corporal punishment", sorry.

5 Q. You say that you didn't punish them physically or

6 mentally?

7 A. No. Oh God, no.

8 Q. If a child was to misbehave, how would you have dealt

9 with that?

10 A. I took money off their pocket money.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Or this they were -- it depends their ages. Younger

13 children, "Oh, you're not getting that sweet today,

14 you've been bad", and things like that.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And the toddlers used to sit at the bottom of the stairs

17 like I did with my own children, "Sit there for five

18 minutes".

19 LADY SMITH: Can I just ask you about keeping their pocket

20 money away from them or taking it off them, because I've

21 heard different accounts of this. Did the social

22 workers tell you whether or not you could properly

23 deprive the children of their pocket money?

24 A. I was told it was up to me how I did it.

25 LADY SMITH: Right, but specifically about pocket money, did

1           they tell you --

2   A.   No.

3   LADY SMITH:  -- that you were allowed to take that away from

4           them?

5   A.   They didn't even tell me to give the children pocket

6           money.  That was my decision to give the older children

7           pocket money.

8   LADY SMITH:  Ah.

9   A.   If my children got it, they got it.

10  LADY SMITH:  I see.  Thank you.

11  MS INNES:  In terms of other sanctions for older children,

12           did you send them to their rooms or anything like that?

13           Did you use that type of sanction?

14  A.   Not really, no.  Because how can you punish a foster

15           child that's gone through hell?

16  Q.   Okay.

17           If you move down in your statement, you talk about

18           the emergency side of being a foster carer, which you

19           did, and you say that you liked it.

20  A.   Mm-hmm.

21  Q.   What was good about it?

22  A.   I don't know.  The different children come into your

23           care.  You learn -- you learned a lot, how to look after

24           each individual child, and I just -- I love children.

25  Q.   Okay.  You say that you never chose the children?

1 A. No.

2 Q. How would it come about that a child would be placed  
3 with you? What would happen?

4 A. A phone call.

5 Q. How much notice would you get?

6 A. About half an hour.

7 Q. Did you feel like you could say no when you were asked?

8 A. Not really. Sometimes I says, "Well, I've not much  
9 room", "Ooh, it's just until morning, until the place  
10 opens at 9 okay, even if they sleep on a settee, as long  
11 as they have somewhere safe for a couple hours".

12 So, really, no.

13 Q. I think you tell us that you did have one child on  
14 a long-term basis?

15 A. She's still with us, yes.

16 Q. Okay. I don't think you say in your statement, because  
17 I don't think you could remember, but we see in your  
18 records that over the time that you were a foster carer,  
19 you fostered around 300 children.

20 A. (Witness nods)

21 Q. Does that seem right to you?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. At paragraph 13 you say that you had your own social  
24 worker?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. You think it was a person called Pauline?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was she with you throughout your time as a foster

4 parent?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You also mention a Susan Sloan. Do you know who she

7 was?

8 A. She was senior.

9 Q. Was she --

10 A. Senior social worker above Pauline.

11 Q. Above Pauline, okay.

12 At paragraph 14, you say that you saw being a foster

13 carer as a vocation rather than a profession?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Why do you say that?

16 A. I love kids. Always have. Just a love of children.

17 And to me it's ... it's a vocation. You just -- you

18 can't help what's in your heart. Just how I feel.

19 Q. Okay. Then you say that you think that foster careers

20 should have childcare qualifications, why do you think

21 that?

22 A. No. I was a registered childminder. Sometimes they

23 should have more childcare qualifications. We didn't

24 have much training and that. They should have more

25 training.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Maybe if you're short-term or long-term fostering you're  
3 okay, but emergency fostering, you don't know what  
4 you're doing with the children, what kind of children's  
5 coming through your door, and you really need to have  
6 that childcare qualifications to how to handle them and  
7 that.

8 Q. You mentioned there that you're a registered childminder  
9 and you were childminding -- was that at the same time  
10 as you were a foster carer?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What time of the day were you childminding? Did you  
13 take small children during the day when their parents  
14 were out at work?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Or did you take them after school, for example?

17 A. No, it was during the day.

18 Q. I see. How many children would you generally take as  
19 a childminder?

20 A. Oh, I had my own two as a registered childminder, but  
21 I often -- social workers would often ask me to child  
22 mind three or four of theirs like emergency instead of  
23 putting them into foster care, came in to child mind for  
24 a couple of days during the day as well.

25 LADY SMITH: When you're referring to your "own two", that

1       was children that came to you --

2   A.   Private.

3   LADY SMITH:  -- for childminding that hadn't been put there

4       by the social work department?

5   A.   Yes.

6   LADY SMITH:  You also had your own children?

7   A.   Yes.

8   LADY SMITH:  Two children of your own?

9   A.   Three.

10   LADY SMITH:  Three children of your own.

11   A.   I have three children.

12   LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

13   MS INNES:  You say at paragraph 15 that you think that at

14       the time social workers' hands were tied behind their

15       backs a lot of times.  What do you mean by that?

16   A.   High-up people, directors, top of -- you have your

17       social workers, someone understood how you felt, how the

18       children were and that.  The ones that sit high up,

19       they've no idea.  They might be fathers or mothers or

20       that, but they had no idea.  They've got the brains to

21       be high up but they didn't -- they didn't understand how

22       it is to be a foster parent and what kind of child was

23       coming through the door.  I've not much time for them.

24   Q.   Okay.  How do you think that lack of knowledge impacted

25       on the social workers that were working with you?

1 A. A lot. Because if you asked for something -- I was --  
2 I never ever went on holiday without my foster children.  
3 We always said if we go on holiday, the children come  
4 with us. Now, we needed minibuses to take the children  
5 but it was fighting a battle. Your social worker would  
6 say yes. The higher-up would say no, too expensive.  
7 Q. Okay.  
8 A. And rather put them somewhere else. So a lot of times  
9 I didn't -- it is wrong having a foster child for six  
10 months and suddenly you want to go on holiday for two  
11 weeks and you couldn't take that child with you.  
12 Q. Okay. I think you suggest at the top of page 4 that  
13 people who are maybe at management level should spend  
14 a day with foster parents and that would give them --  
15 A. They need more than a day.  
16 Q. Okay. Then if we look at paragraph 16, you describe  
17 yourself as being a voluntary worker for Aberdeen  
18 Council?  
19 A. Yes. Aye, I was.  
20 Q. What do you mean by that? Were you not --  
21 A. We didn't get paid to be in -- we got money for -- this  
22 is going back 30 years ago and you were given money to  
23 feed the children and you got chitties to clothe the  
24 children, but they didn't pay for your stamp or nothing,  
25 it was all voluntary.

1 Q. Do you know if you got any kind of supplement for doing  
2 emergency care?

3 A. No.

4 Q. No? Were you paid per child?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You say at paragraph 18 that the financial support that  
7 you received wasn't enough?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Why not?

10 A. You got a -- I used to go to Asda and I came home with  
11 two trolley loads of food. And sometimes that's not --  
12 sometimes I had 12 children in my house, counting my  
13 own. You feed 12 children and every one's different  
14 tastes. You had a menu. Some of them want burgers,  
15 want sausages, want macaroni and cheese, and you had to  
16 buy the food then to feed the children what they wanted,  
17 not what I wanted.

18 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 20 that you asked for  
19 a bigger house, so how many bedrooms did your house --

20 A. I had three bedrooms.

21 Q. You say you asked -- was it a Local Authority house?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was it a council house? You say you asked them for  
24 a bigger house?

25 A. There was one down the road, a four-bedroomed, it had

1       lain empty for a year and we asked for it so we could  
2       get the children better placed and they wouldn't give us  
3       it.

4   Q.   Okay.  Do you know what the reason for that was?

5   A.   No.

6   Q.   Okay.  If we can move on to the next page, to  
7       paragraph 22, you mention your house there and the  
8       accommodation that you had, so three bedrooms upstairs  
9       and a toilet.  Downstairs you had a sitting room and  
10      a kitchen?

11  A.   Yeah.

12  Q.   You also mentioned your own three children.

13  A.   Mm-hmm.

14  Q.   Did your children share a room with the foster children?

15  A.   Girls in one room, boys in the other.

16  Q.   Okay.  How many beds did you have in each of those  
17      rooms?

18  A.   We had six bunk beds.

19  Q.   In each of the rooms?

20  A.   Yes.

21  Q.   When you mentioned a moment ago that sometimes you could  
22      have 12 children, that's how --

23  A.   Mm bunk beds, aye.

24  Q.   -- you accommodated them?  How did your own children  
25      feel about sharing a room with the foster children?

1 A. As they got older they got sometimes angry at the amount  
2 of fostering, because a lot of their clothes was stolen  
3 and that. They had to sleep with all the things they  
4 liked in a pillow case in their pillows in their beds  
5 all night, because remember foster children come into  
6 your care, didn't have nothing and they used to steal  
7 clothes -- well, not steal, I'd take clothes they wanted  
8 from my children.

9 Q. At the bottom of this page you mention the number of  
10 children that you had and you say there, as you've just  
11 mentioned, you think that the most you had was eight or  
12 nine at one time and then your own three on top of  
13 that --

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. -- so 11 or 12. You say that in an emergency you would  
16 have your house full and you would be asked to take  
17 another child?

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. What did you do if the house was full?

20 A. Top and tailed.

21 Q. Top and tail?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Sometimes did you have even over the 12 that you've  
24 mentioned?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Okay. If we go on, please, to the bottom of page 6 at  
2 paragraph 31 you talk there about how children would  
3 come into your care and you've already told us that you  
4 would get a phone call.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But you say sometimes they turned up at the door in  
7 hope?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Who would turn up, the social worker?

10 A. The social worker, sometimes the police.

11 Q. Would they have the child with them?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay.

14 How would you feel about being asked in that  
15 situation about whether you could take the child or not?

16 A. I didn't give it a thought, I just took the child.

17 Q. At paragraph 32 you deal there with background  
18 information. You say that you had background  
19 information 90 per cent of the time, but you didn't have  
20 schooling or medical information.

21 A. (Witness shakes head)

22 Q. Who would give you background information on the  
23 children?

24 A. My -- Pauline, my --

25 Q. Pauline?



1 A. Aye, my social worker, yeah.

2 Q. Was that information extensive or was it brief?

3 A. No. Just a phone call saying, "We've got this, that",

4 I'd get on with it.

5 Q. Did you feel that the information you were given was

6 enough or --

7 A. No.

8 Q. No?

9 If we move into paragraph 35, you talk there about

10 the boys' room and the girls' room and that you had bunk

11 beds and you talk about the pocket money and you say

12 there that they were given the same as your own children

13 were given?

14 A. Oh yes.

15 Q. At paragraph 36 you talk about them getting up, washed

16 and dressed.

17 If you had 12 children in the house plus you and

18 your husband and one bathroom, that must have been a bit

19 challenging in the morning, was it?

20 A. Oh aye.

21 Q. Then you say that the ones that were going to school

22 went away to school?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. You say they were given free dinners at school?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Did all of the foster children get free school meals,  
2 can you remember?  
3 A. I can't remember.  
4 Q. Okay. You say you just fed them and looked after them,  
5 that's it.  
6 A. Mm-hmm.  
7 Q. Is that what you saw as your role?  
8 A. A lot of love went into it.  
9 Q. Okay. You tell us about mealtimes and you've already  
10 mentioned that. I think you know that an applicant  
11 who's given evidence to the Inquiry whose statement  
12 you've seen, who has the pseudonym 'Kelly', told us that  
13 a lot of the time there wasn't enough to eat and she  
14 would go back to her mum's house.  
15 A. (Witness shakes head)  
16 Q. Is that correct?  
17 A. No, it's a lie.  
18 Q. She also says that one time her mum ordered fish to be  
19 delivered to your door?  
20 A. No. No. Never to me.  
21 Q. Okay. Is it possible that happened and you've  
22 forgotten?  
23 A. No. I used to love baking. I did a lot of baking and  
24 cooking, yes.  
25 Q. Okay. I'm going to move on a little in your statement

1       if we look at the bottom of page 10, paragraph 52, you  
2       talk there about discipline, but at the start of that  
3       paragraph you say that you dealt with the children, not  
4       your ex-husband?

5   A.   I dealt with the girls and my husband spoke to the boys,  
6       but I was saying -- says, no, you can't have this or  
7       that.

8   Q.   Was your husband working at the time?

9   A.   Yes.

10   Q.   Was it a Monday to Friday 9 to 5 job or --

11   A.   No, [REDACTED]. He was different shifts,  
12       three different shifts.

13   Q.   Sometimes he might be on an early or a late -- did he do  
14       night shifts?

15   A.   Yes.

16   Q.   Okay. During those times, am I right in thinking that  
17       you would have been on your own with all of the  
18       children?

19   A.   Mm-hmm.

20   Q.   Okay. If we can move on, please, to paragraph 56 and  
21       you talk there about what happened if a child wet the  
22       bed.

23       I'm not sure if there's maybe an issue with the  
24       screen? Sorry, page 11, paragraph 56.

25       You talk there about a lot of children wetting the

1           bed?

2    A.   Mm-hmm.

3    Q.   How would you deal with that?

4    A.   You didn't.  You just washed.  Used the washing machine.

5           In the end, because it was happening a lot with

6           different children, especially boys, you got mattress

7           protectors.  That's all you did.

8    Q.   Okay.  Were you doing all the laundry and things

9           yourself as well?

10   A.   Mm-hmm.

11   Q.   Then if we move over to paragraph 57 at the top of

12           page 12, you say that you showed affection to the

13           children and gave them emotional support?

14   A.   (Witness nods)

15   Q.   If a child was with you for a relatively short period,

16           did you feel like you could build up a relationship with

17           them?

18   A.   You tried to.  Because short period, I never knew how

19           long they would be in my care.  So you start from day 1

20           speaking with them and just being happy with them and

21           let them be their selves.  But they could be away the

22           next day and ... very difficult.

23   Q.   Did you feel that you had enough time to spend with each

24           child?

25   A.   The ones in -- that stayed with us when they come here,

1       yes. But the short -- sometimes you're told in  
2       an emergency they'll be away the next day, so you just  
3       get on with your work with them at the time.

4   Q. It must have been a very busy life for you?

5   A. Loved every minute, yeah.

6   Q. Okay. At paragraph 61 you talk about I think being [REDACTED]  
7       [REDACTED]?

8   A. Yes.

9   Q. How did that come about?

10  A. I don't know. They just phoned me up. The children --  
11       foster children's photos couldn't be [REDACTED], but  
12       my own children and childminders I did private was [REDACTED]  
13       [REDACTED]. I just ... I don't know (unclear) phoned up  
14       or why. Nothing.

15  Q. Okay. I wonder if we can look at a couple of documents  
16       at this point. The first one is ABN-000002450, page 6.

17       You'll see that this is a document -- it's an office  
18       memorandum and I appreciate it's unlikely that you've  
19       seen this before. It's dated 21 May 1990 and it's from  
20       a Mr Eric Hargreaves, who's described as a divisional  
21       officer.

22  A. Yeah.

23  Q. Is he somebody that you remember or do you remember the  
24       name?

25  A. I remember the name.

1 Q. Then this is to another divisional officer in the  
2 Kincardine and Deeside division.

3 A. No.

4 Q. You don't remember him?

5 Then it talks about child placement and it's talking  
6 about that division I think maybe placing children with  
7 you. Did some of the children that came into your care,  
8 did they come from Kincardine and Deeside rather than  
9 the city?

10 A. Yes. I've had from London.

11 Q. Okay. There's reference to a specific child being  
12 placed with you in 1990. It was an emergency placement.  
13 And it's said that it was made on the strict  
14 understanding that the child would be moved within two  
15 or three days. Then it says:

16 "On 2 April 1990 a full review was held on this  
17 foster family which you and your then husband attended.  
18 It was agreed because [it says] of your propensity to  
19 take several foster children together with your  
20 childminding obligations, that in future she would be  
21 used on an emergency basis only for short-term  
22 placements of no more than one week. You and your then  
23 husband agreed to these arrangements. On occasions [it  
24 says] you've had over 11 children in the household.  
25 This has become a matter [REDACTED] by you and

1 Miss Hartnoll has asked me to ensure that this kind of  
2 situation should not be repeated."  
3 Just a few things within that. Can you remember the  
4 Local Authority being concerned that there were too many  
5 children in your care?  
6 A. Never. No.  
7 Q. Can you remember them trying to make sure that emergency  
8 placements wouldn't be for longer than a week?  
9 A. No.  
10 Q. Can you remember that happening?  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. Did they manage to make it shorter?  
13 A. No.  
14 Q. You've already said that sometimes you had over 11  
15 children in the household. Then it says this is the  
16 matter of [REDACTED] by you. Is that referring  
17 to [REDACTED] that you've mentioned or can you  
18 remember speaking --  
19 A. I can't remember.  
20 Q. Okay. Can't remember speaking to [REDACTED] about --  
21 A. Oh no, I wouldn't have spoken to [REDACTED] about any  
22 children in my care or household. No way.  
23 Q. Okay.  
24 LADY SMITH: No, I think Ms Innes is referring back to the  
25 [REDACTED]

1 A. Yes, it must have been about mother --  
2 LADY SMITH: She's not suggesting to you that you named  
3 children to [REDACTED] or discussed the children with  
4 [REDACTED], but she's referring to that [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED].  
6 A. Yes.  
7 LADY SMITH: Maybe you said something about having 11  
8 children in your care?  
9 A. I might have done, yeah.  
10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
11 Do I have the point, Ms Innes?  
12 MS INNES: Yes, thank you, my Lady.  
13 Then if we look down to the final paragraph of this,  
14 it says:  
15 "I am more than happy to assist in any emergency  
16 with the division's resources but must stress that if it  
17 is your intention to seek 'Eleanor's' assistance in the  
18 future, it has to be on the strict understanding that  
19 any placement made with her should not last longer than  
20 a period of five days."  
21 You're laughing at that. Did that ever happen?  
22 A. No. No.  
23 Q. If I can move back to your statement again, please, and  
24 if we can move, please, to page 14 and paragraph 69, you  
25 say that a lot of the children would have the same



1 social workers and you worked with different social  
2 workers, but you say that one social worker might have  
3 had 100 kids on their hands?

4 A. Mm.

5 Q. How did you know that?

6 A. Well, if I had two families in my house or three  
7 different families, you usually would have three  
8 different social workers. But sometimes just the one  
9 social worker came and seeing to -- says no, they're in  
10 my care.

11 Q. Okay. The figure of about 100 children in their  
12 caseload, where does that come from?

13 A. Just top of my head. Because they were always -- they  
14 were always busy, they always had so much children they  
15 didn't know what to do.

16 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 70 that social workers  
17 didn't visit except for when they dropped off and took  
18 them away. Is that the children's social workers?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say they phoned you but they didn't really see the  
21 children?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you have meetings with your own social worker?

24 A. No. Just phone calls now and again if I needed advice.

25 Q. Okay. At paragraph 71 you say that your house was

1 a place of safety. You think the kids were fine so why  
2 would they bother you?

3 Is that your reflection on why the social workers  
4 weren't visiting?

5 A. Yes. When a social worker who takes a child into care  
6 and if they're happy with a foster parent and suddenly  
7 a social worker comes to the door and comes into your  
8 house, how would that child feel? They might be  
9 thinking that social worker's coming to take him away  
10 again. And -- again, it must have been so stressful for  
11 that child. Even so you tell him, "No, no, it's nothing  
12 to do with you, you're okay", they still ... ken, didn't  
13 like it. Didn't like social workers coming to your  
14 house.

15 Q. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: 'Eleanor', if you look again at the first  
17 sentence in paragraph 71, you say there:

18 "My house was a place of safety."

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Is that your description or are you saying that  
21 it was regarded under the legislation, the social work  
22 legislation, as being a place of safety --

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: -- which is a technical term regarding  
25 somewhere a child that needs to be taken away from home

1           can be taken to immediately?

2   A.   Yes.

3   LADY SMITH:   So it's place of safety under the legislation?

4   A.   Yes.

5   LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

6   MS INNES:   You say at the end of this paragraph that if

7           social workers want to come they should phone ahead so

8           you can tell the child that the social worker is coming?

9   A.   Yes.

10   Q.   In terms of your own social worker, you think that you

11          really had phone calls with her?

12   A.   Mm-hmm.

13   Q.   Can you remember her visiting the house at all or not?

14   A.   She did come, but not -- she was always so busy you

15          couldn't get her a lot, you had to leave phone messages,

16          or if it was something else, I had to go higher up to

17          get their advice on things and, ken, she was busy with

18          other foster parents and that.

19   Q.   How did you feel about that in terms of the support that

20          you had from the social work department? Did you think

21          that you weren't getting the support you needed or --

22   A.   You could have been doing with a lot more support, but

23          back then you just got on with it.

24   Q.   If we move on to page 17, paragraph 87, there you say

25          that you think that social workers would have acted

1           differently if they were allowed to. They said it was  
2           higher up that wouldn't allow things, and you've already  
3           mentioned that --

4   A. Yes.

5   Q. -- sort of thing in your evidence. You say:

6           "The social workers did their jobs and worked hard.  
7           The ones I dealt with did their best for the children  
8           but they couldn't overstep the mark or their hands would  
9           be slapped."

10          Can you explain what you mean by that?

11  A. They'd get in trouble with their bosses. If I says  
12          there, "Pauline, can I get a minibus?" And she says,  
13          "I'd love to (unclear) the kids away", but I heard her,  
14          "I can't do it, I'm not allowed to do it".

15          If I wanted extra chitties for children's clothes,  
16          they weren't allowed to do it. They had to go higher  
17          up.

18  Q. Okay. It's the same sort of thing that you're referring  
19          to there in your evidence?

20  A. Mm-hmm.

21  Q. Okay.

22          If we look down on this page to paragraph 91, you  
23          say there that you don't believe in hitting children --

24  A. No.

25  Q. -- and you never hit your own children or any foster

1 children?

2 A. No, never hit the children.

3 Q. Do you have any memory of any allegations being made

4 that you had hit children during your time as a foster

5 carer?

6 A. I think there was one. We wanted to keep her long term

7 but she ran away and says we was hitting her and that so

8 she could be sent back home, because she was told we was

9 needing her long term, she wasn't getting back home.

10 I think she ran away to out of hours and says we was

11 hitting her and that so that she could get back to her

12 mum and dad.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. That's the only thing I can remember.

15 Q. Was that correct, first of all, were you hitting her or

16 not?

17 A. No, I never hit anybody. I never hit my own children,

18 grandchildren, never hit no one.

19 Q. Okay. Can you remember if that was investigated by the

20 council?

21 A. No, I never heard nothing.

22 Q. Okay.

23 I'm going to just look at some aspects of your

24 records with you, if that's okay. So at ABN-000002450,

25 page 1, at the top of this page, 18 February 1992,

1       there's reference to a telephone call in relation to  
2       an allegation that a child -- this is a child in foster  
3       care, but I'll give you the name, it's [REDACTED] -- was  
4       frightened of being hit.

5       "... situation discussed and allegations proved to  
6       be unfounded."

7   A. A lot of children that came into your care were scared.  
8       Remember, I was a stranger. They didn't know if I was  
9       going to hit them or love them. A lot of them was like  
10      that.

11   Q. Can you remember this particular child being concerned  
12      about being hit?

13   A. No. No.

14   Q. If we can move on, please, to page 2 of this, if we  
15      scroll down a little, 10 February 1992. It's the same  
16      child and I think the same issue. The social worker is  
17      noting that they're concerned about statements that he  
18      made about corporal punishment?

19   A. Mm-hmm.

20   Q. If we look down to the next entry, there's reference  
21      I think social worker had been discussing limit setting  
22      with the child and her mother and the issue of corporal  
23      punishment had come up. And she had said that you did  
24      not use corporal punishment to set limits. In the next  
25      entry, 12 February 1992, it says:

1           "Still concerned after further discussion with her.  
2           Agreed I would arrange a meeting with the social worker  
3           and you and your husband."  
4   A.   Mm-hmm.  
5   Q.   It looks like there was some discussion with you about  
6           some concerns at the time?  
7   A.   Mm-hmm.  
8   Q.   But you're saying that you never hit this child?  
9   A.   No.   Never.  
10  Q.   Do you know if your ex-husband did?  
11  A.   No.   He left everything like that in my hands.   How  
12           I punished them was up to me.  
13  Q.   Okay.   Then if we move on to page 4 of this document,  
14           please, and this is a letter, I think, from Susan Sloan,  
15           who you've mentioned, to a Mr Vinnicombe, senior social  
16           worker, 16 March 1993.  
17           There was discussion about -- if we look into the  
18           body of the document, it says:  
19           "In relation to the issues of your language and  
20           attitude when discussing with Jen ..."  
21           Might have been a social worker.   Then it refers to  
22           I think it's a child called [REDACTED], [REDACTED]'s alleged  
23           approaches to your son.  
24           You agreed that you'd been angry at this point and  
25           I think there were some issues about the way in which

1       you'd expressed yourself in front of the child.

2       If we go to the next paragraph, it says:

3       "In relation to the comments about smacking, you and  
4       your husband told the social worker that they often said  
5       to their own children things like, 'You better get  
6       upstairs or you'll be getting a smacked bum' and this  
7       would not be meant in a serious or threatening manner  
8       and the real meaning would be quite clear to the  
9       children."

10       Is that correct? Is that something that you did?

11   A. Oh, I would say, "Go upstairs unless you get your bum  
12       smacked", to my own kids I would say that, aye. But  
13       I never did it.

14   Q. Okay, did you say that to the foster children as well?

15   A. No, they were different.

16   Q. Then there's reference in the next paragraph:

17       "As a general comment, Ian felt, and I would agree,  
18       that you and your husband were under a significant  
19       amount of stress at the time due to changes in their own  
20       family and the number and nature of their placements."

21       It says:

22       "The department must take responsibility for this as  
23       despite efforts to keep you and your husband within  
24       their numbers, this is often forgotten about when there  
25       are no vacancies in other foster homes or residential



1       care. On the few times that you and your husband have  
2       felt that a child should move on, this has not happened  
3       immediately ..."

4           Then it says:

5           "... perhaps you felt that you had to shout and  
6       curse to get action."

7           Then it goes on to discuss the specific placement.

8           Can you remember feeling under stress as a result of  
9       the number of placements that you had?

10   A. I would feel under stress because they wouldn't --  
11       a child was moving on, you'd get a child ready to move  
12       on, you get him packed up to move on and then they  
13       didn't move on and you used to go on the phone and shout  
14       at the social workers, yeah.

15   Q. Okay.

16           If I can move on to another document at  
17       ABN-000002451. If we look at page 6 of this document,  
18       please, this is a review, a link worker's report, and  
19       the review is 8 November 1995. This is towards the end  
20       of your time as foster carers, I think. The name of the  
21       link worker is an Ann Nunn, remember her?

22   A. No.

23   Q. If we move down to the bottom of this page, paragraph 2,  
24       it says:

25           "You have continued to offer an emergency service,

1 but at times this has been restricted by the number of  
2 children who have been with them much longer than was  
3 originally anticipated."

4 I think that's correct from what you're telling us?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Then there's reference to five children in placement  
7 with you -- six, actually. It's blanked out but I think  
8 there were twins and four others.

9 If we move on to the next page, please, to page 7  
10 and paragraph 4, a summary of AF10s, which I think we  
11 understand is a report completed by social workers after  
12 the end of a placement. It says:

13 "There are no recent AF10s as either children have  
14 only stayed a few days or they have not been moved on.  
15 Two separate complaints have been made against you  
16 smacking children.

17 "The first complaint was not made on an official  
18 basis and when I discussed this with you, you assured  
19 the social worker that you do not smack and you are well  
20 aware of the social work department's no smacking  
21 policy."

22 Is that something that you were aware of at the  
23 time?

24 A. Yes. Oh yes.

25 Q. Then:

1           "The second complaint was made via the children's  
2           rights officer and was investigated by a Kate Ramsden,  
3           social work manager, and the writer. It says  
4           Mrs Ramsden has since confirmed in writing that she  
5           could find no evidence to support the allegations."

6           Can you remember a Kate Ramsden or an investigation?

7   A. No.

8   Q. If we scroll down to the bottom of this page, in answer  
9           to the question it says:

10           "You and your husband are very welcoming to children  
11           who are admitted to their care on an emergency basis.  
12           They cope with children of all ages and are able to  
13           offer firm and consistent limits to children with  
14           difficult behaviour. Although the household is very  
15           busy, each child is given individual adult attention and  
16           encouraged to share their feelings and express their  
17           views."

18           I think the social worker is noting there that the  
19           household was very busy.

20           If we move on to the next page, please, to page 8  
21           and question 8, I think we see it says there:

22           "The family have continued to offer a valuable  
23           emergency service although they have four children in  
24           longer-term care. At times I have become concerned  
25           when, due to them being experienced emergency carers,

1       their house becomes overcrowded with up to five children  
2       sharing a bedroom."

3   A.   Mm-hmm.

4   Q.   That's correct, I think you've said there could be up to  
5       six children or even more sharing a bedroom?

6   A.   Mm.   Babies in cots used to be in our bedroom.

7   Q.   Okay.   We can leave that document and just moving  
8       towards the end of your statement, a final couple of  
9       points.

10       At page 20, at paragraph 101 you refer there to  
11       an allegation made against your son?

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   Was that towards the end of your time as a foster carer?

14   A.   Yes.

15   Q.   In general terms, what was the nature of the allegation?

16   A.   He supposedly sexually abused him.   But he wasn't even  
17       in the house at the time.   He was at his girlfriend's.

18   Q.   Okay.   Was it investigated?

19   A.   Investigated and thrown out.

20   Q.   Okay.   Was it investigated by the social work department  
21       or the police or --

22   A.   Police.

23   Q.   Okay.   After the investigation concluded, did you carry  
24       on being a foster carer?

25   A.   Never heard from the social workers again.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. They didn't even -- wouldn't answer phone calls or  
3 nothing. They were a downright disgrace.

4 Q. Okay. At the time that the allegation was made, did you  
5 have children with you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Were they removed from your care?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. After that, did the social work ever place children with  
10 you again?

11 A. Never phoned, nothing.

12 Q. Okay.

13 You've responded to what 'Kelly' said in her  
14 statement about what had happened, what she says had  
15 happened when she lived with you. If we move to  
16 paragraph 107, I think you say that you can't remember  
17 her at all -- so on page 22. You can't remember who she  
18 is?

19 A. I've had one stroke and three TIAs, I've no memory.

20 Q. You've looked at what she said and I think you say in  
21 terms of the things that she said about your ex-husband  
22 at paragraph 108, you don't think that he would have  
23 behaved in the way that she has described?

24 A. Anything to do with girls was my department. He'd  
25 never -- he worked eight/nine hours at different shifts,

1       so it would have been me that would have had to deal  
2       with her.

3   Q.   Then if we go to page 23 of your statement and  
4       paragraph 110, you say there that you think that social  
5       workers should behave more maternally towards children.  
6       Can you explain why you say that?

7   A.   You get a social worker coming out of uni at 21/22 years  
8       old. No children. Just think they know everything.  
9       They don't have the same feeling as a social worker,  
10      older social worker that's got children of their own.  
11      It's different altogether. The young ones and older  
12      ones are so different. No experience, really. No  
13      experience in the world at all.

14   Q.   At paragraph 112 I think you say that there should be  
15      better training and you hope that it's better now. You  
16      say "more for social workers than foster carers". Are  
17      you thinking along similar lines to what you've just  
18      said?

19   A.   Yes.

20   MS INNES: They just need better training, okay.

21       Right, thank you very much for your evidence,  
22      'Eleanor'. I have no more questions for you.

23       There are no applications, my Lady.

24   LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
25      questions of 'Eleanor'?

1           'Eleanor', that completes all the questions we have  
2       for you.

3           Thank you for engaging with us as you have done.  
4       I have your written statement, which is really helpful,  
5       it has so much detail in it, and now I've heard you  
6       today give your own oral evidence. It's been really  
7       good to hear from you myself in person and I'm grateful  
8       to you for the time, trouble, inconvenience and effort  
9       that I'm sure has been involved in coming here.

10          I'm now able to let you go and I hope the rest of  
11       the day is more relaxing for you than the first half of  
12       it's been.

13   A.   Can I say one thing?

14   LADY SMITH:   Certainly.

15   A.   I just hope now, doing all of this, that people  
16       understand how foster children feel when they're taken  
17       away from a bad situation, put into a good situation,  
18       but they don't understand what their needs a mother,  
19       a second mother to be there, to have that maternal  
20       instinct, to take care of the child, any age of that  
21       child needs that love from the time they move into that  
22       house.

23   LADY SMITH:   Thank you for that, 'Eleanor'.   Thank you.

24                               (The witness withdrew)

25   LADY SMITH:   Before I rise for the lunch break, just noting

1       that a couple of children's names were used in the  
2       evidence, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and they can't be  
3       identified outside this room.

4             If we take the lunch break now there'll be another  
5       witness ready after lunch; is that right?

6   MS INNES:   That's correct, my Lady.

7   LADY SMITH:  Thank you very much.

8   (1.09 pm)

9                       (The luncheon adjournment)

10   (2.00 pm)

11   LADY SMITH:  Ms Innes.

12   MS INNES:   My Lady, the next witness is James Farquhar.

13       James Farquhar and [REDACTED] were foster carers for  
14       Lothian Regional Council and then the City of Edinburgh  
15       Council from about 1984 until they were de-registered in  
16       September 1999, although they had been suspended prior  
17       to that de-registration.

18       An applicant with the pseudonym 'Esther' was placed  
19       in foster care with James Farquhar and [REDACTED] from  
20       [REDACTED] 1994 until [REDACTED] 1997. 'Esther' gave  
21       evidence on Day 328, which was 28 September 2022.

22       The City of Edinburgh Council is the responsible  
23       authority.

24       As Your Ladyship is already aware, James Farquhar  
25       has a conviction in respect of sexual offences and



1 perhaps if we could look at that, please, it's

2 JUS-000000086.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: In March 1999 Mr Farquhar was convicted of four  
5 charges of sexual offences against three complainers.

6 If we look at the charges on page 1, he was found  
7 guilty as libelled in respect of charge 1, which was  
8 lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour  
9 towards a girl between 12 and 16, and that was between  
10 [REDACTED] 1986 and [REDACTED] 1987, and that's the earliest  
11 date.

12 In terms of charge 2 he was found guilty as  
13 libelled, that was in respect of a boy aged around  
14 between 10 or 11 at the time. He was in foster care.  
15 And again it's a charge of lewd, indecent and libidinous  
16 practices.

17 He was found guilty in respect of charge 3, but with  
18 substitution of one occasion, so on one occasion again  
19 a charge of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and  
20 behaviour towards a girl. That took place at some point  
21 between [REDACTED] 1988 and [REDACTED] 1988.

22 Then a charge 4, this is in respect of the same  
23 complainer as the previous charge, and this is again one  
24 occasion, it was substituted, again lewd, indecent and  
25 libidinous practices, and that's the statutory offence

1       and again it notes that she was between 12 and 16 at the  
2       time.

3       As I've indicated before, charge 5 that we see on  
4       the indictment was the charge in respect of the  
5       applicant 'Esther' and at the close of the Crown case it  
6       was accepted that there was no case to answer in respect  
7       of that charge.

8       The sentence is on page 5, and if we scroll down we  
9       see the sentence. He was sentenced to two years'  
10      imprisonment on charges 1 and 4 and six years in cumulo  
11      on charges 2 and 3, all periods running concurrently.

12   LADY SMITH: That was concurrent sentences of six years?

13   MS INNES: Yes.

14   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15                   James Farquhar (sworn)

16   A. Put my glasses on so I can read the screen.

17   LADY SMITH: You may need them if you want to look at your  
18      own statement.

19       First of all, what I hope's an easy question. Would  
20      you like me to call you James or Mr Farquhar? Either  
21      will work for me.

22   A. James will do.

23   LADY SMITH: Well, James, the red folder has a copy of your  
24      statement in it. Your statement will also come up on  
25      the screen and we will go to different parts of it as we

1       want to discuss various matters with you during your  
2       evidence.

3               Separately from that, James, I do appreciate that  
4       what we have you here doing this afternoon, coming into  
5       public and talking about things that happened a while  
6       ago in your own life and involving distressing matters,  
7       including the fact of you having been convicted of  
8       charges in relation to children and other matters  
9       relating to children, I appreciate that this isn't easy  
10      and you may at times find it upsetting or want a break.

11             That's fine, you just let me know. My hope is that  
12      I can do anything that would help to enable you to give  
13      your evidence as clearly and carefully as you can,  
14      because for the sake of children in the past, children  
15      at present and children in the future, that's what I'm  
16      intent on doing here.

17             Before I hand over to Ms Innes, James, there's one  
18      other thing. You'll understand this is a public  
19      inquiry, it's not a court hearing, but you are giving  
20      evidence in public, a transcript of your evidence is  
21      being made and it's important that you realise that it  
22      could be relied on outside the Inquiry. In these  
23      circumstances, let me warn you that if you're asked any  
24      questions the answers to which could incriminate you in  
25      relation to any matter of which you haven't been

1 convicted, then you're not obliged to answer them. But  
2 if you do, you do have to answer them fully and  
3 completely, given the oath that you've taken to tell the  
4 whole truth. It's your choice.

5 If you have any doubts about that or questions about  
6 it as we go along, please do ask, or questions about  
7 anything else. Don't hesitate to speak up.

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and  
10 she'll take it from there. Is that all right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 Ms Innes.

14 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

15 Questions from Ms Innes

16 MS INNES: James, we understand you were born in 1956. Is  
17 that right?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. I'm going to refer first of all to your statement, which  
20 we give the reference WIT-1-000000941. If we look at  
21 the final page of that statement, please, page 22,  
22 paragraph 79 it says there:

23 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
24 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true."

2 I believe you signed the statement on 17 March 2022;

3 is that correct?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. If we go back to the beginning of your statement, at

6 page 1, paragraph 3 you talk about becoming a foster

7 carer. I think we know that you and [REDACTED] were

8 foster carers initially for Lothian Regional Council and

9 then for the City of Edinburgh Council from about 1984

10 was when you started. You say there that you imagine

11 that your time as a foster carer ended in 1999 when you

12 went to prison. I think we know that you were

13 de-registered at that time, although I think you'd been

14 previously suspended as a foster carer. Is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If we go on to page 2 and paragraph 4, you talk there

17 about how it came about that you and [REDACTED] became

18 foster carers. What was it that motivated you to apply

19 to become foster carers?

20 A. Just so we could help the kids.

21 Q. So that you could help kids?

22 A. Mm.

23 Q. Was it a joint decision or was it more [REDACTED] that

24 wanted to do it or you?

25 A. Joint decision.

1 Q. Okay. Did you know anything about being a foster carer  
2 before you applied to Lothian Regional Council?  
3 A. No. Not before we applied.  
4 Q. What did the application process involve? You say that  
5 you think it was a long involved process of interviews  
6 and background checks?  
7 A. Yes. It was interviews, background checks, and also  
8 they gave you information on social work procedures and  
9 things that went on.  
10 Q. Okay. Was it a social worker that was interviewing you  
11 and [REDACTED]?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. Okay. I think you tell us -- did you and [REDACTED] have  
14 children of your own?  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. Did the social worker speak to them about you becoming  
17 foster carers, do you know?  
18 A. Yeah, I'm sure they did.  
19 Q. Okay. Did they speak to any other sort of family or  
20 friends or anything like that?  
21 A. I'm sure they did. It's been a while back now, I can't  
22 remember that far back, but I'm sure they did. Or they  
23 should have.  
24 Q. You also said that they gave you information and I think  
25 you go on to tell us about that at paragraph 6, where

1       you say that you did some training before you started  
2       fostering?

3   A.   Yes.  You got your training before you started.  You  
4       also got training ongoing during the fostering.

5   Q.   Okay.  Before you started, can you remember what the  
6       training was like?  Was there a lot of it or not?

7   A.   There was as much as the circumstances allowed, because  
8       it was run by -- or overseen by, if I remember rightly,  
9       by social workers, and they have a big caseload.  Also,  
10      the more experienced foster parents.

11  Q.   Okay.

12  A.   So...

13  Q.   Okay.  So the initial sessions were run by the social  
14      work department and foster parents.  Thinking about the  
15      training before you became a foster carer, I think you  
16      mentioned that was sort of telling you about procedures  
17      and things?

18  A.   Procedures, yeah, it would be.  And how things were  
19      working --

20  Q.   Okay.

21  A.   -- basically.

22  Q.   What sort of procedures did they tell you about, can you  
23      remember?

24  A.   I can't remember that far back, lass, sorry about that.

25  Q.   Then you said that after you became a foster carer there

1       was ongoing training?

2   A.   Yeah.

3   Q.   How regular was that?

4   A.   It could have been more regular, I suppose. I'm just --

5       I couldn't give you exact time factors and dates now.

6       As I say, it's way back.

7   Q.   Okay. Sorry, I should have asked in the training before

8       you became foster carers, did you and [REDACTED] both go

9       to the same training sessions?

10  A.   Yes. It was a joint decision so we done it jointly.

11  Q.   Then after you became foster carers in terms of this

12       ongoing training that you mention, did you and [REDACTED]

13       again continue going to the same training sessions or

14       did you do different things?

15  A.   Whenever possible we went together. There may have been

16       on occasion that maybe one of us went, but that wouldn't

17       have happened very often.

18  Q.   Okay. At paragraph 9 at the top of page 3 you talk

19       about some of the types of training that you were given.

20       At the end of that paragraph you say that you remember

21       thinking at the time that the training that you had was

22       quite good and you thought it was quite useful?

23  A.   Yeah.

24  Q.   You mention that you had training on how to deal with

25       kids that had been through difficult experiences?



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You remember getting training about that, okay.

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. You say:

5 "I'm sure we must have got some child protection

6 training and training on how to discipline children."

7 Can you remember that or are you just thinking that

8 must have been something that happened?

9 A. I would have -- it was something that was bound to have

10 happened but I couldn't give you -- it's that far back

11 I can't give you the specific details now.

12 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 10 you say you imagine you

13 would have been given some written guidance and you say

14 that foster parents were assigned their own social

15 worker and the kids had a separate social worker.

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. So for the whole time that you were a foster carer, did

18 you and [REDACTED] have your own social worker?

19 A. We did.

20 Q. Was it the same social worker all the time or did that

21 person change during the time that you were working as

22 a foster carer?

23 A. I would have liked it to have been the same one, but

24 obviously they changed. By either promotion or they

25 left to get another job so you got another social worker

1       and then you had to re-establish your groundwork with  
2       her.

3   Q.   Why do you say you would have liked it to have been the  
4       same person?

5   A.   Well, you get to know them and you get to build  
6       a relationship.  It's -- you get to an understanding how  
7       people work.  It's like I prefer to go and see the one  
8       doctor all the time.

9   Q.   Did you feel that you were able to build a relationship  
10       with the next social worker that you had?

11  A.   We did.  Most of them we did, yeah.

12  Q.   Then you also mentioned that there would be the  
13       children's social workers as well.  Would they sometimes  
14       come to the house to see the children?

15  A.   Yes.

16  Q.   First of all, if we think about your social worker, did  
17       your social worker meet you at the house or at the  
18       social work offices?

19  A.   If I remember she always came to the house.

20  Q.   How often did she come to the house, was it a regular  
21       thing?

22  A.   It was a regular thing, as regular as the social worker  
23       could make it because, as I say, we weren't the only  
24       caseload they had.  I'm saying caseload, because I think  
25       it's the terminology they used at the time.

1 Q. Okay. So roughly do you have any sense of how often she  
2 would come?

3 A. No. As often as possible, but I couldn't give you  
4 an exact thing now. It's too way back.

5 Q. Okay. Then the children's social workers, would they  
6 come to the house frequently or not?

7 A. As frequently as possible they would come in. If the  
8 kids ever wanted to speak to them, we would contact our  
9 social worker, the social work department, and try and  
10 get our social worker and say, "The kid wants to see  
11 a social worker or their social worker", and get them in  
12 touch that way.

13 Q. Did any of these social workers ever come to see you on  
14 an unannounced basis?

15 A. Yeah, they must have done.

16 Q. Okay. Why do you think they must have done?

17 A. Well, it would make sense, just come on and off  
18 hopefully just to see what was going on, make -- I would  
19 think so.

20 Q. If we can move on over the page in your statement, at  
21 paragraph 13 you say there that you've never really  
22 thought about your legal relationship with the Local  
23 Authority or whether you thought you were employed by  
24 them or not. So did you see fostering as being a job or  
25 not?

1 A. I don't see fostering as a job.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Or I didn't at that time. I suppose nowadays it

4 probably is. But ... it's like nursing. You go and do

5 it because you want to do it.

6 Q. You say it's like nursing, is it?

7 A. Well, I mean it's who -- you do fostering because you

8 want to doing fostering. It's not a job.

9 Q. I suppose you might say nursing's a job but it's also

10 a vocation, it's both.

11 A. An individual person, it's what they want to do.

12 Q. Okay. At paragraph 14 you say you definitely had a say

13 in the type of fostering you wanted to do in terms of

14 whether it was short-term, long-term or emergency. And

15 you say that you also had a say in whether you wanted to

16 foster girls or boys and the age range. How were you

17 able to have that say? Would you have a discussion with

18 the social workers before any child was placed with you?

19 A. Yeah, the social worker would come up -- sometimes your

20 social worker would be there along with the child's

21 social worker, and other times it was just one or the

22 other. But you would have a discussion and you would

23 have time to think about: can we help this kid? And

24 that's how it was done.

25 Q. Okay. In the terms of the length of time that children

1       were with you, you mention there long term, short term  
2       or emergency, did you tend to do more of one type of  
3       foster care than another?  
4   A.   It would vary sometimes.  
5   Q.   Okay.  
6   A.   Could be -- you might have a kid over a weekend and  
7       that's -- the weekend or short, emergency fostering can  
8       cover the foster kid in another home, maybe having  
9       an argument in that household and they need time out to  
10      calm down and get things together and then go back.  
11      That's an example of emergency fostering. Or it could  
12      be other slightly longer -- yeah.  
13   Q.   At paragraph 17 you say that when you and [REDACTED]  
14       started fostering, it was just you and your two  
15       children, a son and a daughter, and you think your son  
16       was about seven and your daughter was about eight when  
17       you started?  
18   A.   Yes, probably.  
19   Q.   Okay. Then you talk about a boy coming to live with you  
20       who you ended up adopting?  
21   A.   Yes.  
22   Q.   Was he younger than your son and your daughter?  
23   A.   He was younger.  
24   Q.   How much younger, roughly?  
25   A.   Two to three years maybe.

1 Q. Okay. Did he come to you with the intention that he  
2 would be adopted or did he come to you as a foster child  
3 first of all?  
4 A. Foster kid first time.  
5 Q. Okay. Apart from him, did you have any other children  
6 with you on a long-term basis, you know, for a number of  
7 years?  
8 A. We had two, three. Yeah, two or three.  
9 Q. Okay.  
10 A. We still keep in touch with one of them.  
11 Q. Sorry?  
12 A. I still keep in touch, we are on the phone regularly, we  
13 are still talking away ...  
14 Q. Did you say with all of them or just one of them?  
15 A. Mostly just the oldest one.  
16 Q. Okay. Is that the boy you adopted or are you talking  
17 about other --  
18 A. No, it's the other one, other ones.  
19 Q. -- children, okay.  
20 Then you talk about where you lived and you say that  
21 you had two bedrooms that you used for the foster  
22 children, one for the boys and one for the girls.  
23 A. That's right.  
24 Q. Can you remember how many beds you'd have had in each of  
25 those rooms?

1 A. Would have been the bunk beds, I can't remember exactly  
2 how many like.

3 Q. Okay. Do you have any sense of the sort of maximum  
4 number of children that you had living in the house at  
5 any one time?

6 A. Maths was never my strong suit. (Pause)  
7 Maybe five.

8 Q. Okay. So you know that a person who stayed with you has  
9 given evidence to the Inquiry and we're using the  
10 pseudonym 'Esther' for her.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 Q. She says that when she was living in your house, she was  
13 there with her brother who was a baby at the time,  
14 I think, when he came to live with you. Is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Then there was your son and your adopted son living in  
17 the house.

18 Then she also said that there was another child  
19 there in foster care who was there all the time, his  
20 name was [REDACTED]. He was living there at the same time,  
21 would that be right?

22 A. That would be right.

23 Q. Then she said that your daughter would stay quite  
24 frequently with her baby at the time; is that right?

25 A. At the time she was there my lassie never had a bairn.

1 Q. Sorry?

2 A. At the time 'Esther' was there, my oldest lassie never  
3 had a bairn at that time.

4 Q. Okay. You think it was later that she had a baby?

5 A. Well, she was married when she had a bairn.

6 Q. Okay. Then she said that there were two children that  
7 would come at the weekend, a boy called [REDACTED] would come  
8 maybe for respite at the weekend?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And another boy, who she thought was called [REDACTED]  
11 would maybe come at the weekend as well?

12 A. He may have done for a short period, [REDACTED].

13 Q. Then she also thought there was another boy who would  
14 come sometimes for sleepovers called [REDACTED]?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did he come too?

17 A. That was my friend's laddie.

18 Q. Your friend's child, okay.

19 I think from 'Esther's' evidence she was saying  
20 excluding you and [REDACTED] and the baby, that would be  
21 nine children, including 'Esther' and her brother, that  
22 were in the house at the one time. Well, perhaps at the  
23 weekends when the children were there for respite, is  
24 that possible?

25 A. Maybe, aye.



1 Q. Okay. If I can move on a little in your statement,  
2 please, to paragraph 31 on page 8. You're referring  
3 there to the children having their own clothes and being  
4 able to pick their own clothes. 'Esther's' evidence is  
5 that she had to wear boys' clothes when she lived with  
6 you and [REDACTED]. Is that correct?  
7 A. No. It's not correct.  
8 Q. Then at paragraph 34, you say there I think that if the  
9 children weren't at school, they could go outside to  
10 play. They could play outside as long as they were  
11 within shouting range. I assume that would apply to  
12 older children. What about younger children? Were they  
13 taken out at all by you and [REDACTED]?  
14 A. The younger kids were taken out.  
15 Q. Where to?  
16 A. The park or round about the -- because there was a big  
17 grassy area at the back end of the house.  
18 Q. Okay. If we move on, please, to page 12 and  
19 paragraph 43, you talk there about discipline. If any  
20 of the children misbehaved, what would you do?  
21 A. We would talk to them about it. The kids had the  
22 nickname for [REDACTED], because she went on and  
23 on and on and on and on --  
24 LADY SMITH: James, I'm sorry, I didn't hear that. Can you  
25 tell me again?

1 A. The kids got the nickname for [REDACTED], remember  
2 the advert about the washing machines [REDACTED], on and on  
3 and on and on. So [REDACTED] would talk -- would talk to  
4 them about it and [REDACTED] would talk to them about it.

5 My own laddie, he says, "Why didn't you just give us  
6 a clip around the ear hole? It would have been quicker  
7 instead of just going on and on and on".

8 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

9 MS INNES: You say that one of the punishments was perhaps  
10 a deduction from their pocket money, but you say that  
11 was set aside for them so they could get it back after?

12 A. Yes. It was -- at the time, depending on the degree of  
13 misbehaviour, it was explained they would get that  
14 amount of pocket money that week because of their  
15 misbehaviour and we explained the deduction that way.  
16 But they never lost it, because that was put aside and  
17 it was given to them in a smaller dose the week -- in  
18 the following weeks. So they never lost it. They did  
19 at the time, but not overall.

20 Q. Okay. Then you say that you didn't physically punish  
21 the children?

22 A. No.

23 Q. If I can move on again in your statement, please, just  
24 bear with me a moment. (Pause)

25 I'd like to move, please, to paragraph 59 of your

1 statement at page 17. There you say:

2 "I find it really hard for me to get my head around  
3 an allegation being made, being cleared of it by the  
4 police, being allowed to continue fostering and then  
5 being arrested for it years down the line."

6 Can you explain what you're talking about there?

7 A. When the allegations first came to light, [REDACTED] and  
8 I contacted the police and the social work department  
9 and raised these and said, "Get it investigated". And  
10 it was all done, it was all looked into. During the  
11 time it was getting looked into, we didn't foster. All  
12 the kids were upheaved and moved. And it was all  
13 looked into and then they came back and said, "There's  
14 nothing to answer for, nothing at all, you can continue  
15 on with your life".

16 We had the option then whether we wanted to continue  
17 fostering or not, I thought there's nothing in it so we  
18 continued fostering. And then as I said there, knock on  
19 the door, police came and arrested me.

20 Q. This allegation, was it an allegation that 'Esther' had  
21 made or was it an allegation made by somebody else?

22 A. I don't -- I think it was 'Esther' that made the  
23 allegation.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But I'm not sure. I'm not 100 per cent sure now.

1 I just know that the allegation was made, it was all  
2 investigated and told to get on with my life and then  
3 arrested years later.

4 Q. Okay.

5 I think we've been told by the City of Edinburgh  
6 Council that in July 1987 allegations were made by [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] and there was a social work and police  
8 investigation but no further action at that time. Is  
9 that maybe what you're thinking of?

10 A. That's probably maybe it.

11 Q. I think there was a second allegation in June 1993,  
12 which was I think a foster child said that [REDACTED]  
13 had complained of what's described by the social work  
14 department as improper suggestions, but I don't know if  
15 you can remember if you were spoken to by the police or  
16 the social work about that at that time?

17 A. I don't remember that.

18 Q. Okay. Then there were obviously the allegations made by  
19 'Esther', and I think that was after she had left your  
20 care?

21 A. Yeah, it all came when she was away. And there was  
22 nothing. I am at a loss ...

23 Q. When you say there was nothing, what are you meaning?

24 A. Well, I maintain my innocence and I'm still maintaining  
25 my innocence. That's it.

1 Q. Okay. You say that the police came to your door and  
2 then you were charged. I think we know not only in  
3 respect of the allegation made by 'Esther' but in  
4 respect of allegations made by other children?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. I think we know that that was [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
7 and a foster child. Is that right?  
8 A. Yeah, that would be about right, I think, yeah.  
9 Q. Okay.  
10 If we can move on and look at page 18 and  
11 paragraph 62, where you mention your conviction and you  
12 note that you weren't convicted of the allegation made  
13 by 'Esther' and you say that you were convicted in  
14 respect of the other charges.  
15 You then say towards the end of this paragraph:  
16 "The biggest thing that sticks in my mind was that  
17 the children's homes were being investigated for abuse  
18 at the time I was charged. I think I suffered because  
19 of that. Because of all the hype about abuse at the  
20 time."  
21 What do you mean by that?  
22 A. Well, it was all over the papers and all over the telly  
23 that the -- the child abuse that was going on in the  
24 children's homes.  
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And I strongly think I suffered because of it all.

2 Q. When you say you suffered, you mean it influenced the  
3 decision to prosecute you or it influenced the jury?

4 A. I think it influenced the jury. I used to -- I made my  
5 own way to court, although it says here I was arrested.  
6 I made my own journey back and forth to court every day.

7 Q. Okay. If I can look at some of the specific allegations  
8 that were made in 'Esther's' statement and if we can  
9 look at paragraph 64, we see there that 'Esther' said  
10 that she and her brother were never taken out, and later  
11 on in that paragraph she says that she didn't even know  
12 how to run when she was adopted. Is that correct?

13 A. No, that's not correct. I have two dogs. The kids used  
14 to come walking with me all the time.

15 Q. If we hear evidence in due course that 'Esther's' social  
16 worker had concerns that she was pale and perhaps she  
17 was not getting out into the sun, did you know anything  
18 about that?

19 A. No.

20 Q. At paragraph 65 you'll see there that 'Esther' says that  
21 she had to sit in a chair in the living room and she  
22 wasn't allowed to get out of the chair and play and do  
23 things. Is that correct?

24 A. That's not correct. She'd sit in a chair if she wanted  
25 to sit in a chair, but I cannot see where she is coming

1       that she wasn't allowed out of it.

2   Q.   You'll see there that she describes her brother, I think

3       he was maybe in a playpen in the living room?  Would

4       that be right?

5   A.   Yes, the wee bairn, if he wanted to play with his toys

6       in that and crawl about, aye, in a playpen, but the

7       playpen had lots of cushions and all that in it.  That

8       was all padded.

9   Q.   Okay.  Then over the page at paragraph 66 she talks

10      about the dogs that you had and she talks there in her

11      statement about her brother being in the playpen and the

12      dogs running around it barking at him.  I think she said

13      in her evidence that this would be encouraged by you and

14      ██████████.

15  A.   No.

16  Q.   That the dogs would do this on your command,

17      essentially?

18  A.   No.

19  Q.   Then at paragraph 67 she says that she was made to eat

20      out of the dog's bowl; is that correct?

21  A.   That's not correct.

22  Q.   She told us in her evidence that she remembered being

23      really, really hungry, particularly when she got to

24      school.  Was that an issue?  Was she not given food to

25      eat?

1 A. I don't know where that's coming from at all. It's not  
2 correct.

3 Q. Then at paragraph 68 I think she says that she saw  
4 arguments between you and the older boys, so between you  
5 and your son, for example. Is that something that  
6 happened?

7 A. We would talk about his misbehaviour, he'd maybe shout,  
8 occasionally I would shout and then I'd correct myself.  
9 But yeah, it's father and son arguing and going.

10 Q. Were there ever any fights between you?

11 A. No.

12 Q. At paragraph 69 'Esther' says again I think that she was  
13 made to sit in the chair and then at the next paragraph,  
14 paragraph 70, she says that her little brother was in  
15 the playpen all the time and that he lost weight or  
16 hardly put any weight on while he was living with you.

17 A. (Witness shakes head)

18 We never -- not -- because they had -- when the  
19 foster kids were with us, they would have medical  
20 appointments and they'd get checked by medical staff.  
21 So if he's losing weight they would be telling us.

22 Q. Okay. 'Esther' said in her evidence that she understood  
23 that [REDACTED] had fallen out with the health visitor  
24 and didn't take 'Esther' or her brother to the health  
25 visitor for immunisations, so they hadn't had all the



1 right immunisations by the time that they were adopted.

2 A. I don't remember that.

3 Q. She said that she understood that an issue that [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] had was that she didn't like the questions that the

5 health visitor was asking about 'Esther's' brother's

6 weight.

7 A. No. I don't remember that.

8 Q. Okay. If we go on to paragraph 71, 'Esther' talks about

9 being locked in a room at night --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- and that the handles were taken off and there was no

12 light in the room?

13 A. The only time the handles were taken off the doors was

14 when I was painting the doors, they were taken off,

15 painted and then screwed them back on again. Same with

16 the lightbulbs to change the light, take it down,

17 unscrew the rose, drop it down, that way you can get

18 right in, and you just tighten the ring back. It's the

19 only time they were taken down.

20 Q. Do you think that might have happened when 'Esther' was

21 living with you?

22 A. It probably did happen when 'Esther' was living with us,

23 yeah.

24 Q. Then at paragraph 72, you note there that 'Esther' made

25 allegations of sexual abuse by [REDACTED]. Can

1       you remember that -- you say that this was mentioned  
2       during your court case but if it had happened, he would  
3       have been arrested and charged, and to your knowledge he  
4       hadn't been.

5   A.   (Witness nods)

6   Q.   Do you remember him being removed from your care because  
7       of [REDACTED] discovering him in a state of undress in  
8       'Esther's' room?

9   A.   I remember him being moved out the house because of  
10       that, yeah. But nothing's happened, the whole thing  
11       with (unclear) came about, and he wasn't arrested or  
12       anything, as I says.

13  Q.   Did he move to a residential home at that point?

14  A.   It was a residential care home, yeah. Sure it was.

15  Q.   Did he come back to live with you again?

16  A.   Yes.

17  Q.   Was that while 'Esther' and her brother were still  
18       living with you or after she left?

19  A.   I can't remember, I'm not sure on that one.

20  Q.   Okay. We might have some evidence that he visited your  
21       house when she was there with somebody from the  
22       residential home. Do you think that would be right?

23  A.   It's the only way he would probably -- if he was still  
24       in the residential home, that's the only way he would be  
25       in the house, if someone from the residential home was

1           with him.

2   Q.   After he was in the residential home, can you remember

3           him coming back to the house of his own accord and

4           visiting you again, turning up at your door or anything

5           like that?

6   A.   No.

7   Q.   'Esther' spoke in her evidence about there being

8           scaffolding up outside your house and sometimes your

9           [REDACTED] accessing her room through the window

10          because there was scaffolding there.

11  A.   I don't remember the -- I don't think there was any

12          scaffolding up at the house when she was there. I can't

13          remember that.

14  Q.   Is it possible that that's the case and you can't

15          remember?

16  A.   I don't think there was scaffolding up there, but I just

17          can't remember.

18  Q.   Okay. Then at paragraph 73 you note the allegations of

19          sexual abuse made by 'Esther', where she says that you

20          would ask her to give you oral sex and it was a regular

21          occurrence, it was most Saturday mornings.

22  A.   No.

23  Q.   Did that happen?

24  A.   No.

25  Q.   Then at paragraph 74 you mention there something that

1        'Esther' has said about a friend who would come and  
2        visit and that she had photographs taken of her while  
3        she was naked?  
4    A.   No.  
5    Q.   I think she remembers another girl being there at the  
6        time and both of them were naked and photographs were  
7        taken.  
8    A.   No.  
9    Q.   I think you mention that these people are friends of  
10       yours, but you don't think any photographs were ever  
11       taken of her?  
12   A.   There was no photographs ever taken of them naked, me or  
13       friends, none of them.  
14   MS INNES: Thank you very much. I have no more questions  
15       for you.  
16        There are no application, my Lady.  
17   LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
18       questions?  
19        James, that completes all the questions we have for  
20       you this afternoon.  
21        Thank you very much, both for your written  
22       statement, which I have read and is part of your  
23       evidence and has helpful details in it, and for coming  
24       to give evidence today. I'm now able to let you go and  
25       I'm sure you're grateful for that and can now go away

1 and relax a bit more than you might have been doing  
2 today so far.  
3 Thank you.  
4 (The witness withdrew)  
5 LADY SMITH: Just keeping track of names, some children's  
6 names, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], these people cannot be  
7 identified outside this room.  
8 Ms Innes, what next?  
9 MS INNES: My Lady, Ms Rattray has a short read-in which  
10 could be done before the break.  
11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.  
12 Ms Rattray, whenever you're ready.  
13 'Logie' (read)  
14 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant  
15 who is anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Logie', and  
16 'Logie's' statement is at WIT-1-000000675 and his cypher  
17 is EPT.  
18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
19 MS RATTRAY: 'Logie' was in the care of Tayside Regional  
20 Council. He was in two foster placements.  
21 The first was with a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in  
22 Dundee, from [REDACTED] 1995 until [REDACTED] 1995.  
23 The second was a placement in which abuse is alleged  
24 and was with EPU-SPO [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]  
25 from [REDACTED] 1995 to [REDACTED] 1995.

1           'Logie' also spent a period of respite foster care  
2           with a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] in about [REDACTED] 1997.

3           The successor authority is Dundee City Council.

4           "My name is 'Logie'. I was born in 1985. My  
5           contact details are known to the Inquiry."

6           From paragraphs 2 to 11, 'Logie' speaks of his life  
7           before care. His parents separated when he was born.  
8           He lived with his mum and his two younger siblings in  
9           Dundee. He also had an older brother who stayed with  
10          his dad. His mum's new partner was abusive. He says  
11          his mum was abused as a child by family members and she  
12          had a history of mental illness and is bipolar. 'Logie'  
13          says all behaviours are learned behaviour.

14          His mum met and married another man. 'Logie' says  
15          that the police were involved with him since he was  
16          young because he was absconding, shoplifting and  
17          misbehaving badly at school. He set fires a lot. His  
18          mum was struggling to cope and at times was violent to  
19          him. After a beating by his mum, 'Logie' was taken into  
20          care.

21          I'm now moving to paragraph 11 on page 3:

22          "The night I was taken into care, Rita and Neil got  
23          me into the car and they asked me if I was hungry.  
24          I said that I would like fish and chips because I had  
25          never had it before and it was something mum ordered for

1       herself but never shared with me. They briefly  
2       explained what was happening and they asked me for some  
3       information. Then they took me to the hospital to get  
4       a body check. I don't think I attended a panel before  
5       I went into care.

6           I remember arriving with the [REDACTED]. It was  
7       scary and daunting but they were friendly and warm.  
8       I think they had a teenage son. The [REDACTED] had  
9       worked all their lives and their home was lovely. It  
10      was three floors and it was in Dundee. I had my own  
11      bedroom which overlooked the Tay and I loved it.

12       The [REDACTED] were an older couple and I didn't  
13      match with them, although they directed me mentally for  
14      the rest of my life. They gave me a mind which would  
15      accept information and regurgitate it when required.  
16      They introduced me to reading which I loved and it was  
17      my escape. I used to drag my social workers around  
18      bookstores. Reading gives you knowledge and knowledge  
19      gives you power. Reading gave me a sense of belonging  
20      because I read things like Oliver Twist. A few years  
21      later I played Oliver Twist on a live theatre set with  
22      a school.

23       I thought this was a long-term placement until  
24      things could be sorted out at home but I was only with  
25      the [REDACTED] for a short time. This was weeks or

1 months, but no longer than six months. I was happy to  
2 be safe but I missed my stepfather and siblings. I felt  
3 lost, so I went out and fire raised in the local area  
4 and I ran away. I also went round and smashed windows.  
5 I was an angry wee boy but it wasn't to do with the  
6 [REDACTED] It was probably rebellion against their  
7 rules. I was doing what I wanted to do instead of what  
8 society wanted me to do. People wanted me to do what  
9 they wanted to do and I wanted to do what I wanted to  
10 do.

11 I think if I had been an older child with less  
12 baggage I would have done all right there. It was the  
13 right people at the wrong time. If I could talk to them  
14 now, I would thank them for trying and tell them I am  
15 sorry it didn't work out.

16 Rita was appointed as my social worker and she was  
17 a constant. She wasn't brilliant at getting stuff done  
18 but she was there when she needed to be there and she  
19 was like a second auntie to me. I requested not to see  
20 my mum at that time because she was so up and down  
21 mentally. Occasionally I requested to see her and was  
22 told no, so then I would kick-off.

23 I was removed from the [REDACTED] as a result of my  
24 disruptive behaviour. Rita would have told me I was  
25 leaving and she would have told me the reason why, but



1 I can't remember her exact words.

2 I then went to live with EPU-SPO . They lived in  
3 . It was a nice house which was not in  
4 a scheme and EPU-SPO seemed okay. They were called  
5 EPU-SPO . was the nicer one of the  
6 couple. They had a teenage daughter who was about 15  
7 and a slightly younger son. They also looked after  
8 a younger boy later on. He was about two or three.

9 I was there for about six months. I was settled  
10 into a school and I had at least one befriender. Then  
11 I got bored almost and I didn't want to be there because  
12 of the strictness of the rules. EPU-SPO were  
13 stricter than the . You weren't allowed to  
14 leave the table unless you were excused and I was made  
15 to tuck my arms in and sit up straight when I was  
16 eating, but I refused to comply. I was a very angry  
17 young man and I rebelled. I refused to have the TB  
18 vaccine when I was there and I never had it.

19 I had to do chores which I had never had before so  
20 I rebelled against that too. I started doing them but  
21 then I decided they were too much hard work and  
22 I refused to do them. They wanted me to do the dishes  
23 and I point blank refused. My mum wanted me to do them  
24 at home too and I had big fights with her about that.

25 EPU-SPO wanted me to do the hoovering. They

1       expected me to Hoover the stairs at that young age with  
2       a heavy Hoover and I was grounded if I didn't complete  
3       the chores. For bad behaviour I was put into the  
4       bedroom that I shared with their son for four or five  
5       hours. I wasn't locked in but I was told to remain  
6       there. I played with toys and used my imagination to  
7       escape from the situation but that was the last time  
8       I was able to do that for a long time.

9           I used to go by taxi to primary school.

10           Sometimes Rita took me to McDonald's, but other  
11       times she took me to a meeting room in the local social  
12       work department.

13           I had a befriender who was called Graham Chester and  
14       I believe he was appointed by the social work  
15       department. He was amazing. He was about 35 and he was  
16       like the big brother I never got to know. He would take  
17       me to the beach and we would fly kites. He would ask me  
18       what I wanted to do and we went and did it.

19           I loved Graham Chester. I don't know what happened  
20       to him and why we stopped seeing each other but it was  
21       maybe because I was put into Duncan Place. I had  
22       another befriender who was appointed by the social work  
23       department before Graeme but he may have been there  
24       afterwards as well.

25           I believe I had contact with my mother when I was

1 with EPU-SPO because I have a vague memory of being  
2 taken to my home.

3 I got on well with the daughter but because of my  
4 behaviour and them being a Christian family, things  
5 became difficult. My mum used to tell me that religion  
6 was for me to decide but EPU-SPO wanted me to  
7 conform to Christianity. I was expected to attend  
8 Sunday school and church every Sunday, but the Bible  
9 stories scared me so that really set me off. We also  
10 had to say grace at dinner time and I consider that to  
11 be an abuse not a guidance, because that was pushing  
12 something onto someone.

13 As a punishment for doing something I was sat on the  
14 back step in the back garden and the back door was  
15 locked so I couldn't get back in. I had only a T-shirt  
16 and tracksuit bottoms or pyjamas on and I was freezing.  
17 EPU then swore at me and asked me if I was ready to  
18 speak. She acted like she was my mum and she was  
19 aggressive towards me so I kicked off again and swore at  
20 her. She then washed my mouth out with soap. She took  
21 me into the downstairs bathroom, ran some water over  
22 a bar of soap and put it into my mouth. She rammed it  
23 around in a circular motion and up and down.

24 The next morning/day EPU asked me if I wanted to  
25 go ice skating the following day with her son and

1 daughter. I said I would love to and I think we went to  
2 Forfar ice rink, so the incident with the soap was  
3 smoothed over. I am not sure if I ever told Rita or  
4 Graham about what happened in foster care. The things  
5 that happened to me have stuck in my memory better than  
6 any conversations I would have had about them  
7 afterwards, but I told people later and I have told my  
8 son and daughter about it to show them that they don't  
9 want to be in care.

10 EPU-SPO drove a Volvo estate which had two seats  
11 in the boot. I don't remember EPU taking me to  
12 school in the car, although she took her own children.  
13 One morning during the school run I was left in the car  
14 with their son as EPU had taken the toddler into day  
15 care and the son and I started to fight. He hit me in  
16 the mouth and chipped my tooth. I had the chipped piece  
17 on my finger and I showed it to EPU She took it off  
18 my finger, inspected it and replied it was too soft to  
19 be a bit of tooth and flicked it out of the car.  
20 Nothing more was said. I complained but it just fell on  
21 deaf ears as usual, because EPU just ignored me when  
22 I shouted and screamed and that to me is neglect. These  
23 incidents always play on my mind and they will never  
24 stop being on my mind.

25 I'm not sure why I was taken away from EPU-SPO

1       and put into Duncan Place but I think it was due to  
2       a breakdown in the relationship."

3               From paragraph 33 to 107 'Logie' speaks of his  
4       experiences in other residential care settings.

5               Moving now to paragraph 108 on page 23:

6               "I went to foster carers in Lanark and I was told  
7       that I could stay there if all went well. I was told it  
8       was a Mainstay, which to me at that age meant permanent.  
9       The family were lovely and I had my own games console in  
10      my room. They had a son but I can't remember any other  
11      children there. The house was situated on the edge of  
12      a farm and it was a lovely large bungalow. I was there  
13      for a maximum of three months.

14              Any time I was going to be moved there was a child  
15      panel. I stayed there until my next panel and then  
16      I moved on to my next placement. I don't know why the  
17      placement broke down. Looking back as an adult I would  
18      have liked to have stayed there, but as a child I had  
19      issues and I probably didn't feel comfortable there  
20      because it was still so far away from home. I knew  
21      I was back in Scotland and I probably wanted to be  
22      closer to home."

23              From paragraph 110 'Logie' speaks of his experiences  
24      in other residential care settings. He speaks of his  
25      life after care and impact. As the details of the

1 impact on 'Logie' have to be understood in the context  
2 of his overall experiences, I'll move to paragraph 231  
3 on page 47 where 'Logie' says:  
4 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
5 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
6 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
7 true."  
8 'Logie' signed his statement on 27 April 2021.  
9 My Lady, I do have some records to look at. They're  
10 not lengthy.  
11 LADY SMITH: Maybe we can do them just now.  
12 MS RATTRAY: I think they may be done before the break.  
13 LADY SMITH: Let's do that, thank you.  
14 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the purpose of looking at these  
15 records is to demonstrate the kind of context in which  
16 this foster care placement took place.  
17 Generally the records in the bundle show that EPU-SPO  
18 EPU-SPO were in regular contact with the social worker  
19 about 'Logie's' difficult behaviour and they were  
20 clearly struggling to cope.  
21 Looking from there on, if we turn first to  
22 DUN-000000742 -- I have this down as DUN-000000742, but  
23 it doesn't look as though the record I'm looking at ...  
24 I think there might be a problem with what records  
25 are available. Perhaps we can take the break now.



1 LADY SMITH: Maybe we can take the break and you can check  
2 that out.  
3 Thank you, Ms Rattray.  
4 (3.00 pm)  
5 (A short break)  
6 (3.10 pm)  
7 LADY SMITH: Success?  
8 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady, we have the records.  
9 Against a background where I say it's clear that EPU-SPO  
10 EPU-SPO were in regular contact with the social work  
11 department about 'Logie's' difficult behaviour and they  
12 were struggling to cope with that, it's really just  
13 looking at some of the circumstances surrounding that.  
14 The first document is at DUN-000000742. What this  
15 is is a foster carer's review of [REDACTED] 1995, and  
16 'Logie' joined the family the following month in [REDACTED]  
17 Under "Current approval" it says:  
18 "EPU-SPO [REDACTED] were approved as temporary foster  
19 carers on 1 July 1994 ..."  
20 So they haven't been foster carers for very long.  
21 It says here they've been approved as temporary  
22 foster carers for one child, aged 0 to 12, plus one  
23 respite placement, aged 0 to 12.  
24 That, as it turns out, is a typing error. It's in  
25 fact a temporary foster carer for one child aged 0 to 6

1 and a respite placement of a child up to the age of 12,  
2 and we'll see that elsewhere.

3 What I would like under the heading of "Family  
4 circumstances", which remain unchanged since the time of  
5 the approval, what that tells us is that the carers had  
6 six birth children aged between 2 and 14. So they  
7 already have a large family of children to care for.

8 LADY SMITH: Ah.

9 MS RATTRAY: What it doesn't say here, but it does say  
10 elsewhere in documents and we don't need to go to them,  
11 is that the foster father was a teacher and worked full  
12 time, so it was the foster mother who was at home  
13 essentially looking after the children.

14 If we turn to page 2 of this document, this is  
15 a continuation and we see at the foot of what's shown  
16 here they do say:

17 "Overall EPU and have coped with some very  
18 difficult and demanding placements."

19 In the view of this person:

20 "... have more than proved their ability as foster  
21 carers."

22 If we turn to page 3, towards the foot of the page,  
23 it says:

24 "It is noted at the review that the carers have been  
25 used for two full-time places since the time of their



1 approval."

2 At this stage it is recommended that they continue

3 to be approved as temporary foster carers and I think

4 it's for two children now, aged 0 to 9 years.

5 LADY SMITH: Full time, as used there, is not the same thing

6 as temporary, I take it, is it?

7 MS RATTRAY: I -- it's not clear. It's not clear. But

8 I suppose it's a distinction between "respite" could be

9 someone coming for a few hours at a weekend --

10 LADY SMITH: Of course.

11 MS RATTRAY: -- as opposed to "respite" could be

12 a continuous period.

13 LADY SMITH: Yes. Thank you.

14 MS RATTRAY: On one view a foster carer is temporary until

15 which time it's a permanent placement.

16 If we turn to page 4 of this document, this is

17 a copy of the original agency decision when they were

18 approved as foster carers in 1994 and from that we see

19 that there was a typing error and they were originally

20 approved as temporary foster carers for no more than one

21 child aged 0 to 6 and another respite carer for one

22 child aged 0 to 12. So that was the original one and

23 that has been recommended to change to two children aged

24 0 to 9, and we don't need to look at the document but

25 I confirm that that particular recommendation was

1 approved on 9 May 1995.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS RATTRAY: If we look at the foot, there's handwritten  
4 notes at the bottom of the original approval and I think  
5 what that says is:

6 "Social workers' recommendations about (1) not  
7 overloading and (2) continual assessment of EPU-SPO  
8 own children to be kept in mind."

9 Clearly from the outset there is the concern of the  
10 possibility of this family being overloaded and the  
11 impact that might have on their own children.

12 The next document I'd like to look at is  
13 DUN-000001199. This is a handwritten supervision  
14 record. If we scroll up the page it's in respect of  
15 'Logie'. Under "issues raised" it says:

16 "'Logie's' behaviour at last placement was good for  
17 first few weeks then deteriorated rapidly."

18 So there is some history here to 'Logie's' placement  
19 and, yes, his previous foster placement, as indeed  
20 'Logie' says in his statement, did break down due to his  
21 behaviour and the difficulties the foster carers had in  
22 managing that behaviour.

23 If we turn to the next document, which is at  
24 DUN-000001200, this is another handwritten supervision  
25 record, this time dated 18 May 1995, so this is when

1 'Logie' is in placement. If we scroll down a little  
2 there, what we see in the third sentence is it saying:  
3 "'Logie' reasonably settled. Still has ..."  
4 I think it's "heavy outbursts", I'm not quite sure  
5 what that word is but he still has outbursts.

6 LADY SMITH: Yes.

7 MS RATTRAY: Then there's reference to another boy's  
8 placement "... may make 'Logie' more unsettled", and  
9 that's on 18 May. When we turn to the next records, in  
10 the course of those we will see that the previous day,  
11 on [REDACTED], a child aged two was also put in the  
12 placement, but apparently in the knowledge that this may  
13 well unsettle 'Logie'.

14 The final record to look at is at DUN-000001201.  
15 These are essentially a record of contact and visits of  
16 the placement, the foster care placement.

17 If we turn to page 2 of this record and about the  
18 middle of the page, it's the entry of 17 April 1995.  
19 What this says is:

20 "EPU-SPO [REDACTED] had a tremendously difficult four days  
21 with 'Logie'. He was defiant, aggressive, destructive  
22 and out of control. EPU-SPO [REDACTED] needed to restrain  
23 'Logie' physically and isolate him in his room a lot.  
24 Again EPU-SPO [REDACTED] struggled to take control. 'Logie'  
25 has calmed down but EPU-SPO [REDACTED] feel exhausted."

1           This is the kind of background of what's happening  
2           in the placement in April.

3           If we turn over the page to page 3 and moving to the  
4           foot of page 3, we see an entry, the last entry is  
5           [REDACTED] 1995, and this is a reference to the new child  
6           joining the family:

7           "Boy (age 2) -- EPU-SPO [REDACTED] possible respite  
8           placement. Boy has been abused and has come into care.  
9           EPU-SPO [REDACTED] willing to take the placement."

10          So that's adding an eighth child to the household in  
11          circumstances, as we've previously seen, there are  
12          concerns around that time that this is going to  
13          undermine 'Logie's' placement.

14          If we turn over now to page 4, it's the middle of  
15          the page and it's the entry of 7 June 1995. There's  
16          a home visit which says:

17          "Met with both EPU-SPO [REDACTED]. Concerned  
18          that they have two very difficult and time-consuming  
19          placements. 'Logie's' behaviour has been extremely  
20          challenging and EPU-SPO [REDACTED] have had to begin  
21          restraining him when he explodes with anger as he is  
22          a harm to himself and to others around him. EPU-SPO [REDACTED]  
23          care about 'Logie' and still wish to see the placement  
24          through despite the difficulties."

25          Now moving to page 5 and it's the second entry of

1 30 June 1995, which says:

2 "'Logie's' placement continues to be difficult. He  
3 has been destructive and hurtful to EPU-SPO children.  
4 'Logie' is a very demanding child who requires  
5 a tremendous amount of attention."

6 One really has to query how much attention can any  
7 child get in a household of eight, with two children who  
8 clearly have problems.

9 Turning to page 7 and at the top of the page the  
10 first entry says:

11 "Worker of holidays 31 July -- 4 August."

12 Here we have in that entry it says:

13 "EPU-SPO firmly decide that 'Logie' must move."

14 On 4 August, a management decision is made to move  
15 'Logie' on [REDACTED] to Duncan Place.

16 The entries are out of order, but if we move halfway  
17 down the page firstly to the entry of 7 August, we can  
18 scroll down a bit more, what we see here is another  
19 reference to this other placement, the other child who's  
20 been placed there, the boy aged two, and what this says:

21 "The boy aged two has bruising around his neck.

22 EPU reporting it was done in the morning after trying  
23 to take off a tea towel around his neck that was being  
24 used as a bib. Social worker Linda Younge felt the mark  
25 looked more like finger marks. EPU did need to

1       restrain this two-year-old last night by holding his  
2       head, but felt positive she'd not hurt him. A medical  
3       was arranged and according to EPU [REDACTED] the doctor  
4       confirmed that the marks were made by a tea towel."

5             If we can scroll back up the page we see the entry  
6       of the following day, which is [REDACTED] which says:

7       "EPU-SPO [REDACTED] are relieved that 'Logie' will be  
8       moving but are feeling guilty that they were unable to  
9       help him. The family has been under a tremendous amount  
10      of pressure. They are concerned about his reaction once  
11      he knows he'll be moving. Discussed plan for move.  
12      They would prefer [REDACTED]."

13            And, in fact, 'Logie' moves out on [REDACTED].

14            That concludes looking at the records.

15   LADY SMITH: Thank you for that, Ms Rattray.

16            Something I notice from that run of entries is total  
17      silence on any guidance being given to the family as to  
18      what steps they might take to help this child and help  
19      themselves help this child. It's not there.

20   MS RATTRAY: No. I certainly haven't seen anything  
21      elsewhere.

22            Those particular entries were not taken from  
23      'Logie's' children records, they were taken from the  
24      file held in relation to the foster carer. Elsewhere  
25      there's reference to initially when they joined training

1           and so forth, I couldn't see anything specific to  
2           restraint --  
3   LADY SMITH:   Yes.  
4   MS RATTRAY:  -- or indeed exactly what support other than  
5           them phoning and someone coming out and speaking to  
6           them.  
7   LADY SMITH:   Yes.  
8           The language "risk to himself and risk to others" is  
9           there, which at that time probably articulates the only  
10          principles that were really known about that were  
11          applied in relation to restraints, but there's nothing  
12          else.  
13   MS RATTRAY:  No.  It does rather seem that placing two  
14          children with their own histories of abuse --  
15   LADY SMITH:   Yeah.  
16   MS RATTRAY:  -- there in a family that already had six  
17          children in it to be cared for, the question is was that  
18          actually setting up a situation where there was  
19          a greater risk of abuse occurring?  
20   LADY SMITH:   Yes.  Thank you.  
21   MS RATTRAY:  That concludes this read-in, but Ms Innes has  
22          another which we can finish today.  
23   LADY SMITH:   Thank you very much.  
24           Just while Ms Innes is getting her papers together,  
25          for the record neither the [REDACTED] nor [REDACTED] EPU-SPO



1 identities can of course be disclosed outside this room.

2 Ms Innes.

3 'Peter' (read)

4 MS INNES: My Lady, I'm going to read in a statement of

5 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has the

6 pseudonym 'Peter'. He is the cypher FNU.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS INNES: His statement is at WIT-1-000000338.

9 'Peter' was in the care of Tayside Regional Council.

10 He was placed with foster carers, a Mr and Mrs FNN-FNO

11 in Fife on [REDACTED] 1981 until [REDACTED] 1992.

12 Although they lived in Fife, Mr and Mrs FNN-FNO had

13 applied to Tayside Regional Council to become foster

14 carers. It is therefore believed that Dundee City

15 Council is the relevant successor and that's where we've

16 recovered the majority of records from.

17 I think that where a placement has been made in

18 Fife, generally there is a single document that provides

19 evidence that Fife knew that child was within their

20 Local Authority area.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MS INNES: Even although they were placed by Tayside or

23 Dundee, which happened on a number of occasions.

24 Turning to the statement:

25 "My name is 'Peter'. I was born in 1977.



1 I spent most of my childhood in foster care in Fife  
2 and Dundee and it is these experiences I want to tell  
3 you about. Between 1979 and 1982 I was at unknown  
4 foster placements in Fife. Between 1982 and 1992 I was  
5 in foster care with FNN-FNO family in Glenrothes,  
6 Fife. Between 1992 and 1993 I was in foster care in  
7 Dundee with four families whose names I am unable to  
8 remember.

9 I was born in Belfast."

10 At paragraph 4:

11 "I have two sisters, three stepbrothers and one  
12 stepsister. I am the third oldest in the family, I do  
13 not remember living in Belfast and I was very young when  
14 we moved to Dundee. I have checked some of my records  
15 and learned that I went into foster care when I was  
16 about two and a half years old.

17 My very limited records told me that Social Services  
18 were involved because my father was abusing me and my  
19 sisters. My mother went to jail for setting the house  
20 on fire so my sisters and I were placed in foster care.  
21 My father denies that this is the truth and that he did  
22 not assault me. My mother was adamant before she died  
23 that she was admitted to the Liff Hospital with mental  
24 health issues and was not in prison.

25 The result of the social work intervention was that

1 my sisters and I were placed with a foster family in  
2 Fife. I do not know how it came about that we were  
3 placed in care in Fife. I think that prior to the  
4 placement in Fife with FNN-FNO the three of us may  
5 have been with other families, but I have no memories of  
6 that.

7 From checking my records I know I was five years old  
8 when I went into foster care with FNN-FNO family.  
9 I am not sure but I think initially I was at a different  
10 address staying with FNN-FNO and that they moved  
11 when I was in their care, but I can't be sure. Both of  
12 FNN-FNO are deceased.

13 When we stayed with them we had to call them gran  
14 and grandad. They told us that we were part of the  
15 family and it was what their own children called them.

16 I joined FNN-FNO family when I was about five  
17 and remained with them for 10 or 11 years until I was  
18 about 15 nearly 16. When I arrived at FNN-FNO  
19 I learned they had older children and grandchildren,  
20 although they didn't live in the house with us.

21 When we arrived at FNN-FNO I had a room of my  
22 own and my two sisters shared another room. The house  
23 itself was a three-bedroom semi-detached in Glenrothes,  
24 both my sisters left foster care at FNN-FNO when  
25 they were around 15 or 16 in the early 1990s.

1           One of my sisters left because she was 16 and my  
2           other sister didn't want to stay there any more because  
3           she didn't feel safe. I think she was placed with  
4           another foster family in Kirkcaldy until she came of age  
5           to leave. A short time after that I was moved to  
6           different foster placements in Dundee because one of my  
7           sisters reported the abuse that she had suffered at the  
8           FNN-FNO to the police and the social workers felt  
9           that I should also be moved. I was told that I was too  
10          much of a handful for FNN-FNO to deal with, which  
11          was just not true.

12          I was always woken up at 7.30 in the morning and had  
13          to go downstairs for breakfast. I then went off to  
14          school with my sisters, who attended the same school.  
15          I think we left for school at about half past eight. We  
16          would stay at school for lunch.

17          When we came back from school we would have to play  
18          outside. FNN-FNO had a saying that if the sun was  
19          shining we needed to be outside. They didn't really  
20          care what we did as long as we were back in time for  
21          tea. My sisters and I used to just hang around the area  
22          and we had to be home for 5 o'clock.

23          We were sent to bed at 7.30 and before that we would  
24          sit and watch television. We also had to do our  
25          homework first and although my sisters did theirs,

1 I never bothered to do homework.

2 They always made sure we were kept clean and I don't  
3 recall much about the routine of washing or bathing.

4 Most of the clothing that I wore was handed down  
5 from my sisters. I realised that it was second-hand  
6 woman's clothing, I didn't want to have to wear it but  
7 I had no choice. If money was being supplied by the  
8 social work for clothing I didn't see any of it. I do  
9 remember having to have wear a ladies' burgundy coloured  
10 jacket which had been worn by my sisters.

11 We would get regular visits from the social workers  
12 but before they arrived we were told what we were  
13 allowed to say to them. These visits were always staged  
14 by FNN-FNO and were by appointment. I always had  
15 to wear my best clothes for these visits. I can't  
16 recall the names of any of the social workers.

17 I think that my father came to visit us on a few  
18 occasions every year. My mother had left my father and  
19 she had remarried twice since then. I think that my  
20 mother tried to visit on one occasion because I knew  
21 that she owned a mint green coloured Volkswagen Polo,  
22 which was an unusual car. I saw one parked near to the  
23 FNN-FNO house and I think that she was in it, but she  
24 couldn't actually bring herself to actually visit.

25 When my father visited it was usually every three

1 months. It was always by appointment and he would take  
2 us out for some food and a walk around the shops.

3 When my sisters had left I remember I would be taken  
4 to the swimming baths by the oldest daughter because she  
5 was taking her children and to take me with them made  
6 sense. That was one of the few occasions I went on any  
7 trips. I think that the older daughter also suspected  
8 that some bad things were going on in the house and she  
9 wanted to get me away from them.

10 We would all go on holiday to Montrose every year to  
11 stay at the caravan park there. We were often joined by  
12 other members of the family.

13 I attended primary school in Glenrothes. I then  
14 went on to attend Auchmuty Community High School in  
15 Glenrothes. I had no problems at school apart from the  
16 fact that I suffered from dyslexia.

17 The food was very good as FNO was a trained chef.  
18 I didn't have any issues with the food that was  
19 supplied.

20 We had to keep our rooms tidy, we also had to do the  
21 dishes after a meal was served. FNN-FNO said that  
22 they had cooked it so it was up to us to clear up  
23 afterwards. We had to do this to earn pocket money.

24 We went to the doctors once a year for a check up.  
25 During my stay with FNN-FNO, I also attended the



1 doctor and the hospital when I broke my arm and my  
2 collar bone. These were broken in accidents playing  
3 outside with other children and were not attributable to  
4 the abuse I was receiving from FNN-FNO.

5 I suffered from dyslexia and I found that other  
6 people were always answering questions on my behalf.  
7 I seem to recall that we went to the dentist for a check  
8 up every six months.

9 I was not aware of any medical condition that would  
10 cause FNN-FNO family to accompany me every time  
11 I went to the toilet. I wasn't aware of any special  
12 medical provisions being made to treat any condition.  
13 My mother told me in later life that I did have  
14 a problem with my abdomen when I was very young but she  
15 didn't expand further. It was another thing that didn't  
16 make sense.

17 All leisure time was spent outside the house.  
18 I started to play rugby and that took me out of the  
19 house at weekends to go to matches. Other than that we  
20 were told that kids played outside and only adults could  
21 stay inside.

22 My birthday was never celebrated. When my birthday  
23 was coming round I was always told that I had misbehaved  
24 and wouldn't get any birthday presents and that there  
25 wouldn't be a celebration.

1 Christmas was always the cheapest of the cheap.

2 I liked books but they never gave me any.

3 FNN-FNO were not religious and I think the  
4 only time I would go to church would be at Christmas.

5 I remember that I used to get 75p a week as pocket  
6 money but you had to earn it by doing your chores.  
7 I could spend that on quarters of sweets at the local  
8 shop.

9 I never bothered to run away as I had nowhere to run  
10 to and it wouldn't have done me any good. I often  
11 wanted to go back and see my mother but I didn't know  
12 where she was living.

13 FNO was very violent towards us. If we did  
14 anything wrong she would hit us with anything that came  
15 to hand, including belts, wooden spoons and slippers  
16 that had a hard plastic sole. She hit us all over our  
17 body. She always said it was the way that she had been  
18 brought up and it would be character building. You  
19 could be hit for looking at her the wrong way.

20 FNO treated us differently to her grandchildren,  
21 who were about the same age as me. If something  
22 happened or went missing, it would be my sisters or me  
23 who was responsible and we would be punished, whether we  
24 did it or not. When things went missing she kept saying  
25 that if it wasn't us then it must have been the

1 invisible man. I would estimate that she hit me at  
2 least ten times every week. The abuse continued up  
3 until the day I left foster care at FNN-FNO

4 We always ate our meals at the kitchen table and  
5 I remember an incident where one of my sisters used her  
6 spoon to ping some custard at us. We thought this was  
7 hilarious but FNO came in and went ballistic. She  
8 took my sister through to the sitting room and we could  
9 hear her screaming. She pinned me up against the wall  
10 and poked her finger into my chest whilst hitting me.  
11 We couldn't stop laughing because we thought that it was  
12 funny, but she told us we were wasting good food and  
13 there were lots of starving children in the world.

14 FNN was more of a shouter. I recall one incident  
15 with FNN when I woke up one night and went downstairs.  
16 I decided that I was going to take some sweeties from  
17 the sweetie jar, which was kept in the kitchen. You  
18 were not allowed to do this without permission. My  
19 sister caught me and must have told FNN because he  
20 stormed into my room shouting at me. He asked me to  
21 hand back the sweeties, which I said I didn't have. He  
22 and FNO both gave me a hiding and he also told my  
23 sisters that if they took any sweets they would get the  
24 same.

25 He also punished us further by telling us that he



1 wasn't going to take us swimming at the baths because we  
2 didn't behave. We had never been told that we were  
3 going to go to the swimming baths in the first place.  
4 He was punishing my sisters for something they hadn't  
5 done.

6 FNN started by sexually abusing my  
7 sisters and then started to abuse me sexually. The  
8 sexual abuse started when I was about 7 and went on  
9 until the day that I left care at age 15. I recall that  
10 I could hear him going into my sisters' room in the  
11 night and could hear him abusing them. I felt  
12 responsible for my sisters.

13 FNN started coming into my room at night. He  
14 would touch my privates. He came to my room almost  
15 every night. He was continuing to abuse my sisters.  
16 I know that he was doing more with my sisters because  
17 they had told me. He never managed to penetrate me.  
18 I am sure that FNO must have known what was going on  
19 because the floorboards in the house creaked and you  
20 could tell where someone was at any one time. FNN  
21 would make excuses to FNO to go to our rooms, but I am  
22 sure that FNO knew what was going on.

23 There was an occasion when I was in Primary 7 and  
24 one of the girls at school brought in some photographs  
25 for a project we were doing. Two of the photographs

1       went missing and for some reason FNO  
2       suspected it was me that took them, when I went home she  
3       gave me a leathering as she didn't believe me that  
4       I hadn't taken them. Even the girl that lost the  
5       photographs didn't think I had taken them, she had just  
6       misplaced them.

7       There was a shop on the way to school and I used to  
8       go there and purchase cans of juice which I then sold to  
9       other pupils at a profit. I made a lot of money which  
10      I kept hidden in my sock. I was caught and ended up in  
11      the headmistress's office when she found all the money  
12      in my sock. She phoned home and told FNO what had  
13      happened. I then had to walk home knowing what was  
14      going to happen to me when I got home. I got another  
15      hiding.

16      When I went to the toilet in the house there was  
17      always a family member standing watching me in the  
18      toilet. It was either FNO, FNN or one of the  
19      daughters. They told me that I had medical problems and  
20      they had to be there. I have no idea what this was  
21      about but it made me feel very uncomfortable. They  
22      didn't expand further on what my medical condition was.

23      I am very sure that some of FNN-FNO children  
24      knew that something bad was going on in the house. They  
25      would often find an excuse to get me and my sisters out

1 of the house on trips to the swimming pool or other  
2 similar places that took us out of the house. The  
3 FNN-FNO children would shout at us but did not  
4 physically hit us.

5 When my sisters left foster care, they made  
6 a complaint to the police about the sexual and physical  
7 abuse that they suffered at the hand of FNN ."

8 Just pausing there, from the records, my Lady, we  
9 know that that complaint was made not long after 'Peter'  
10 had left foster care, so he left FNN-FNO in  
11 Secondary 1992 and I think that the first allegation was  
12 made in 1992.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS INNES: He then goes on to say:

15 "I didn't want to tell the police what had happened  
16 to me

17  
18 I didn't make an official  
19 complaint against FNN .

20 The first time that I reported about what had  
21 happened to me was when I was in prison. I was about 20  
22 years old. I sat down and wrote about my experiences in  
23 care on four pieces of paper. I was not good at  
24 spelling so I got one of the prison officers to read it  
25 through and correct the spelling. That officer then

1 arranged for me to receive counselling when I was in  
2 jail. I think that the counsellors were from  
3 an organisation called Open Reach. At this time FNN  
4 FNN was already dead.

5 When I was about 24 I made a further complaint to  
6 police in Aberdeen about the abuse FNO had  
7 inflicted on me but I was told by the police that she  
8 was also deceased and they would not take the matter any  
9 further. I am very sure that FNO knew that FNN was  
10 sexually abusing us."

11 'Peter' then goes on to say at paragraph 48:

12 "I left the foster placement at FNN after  
13 my sister made a complaint about the sexual and physical  
14 abuse they had suffered and it was deemed by social  
15 workers that it was not a safe place for me to continue  
16 staying."

17 As I've indicated, his recollection of the timing is  
18 slightly out. It was just after he had left that the  
19 complaint was made.

20 LADY SMITH: Right.

21 MS INNES: He says:

22 "I was taken by a social worker to their office in  
23 Dundee where I was left on my own for a couple of hours  
24 whilst they found me an emergency foster placement.

25 The social worker told me that my sisters had made

1 a complaint to the police and they asked me if I was  
2 sexually abused by FNN . I was not ready to talk about  
3 this and I didn't want to admit to anything. I was  
4 caught unawares. The social worker I had in Dundee was  
5 quite nice but I can't remember his name.

6 I am not able to recall the names of all the foster  
7 placements or where they were apart from that they were  
8 in the Kingsway, Downfield, Menzieshill and one other  
9 place all in Dundee. All these placements I thought  
10 were fine and I had no issues at all in any of them.

11 The social workers told me that the foster  
12 placements were not working out and so it would be best  
13 for me if I moved into a hostel or a bed and breakfast.  
14 As it happened I moved in with my sister. I had no  
15 issues with the foster care in Dundee and I learned from  
16 these people how a normal family should behave. The  
17 last family I was with taught me how to fly fish and  
18 I had good experiences.

19 The reason that I was in so many placements was  
20 because of me because I was so messed up. I had built  
21 a wall to stop me thinking about the abuse and I didn't  
22 want anyone to find out about what had happened and  
23 I wouldn't open up to anyone."

24 At paragraphs 53 to 58, 'Peter' talks about his life  
25 after care and the difficulties that he has experienced.

1 Moving on to page 12 and paragraph 59:

2 "I don't know why I did this but I went back to  
3 visit FNN-FNO family after I had left. I think  
4 that I just considered them to be part of my family. It  
5 is something that I can't explain."

6 At paragraph 60 'Peter' explains that he no longer  
7 has a relationship with his sisters.

8 At paragraph 61 he says:

9 "My foster care has definitely been the cause of my  
10 mental health issues. Every day I was with the  
11 FNN-FNO my mental health was deteriorating. I have  
12 never recovered although nowadays I am better supported  
13 in the community with help from organisations like Well  
14 Being in Dundee. I feel like I have been dealing and  
15 coping with everything that happened to me for such  
16 a long time."

17 Then moving to paragraph 63:

18 "I first tried to access my records when I was 16.  
19 I went to the social work department and ended up with  
20 two sheets of paper that told me very little. When  
21 I tried to find out about my parents I was told that  
22 I was not able to gain access to this information as it  
23 was about other people."

24 Moving to page 13 and paragraph 65:

25 "I have nothing nice to say about the social work

1 department. They need to be better trained and I feel  
2 they should be recruiting from people who have been  
3 through the care system and have a better understanding  
4 of what kids need. It's all about how you click with  
5 someone.

6 I have documented what happened to me on 47 pages of  
7 paper and I have said that I have met the kindest and  
8 the most evil people that live in this world. I hope  
9 that the Inquiry will listen to what people who have  
10 been in care say. It is important that children in  
11 foster care should be kept in touch with their birth  
12 families.

13 I have reported the abuse I suffered to solicitors  
14 with a view to seeking an apology from the social work  
15 department. I spoke to Bruce Short Solicitors in Dundee  
16 but they told me because I wasn't speaking to my family  
17 it would be hard to prove. I think I also spoke to  
18 Digby Brown Solicitors but they were of the same  
19 opinion.

20 I have now contacted Thomson's Solicitors with  
21 a view to taking action against the social work  
22 department. I only contacted them recently and they  
23 have already responded to me and are going to  
24 investigate further.

25 I have no objection to my witness statement being



1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
2 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
3 true."

4 'Peter' signed his statement on 6 March 2020.

5 I do also have some records to look at in relation  
6 to 'Peter'.

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

8 MS INNES: They're at DUN-000001205.

9 What we see here is an audit of the case file on  
10 'Peter' and his family. This audit was carried out on  
11 31 December 1992 and it would appear, given the  
12 timescale of the allegations which were made, that this  
13 is something that the Local Authority did after the  
14 allegations were made and there was a review of the  
15 files.

16 This is quite a lengthy audit and I'm just going to  
17 highlight certain sections of it.

18 If we can move, please, to page 3 and if we scroll  
19 down a little, there's a paragraph beginning:

20 "Apart from a period ..."

21 This is looking at specific periods and I'll come  
22 back to this again in the summary at the end. It's  
23 noted there that there was no case recording between  
24 October 1981 and February 1984. So there are minutes of  
25 a review on 16 April 1982 and it indicates that there



1 was agreement by that meeting but the last entry in the  
2 case file was October 1981, that case recording would be  
3 on a summary basis, providing important dates,  
4 et cetera, parental visits, social work visits were  
5 noted. These summaries are not available in the file.

6 It looks as though there was a review which  
7 suggested that a summary recording would be sufficient,  
8 but then in fact there's no summary.

9 It notes in the next paragraph:

10 "From the start of the placement in [REDACTED] 1981  
11 it was clear that 'Peter's' behaviour was difficult,  
12 both by soiling and bed-wetting and demanding attention.  
13 One of his sisters was indicating stress by bed-wetting,  
14 and the other appeared to be the least disturbed child."

15 It is said.

16 Then it goes on to talk about the foster parents and  
17 at the time of placement it notes in that first  
18 paragraph that they were 47 and 44 respectively and they  
19 had a grown-up family.

20 It then in the next paragraph talks about the Form F  
21 and in about the middle of that paragraph it refers to  
22 them having three grandchildren under three. Then it  
23 says:

24 "Mr FNN [REDACTED]'s mother is reported to have been one  
25 of the busiest foster mothers in Fife. It was thought

1       that this would give Mr FNN a good understanding of  
2       the practical and emotional demands of fostering.

3       Mrs FNO was brought up by her grandmother, not her  
4       mother, and her being absorbed into her grandmother's  
5       large family was thought to give her an understanding of  
6       the feelings of foster children."

7       I think the author is noting that from the original  
8       assessment.

9       Going on over the page to page 4, at the end of the  
10      first paragraph there's a description of Mr and  
11      Mrs FNN-FNO Then at the end of this paragraph, about  
12      five lines from the bottom of it, it says:

13      "There had been no special preparation to equip them  
14      for fostering. The emphasis appears to be that because  
15      Mr FNN's mother had fostered, he would have a good  
16      idea of what is involved and would cope. No link worker  
17      support was available to them at the time of the  
18      placement and 'Peter' and his siblings were their first  
19      and only placement."

20      There was then some discussion about offering  
21      support by something called a home finder, who would be  
22      a social worker who would work with the foster family.  
23      However, there appears to have been reluctance on the  
24      part of FNN-FNO to engage with that.

25      If we go on to the top of page 5, there's reference

1       there to Mrs FNO having difficulties with 'Peter'  
2       and one of his sisters:

3               "One visit was made and home finder support was  
4       offered on an ongoing basis. After one visit at which  
5       Mr FNN was not present, Mrs FNO cancelled the  
6       next visit by telephone and was vague about arranging  
7       an alternative. She then wrote a letter, received on  
8       30 November 1987, saying that she felt there was no  
9       point in continuing contact with the home finder or that  
10      contact with other foster families would not be helpful.  
11      With regard to this she states, 'My husband and I are  
12      believers in keeping ourselves to ourselves and not  
13      involving other people in our problems' ..."

14             In the next paragraph there's reference to a social  
15      work student visiting in April 1989 and to do life story  
16      work with the children, there were weekly visits and  
17      it's noted that the foster mother appeared not to  
18      welcome that and after three visits she was questioning  
19      the relevance of the visits and that the children were  
20      becoming attached to the worker.

21             Then moving to the bottom of this page there's  
22      reference to a review in September 1989 where  
23      Mr FNN requested to speak to the social worker  
24      alone. Mrs FNO was in particular very angry.  
25      'Peter's' sister was present with Mr FNN and the

1 social worker, and Mr FNN told the social worker of  
2 her having a relationship with a boy which he had  
3 banned.

4 "FNN-FNO attitude seemed to be a complete  
5 overreaction and the social worker's case notes indicate  
6 at the review the real issues which caused so much  
7 intolerance were not discussed."

8 Then there were concerns being expressed for the  
9 children at that time.

10 If we go on to page 6, at the top of the page it  
11 notes there:

12 "FNN-FNO have known many social workers  
13 over the years and expressed some resentment at social  
14 work involvement and feel that the children did not like  
15 it. However [it's noted that the reviewing officer  
16 says] the children had an extremely good relationship  
17 with Ann Stott [who was a social worker]. Mr and  
18 Mrs FNN-FNO expressed their preference for her and felt  
19 they could work well with her. However, it was  
20 explained that given the childcare policies and  
21 difficulties of prioritising children in care and the  
22 workload Ann Stott could not give all the support that  
23 seemed needed by this family. It was suggested to the  
24 FNN-FNO that they could benefit from having a social  
25 worker for themselves to discuss some of the issues of

1 adolescence, as clearly the children were going to raise  
2 some adolescent difficulties in the next few years.  
3 Unfortunately they were adamant that they did not want  
4 another social worker involved as they felt that they  
5 had known too many."

6 Moving on again to page 8. Towards the bottom of  
7 the page there's a heading "Case work with the children  
8 from September 1984 to May 1985".

9 LADY SMITH: 1984 to 1985, is that too far down the page?

10 MS INNES: Page 8 and it's at the bottom of the page --

11 sorry, it's in the middle of the page, it's my fault.

12 Yes:

13 "This case was held temporarily ..."

14 The middle of that paragraph, it says:

15 "This minute refers to [blank] complaining at school  
16 that he had been hit ..."

17 So that's 'Peter':

18 "This minute refers to 'Peter' complaining at school  
19 that he had been hit by Mr and Mrs FNN-FNO with a stick  
20 and a poker and that he was not being fed by them. At  
21 the review the minute indicates that though this had  
22 caused them embarrassment, Mr and Mrs FNN-FNO stated  
23 that the school had a good understanding of 'Peter' and  
24 that this would be thought to be attention-seeking  
25 behaviour. As there is no case recording present, it is

1 not possible to determine whether this was ..."

2 I think there's a typo there.

3 LADY SMITH: Whether this was right or -- is there a word  
4 missing?

5 MS INNES: It might be missing:

6 "... and investigated as an NAI and how that  
7 conclusion that there was no basis to this allegation  
8 was made."

9 Then there's reference to contact.

10 There the writer of this report has obviously  
11 indicated that there was a report of abuse, but there  
12 was no documentation to show what had been done about it  
13 and obviously we know that 'Peter' remained in placement  
14 after this allegation was made.

15 Finally in summary, if we move to page 15, please,  
16 if we look to "Areas of concern". It is noted:

17 "There are gaps in the case recording for the  
18 following periods. October 1981 to February 1984 [which  
19 we already saw], September 1984 to May 1985, March 1986  
20 to February 1987 and March 1990 to September 1990."

21 At point 2 it says:

22 "There is no evidence of visits to the children at  
23 the following periods. November 1982 to February 1983,  
24 between 10 February 1987 and 7 September 1987, and again  
25 between March 1990 and September 1990. During these



1 periods the boarding-out regulations were being  
2 breached."

3 Then at paragraph 3 it notes that when the social  
4 worker Ann Stott left -- so she was the person who was  
5 mentioned, and my understanding from this report was  
6 that she left in 1990 -- even although it was indicated  
7 that a social worker was needed to continue the work, no  
8 social worker was allocated within the team, neither was  
9 the case properly transferred to another team. The case  
10 was left in limbo until September 1990, when it was at  
11 the point of breakdown."

12 Although we know that 'Peter' stayed there for  
13 another couple of years after that.

14 It then notes that there were significant gaps in  
15 respect of childcare reviews held in respect of all of  
16 the children between: November 1980 and October 1981,  
17 November 1983 to November 1984, September 1989 and  
18 December 1990, June 1991 and March 1992, then one  
19 specifically to 'Peter's' sister and then May 1992 in  
20 relation to 'Peter'. Then there's a missing minute in  
21 respect of a childcare review in February 1988.

22 There's then reference at point 5 to the allegation  
23 that I've just referred to, so the review had reference  
24 to it but there was no evidence in the file that it had  
25 been investigated.

1           At point 6 there's evidence of disturbed behaviour  
2           and the author simply notes that. I suppose the  
3           inference might be that the author is saying that it's  
4           not clear what was done about that.

5           Then at point 7:

6           "Throughout the placement, the FNN-FNO did not  
7           have support from a home finder or link worker on  
8           a regular basis and attempts by the department to  
9           involve them was rejected by the FNN-FNO. There was  
10          support from ESWs with regard to 'Peter's' school  
11          attendance and problems."

12          That may be "educational social workers", I don't  
13          know.

14          Then over the page at point 8, page 16, it notes  
15          about the issue with life story work, that it was  
16          proposed in 1985, it wasn't effectively done until 1988,  
17          and I think we saw that in 1989 there was the issue with  
18          the student social worker that Mrs FNO didn't like  
19          her involvement.

20          It was completed, Your Ladyship can see, by  
21          a GR Wallace, community assessment and review officer.

22   LADY SMITH: That meant, so far as the life story work was  
23          concerned, that 'Peter' was about 11 years old when that  
24          was completed?

25   MS INNES: Yes.



1 LADY SMITH: Mm.

2 MS INNES: I draw attention to that perhaps for obvious  
3 reasons, given that it is an audit of the file and  
4 raises certain deficiencies in a number of respects.

5 LADY SMITH: Indeed. Thank you very much.

6 It's 4 o'clock and I think we should stop there for  
7 today.

8 MS INNES: Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Just pausing to note we move on to another two  
10 oral witnesses tomorrow; is that right?

11 MS INNES: Yes, that's right, and read-in evidence in the  
12 afternoon.

13 LADY SMITH: Some read-ins as well. Very well.

14 I will rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

15 Thank you.

16 (4.00 pm)

17 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on  
18 Wednesday, 5 October 2022)

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