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Tuesday, 28 June 2022

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our evidential hearings in the foster care and boarding-out case study.

Now, Ms Rattray, this morning, who are we starting with?

MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady, the first witness this morning is an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Angela'. 'Angela' was placed in foster care with Mr and Mrs **BGU-BGV** in Inverness from  1964 to  1972.

The responsible authority was Glasgow Corporation, now Glasgow City Council.

'Angela' previously gave oral evidence on 13 December 2018 in relation to her experiences in an Abelour small group home in Keith, and that's the home she was moved to after her foster care placement.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Angela' (sworn)

LADY SMITH: 'Angela', I know that you're what some would call an old hand, having been to help us before with evidence about your experiences in care. I'm very grateful to you for agreeing to come back to talk about foster care today.

A. (Witness nods)

1 LADY SMITH: But just to remind you how things work, first  
2 up is it matters to me that we do what we can to make  
3 what's a difficult experience as easy for you as  
4 possible, reminding you I do understand how emotional it  
5 can be to give evidence about what happened when you  
6 were a child, and you can be taken by surprise sometimes  
7 by what you feel when you're explaining it. I get that.

8 So if at any time you want a break or you have any  
9 questions, please do tell me and we can go with whatever  
10 will work for you, because if it works for you, it works  
11 for me. That's the key, all right?

12 A. Okay, thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Rattray  
14 and she'll take it from there, is that okay?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Questions from Ms Rattray

18 MS RATTRAY: Good morning.

19 A. Morning.

20 Q. 'Angela', you've given a statement to the Inquiry, which  
21 we have looked at before. That statement has  
22 a reference, which is WIT.001.001.9822, and you'll see  
23 that, that's appearing on the screen in front of you and  
24 there's a hard copy in the red folder as well if you  
25 would prefer to look at that.

1           To start, I'd like you to look at the hard copy in  
2           the red folder. If you could turn to the back page of  
3           your statement, which is page 19, do you have that? Can  
4           you confirm that you have signed your statement?

5   A. Yes, I have.

6   Q. You will see above your signature at paragraph 115 you  
7           say:

8           "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
9           published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

10          I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
11          true."

12          Is that right?

13   A. Yes.

14   Q. If we can now just turn back to page 1 of your statement  
15          and you can either look at the hard copy or you can look  
16          at the screen before you, could you now tell me the year  
17          you were born? I don't need the date or the month,  
18          simply the year.

19   A. 1958.

20   Q. We heard oral evidence from you before, in relation to  
21          when you lived in a small group home with the Abelour  
22          Trust in Keith. That was back on 18 December 2018 when  
23          you last gave evidence, but today you have come to tell  
24          us about your experiences when you were in foster care.

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. What I'm going to do, I'm going to ask some questions  
2 about your statement and I'll do that in three parts.

3 The first is just looking at some general background  
4 before you went into foster care.

5 The second will be the main part, which are your  
6 experiences when you were living in foster care.

7 Then the third part, we will round up and I'll ask  
8 you about the impact your experiences in foster care had  
9 had upon you and any lessons that you think we are able  
10 to learn from you in relation to that.

11 Turning to the first part, I'll summarise this  
12 generally, and that is in relation to your life before  
13 care, because you told us about that when you last gave  
14 oral evidence. So we already know from your previous  
15 evidence that you are the second youngest of nine  
16 siblings?

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. That you were living with your parents in Paisley. That  
19 your parents separated and you and your younger sister  
20 were taken into care after you were both left at home on  
21 your own.

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Q. I think the police were involved in gaining entry to  
24 your house at that stage. That initially you were  
25 taken, I think, to Blairvardach Children's Home and

1           then, after a short period back home, you were taken to  
2           Leavecross Children's Home. Is that correct?

3   A. That's correct, yes.

4   Q. If we turn to page 4 of your statement, this from  
5           paragraphs 20 is where you tell us about moving to  
6           foster care. You tell us that you learned from records  
7           that you and your little sister moved from Leavecross to  
8           foster care in [REDACTED] 1964?

9   A. Yes.

10   Q. So you would have been about five years old at the time?

11   A. I was, yes.

12   Q. What about your sister? How old was your sister at that  
13           stage?

14   A. There's only 15 months between us, so she was still  
15           three.

16   Q. Can you tell us what you remember about leaving  
17           Leavecross home and moving to foster care?

18   A. Just being driven in a long journey, we didn't get told  
19           or explained anything, and then just arriving. We  
20           had -- I had no idea that obviously we'd come so far,  
21           from Glasgow all the way to Inverness. We had no  
22           conception at all at that point. I just remember going  
23           there and then getting taken in and just being told this  
24           is who we were going to live with, and that was it.  
25           There was no other information, you know, as to why we

1           were taken away or even away from our parents, anything  
2           like that. There was no explanation given. This was  
3           where we were going to be and that was it.

4   Q. You tell us in your statement that you remember meeting  
5       your foster parents, **BGU-BGV**

6   A. Yeah.

7   Q. Had you ever met the **BGU-BGV** before arriving?

8   A. No.

9   Q. What were your first impressions when you arrived?

10   A. That they were old, like grandparents would have been.  
11       Because I do remember grandparents from my own family in  
12       my memories, and they were of a similar age. That was  
13       my first impression, they were just old people.

14   Q. What kind of welcome did you receive from the **BGU-BGV**  
15       when you arrived?

16   A. I can't really remember much to be honest. I think we  
17       were introduced and just told we were going to be living  
18       there and that was it.

19   Q. You were told you were living there. Did you realise  
20       that you were going to be living there for a long time  
21       or were you just going for a few days? Did anyone tell  
22       you?

23   A. No, we had literally no idea. We had been told nothing.

24   Q. Who all lived in the household?

25   A. My obviously foster mother and father. But there was

1 also **BGW** He was always referred to as the lodger.  
2 I mean in later years we discovered that he was actually  
3 an illegitimate son that had lived with them all his  
4 life. And then occasionally there used to be another  
5 person called **[REDACTED]** who used to come and live. We  
6 again thought it was somebody that they had fostered,  
7 but it turns out he was my foster parents' natural  
8 daughter's illegitimate son, so he would come visit and  
9 stay.

10 And then there was also another man would come and  
11 stay called **[REDACTED]** He was in the marines, but he had  
12 been fostered by our parents many, many years before, so  
13 occasionally he would come and visit and also stay  
14 during the time we were there.

15 Q. What about the house itself? What was that like? Was  
16 it a big house or a flat or --

17 A. No, it was a semi-detached house. It was the end of  
18 a row, basically, and it was, from what I remember,  
19 a nice house. It had one, two, I think it was three  
20 bedrooms. One of the bedrooms was downstairs. And the  
21 usual sitting room, kitchen and a back lobby area, where  
22 the coal bunker and things like that were, and a big  
23 garden. It did have a big garden.

24 Q. Whereabouts did you and your sister sleep?

25 A. We slept in one of the bedrooms upstairs, shared a big

1 double bed.

2 Q. Turning to what you tell us on page 5 of your statement,  
3 in relation to sort of general facilities, did you have  
4 access to a bathroom to wash and bathe?

5 A. Yes, uh-huh, we did. There was one bathroom in the  
6 house.

7 Q. What about privacy? Were you given any privacy to  
8 bathe?

9 A. Yes, to go to the bathroom and things like that. If we  
10 were having a bath, obviously the door was open and my  
11 mother used to come and obviously check when we were  
12 having a bath. We only had a bath once a week anyway,  
13 you know, because it was hair wash night, that kind of  
14 thing. But yes, we did have -- if you were just going  
15 to use the bathroom, you know to go for a wee or  
16 whatever, you did have your privacy there.

17 Q. I'm going to ask you a bit about food and clothing. We  
18 see that on page 8 of your statement at paragraph 46.  
19 What were your clothes like?

20 A. I would say we were reasonably dressed. We did always  
21 have clothes. A lot of clothes in those days were  
22 knitted, like a knitted trouser suit or whatever, that  
23 type of thing, and we always had a school uniform,  
24 obviously, when I started school. So I would say we  
25 were -- you know, we were well-dressed and kept warm in



1 the winter and things like that.

2 We did have -- the only thing we had was oftentimes  
3 the clothes were too big for us, they were bought a size  
4 above, and always with the shoes. The shoes were never  
5 the size to fit our feet. Our shoes were always the  
6 next size up so they would last longer, in that sense.

7 Q. What about food? What was the food and meals like at  
8 the foster home?

9 A. We had a good -- we were well fed. Because my father,  
10 foster father, was retired, he did all the cooking  
11 because my mother had leg ulcers, so she didn't stand  
12 a lot all the time, so my father did the cooking all the  
13 time and it was all homemade food, so we were well fed.

14 Q. When you had your meals, did you eat together as  
15 a family or was there a separate arrangement at all?

16 A. No, within the kitchen there was a kitchen table,  
17 a small one, so my mother and father would sit there,  
18 and then at the side of the -- where the kitchen sink  
19 was, there was the bunker, so [REDACTED] and I would stand  
20 there and eat most of the time. But on other occasions  
21 when they weren't eating, we would get to sit at the  
22 table to eat, whether it was a sandwich or a breakfast  
23 or whatever.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But on a Sunday roast day or a proper dinner, we would

1           just stand at the side of the units to eat our meal and  
2           our parents sat at the wee table.

3    Q.   So for a main meal, you would be standing?

4    A.   Yeah.

5    Q.   You wouldn't have a seat?

6    A.   Yeah, we wouldn't be sitting down a lot of the times,  
7           no.

8    Q.   Also on page 8 of your statement, paragraph 48, you've  
9           been asked about holidays. Did you get any holidays or  
10          trips away?

11   A.   Yeah, later on, or a few years after we'd been there,  
12          occasionally we would go to [REDACTED] it was a place where  
13          my mother's natural sister had a bed and breakfast, and  
14          there were a few occasions where we went there for  
15          a week or two in the summer.

16   Q.   You mention you refer to the foster mother as "mother".  
17          Was that something that you wanted to call her or was it  
18          something you were told to call her, can you remember?

19   A.   No, it's what we were told to call her.

20   Q.   The foster father, did you have to call him "father"?

21   A.   Yeah.

22   Q.   At the time, how did you feel about that? Did you feel  
23          that they were like parents to you?

24   A.   No. To be honest, kind of like grandparents in a way,  
25          but they were -- they were just somebody to be feared.

1       You just did as you were told. You know, we didn't  
2       speak unless we were told we could speak and things like  
3       that, so there was never -- it was just like what  
4       I would now call dictarian. You just -- you know, there  
5       was no natural bond or anything like that there.

6   Q. Did they ever show you like affection, you know, if you  
7       were upset, give you a hug or something of that kind?

8   A. Absolutely never, no. If we got upset, we would usually  
9       get shouted at or hit by my mother.

10  Q. Just while we're here at page 8, you were asked at the  
11       foot of the page at paragraph 50 in relation to  
12       Christmases and birthdays. Were these events  
13       celebrated?

14  A. They were celebrated in the sense we got presents and  
15       that kind of thing, at Christmas especially we used to  
16       get some toys and fruit and things like that, and then  
17       usually on our birthday one present or something like  
18       that. So we knew it was our birthday. But there wasn't  
19       like a tea party or birthday cakes or that kind of  
20       thing. It was just a normal day, but we did get  
21       a present.

22  Q. I'm now going to ask you about chores and you tell us  
23       about chores on page 6 of your statement from  
24       paragraph 30. What kind of chores did you have to do  
25       there?

1 A. Everything, basically. My mother's legs, as I said,  
2 they were -- from the knees down they had ulcers, so  
3 from practically the time we got there we were told what  
4 to do or trained in the sense of every single thing you  
5 could think of in housework, from dusting to Hoovering  
6 to polishing to -- in the old days we had a normal sink  
7 and a deep sink, so blankets and things would have to be  
8 washed and we would be in the sink tramping them and  
9 then eventually my mother had a twin tub, so we would  
10 put them through the mangle and then into the washing  
11 machine.

12 And things like spring time, the linoleum in the  
13 kitchen had to be lifted up and in those days you put  
14 old newspapers down because it was a concrete floor  
15 underneath so they got taken up and we got taught to  
16 scrub the actual floors and things, and the same with  
17 window cleaning and all that. Even upstairs I had to  
18 hang outside the window upstairs to clean the windows  
19 outside and I would do it because she would want my  
20 sister to do it as well, but my sister was terrified of  
21 heights, so I would do all those kind of jobs so that  
22 she didn't have to.

23 But anything you could think of. Ironing, washing,  
24 everything that a mother would normally do in  
25 a housework day-to-day type of thing, but were jobs that

1           we were taught to do and trained to do and that's why  
2           I'm just a good cleaner these days. Not to make light  
3           of it, but I am excellent at cleaning.

4   LADY SMITH: You were only about five, six years old --

5   A. Yeah.

6   LADY SMITH: -- when first there?

7   A. When it started, yeah.

8   LADY SMITH: Were you having to all these jobs from that age  
9           onwards?

10   A. Yes, the only difference was the ironing was a little  
11          bit later. Maybe by the time I was eight. And  
12          I remember -- because my father had big handkerchiefs  
13          and I got taught to use the iron then, because in those  
14          days they were heavy irons, because we still had the  
15          Bakelite electricity switches on the walls which were  
16          high up. And I did get taught and that was the first  
17          thing I got taught to iron, and of course I burnt it, so  
18          I kind of got a battering for that, because I burnt the  
19          handkerchief, but that was older than five, that was  
20          probably about eight -- it was a few years, eight or  
21          nine.

22   LADY SMITH: I suppose you would need to a bit taller as  
23          well to be able to --

24   A. And I'm very, very small, even to this day I'm only  
25          4 foot 10, so it was ... difficult.

1 MS RATTRAY: You mention, talking about being small, that  
2 you once had to stand on a chair to clean one of those  
3 Bakelite sockets and what happened then?

4 A. I remember just putting -- because they had the two  
5 prong plugs, putting it in because I was kneeling on the  
6 armchair to reach the wall and of course it --  
7 I obviously hit the power between the prongs and my  
8 finger and I actually shot off the armchair and landed  
9 on the floor. Fortunately I wasn't knocked out or  
10 anything, but I'll never ever forget that shock and  
11 I always make sure when I put a plug in now, there's no  
12 fingers behind where the prongs are. Obviously it's  
13 much safer these days, but that was a big fall and I was  
14 really, really shaken.

15 Q. You mentioned when you burnt your father's handkerchief  
16 your mother gave you a battering.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Was that something that happened often?

19 A. Yes. All the time usually. If we didn't do jobs  
20 correctly and to her standards, yeah, you were made to  
21 do them again but you also got hit for it, until you  
22 learned how to make sure you did it correctly so you  
23 knew you would avoid a beating for it afterwards.

24 Q. When you talk about battering and beating, in your  
25 statement you also use the word leathering. How did she

1 hit you?

2 A. They had a leather belt, which was used quite often, but  
3 my mother's main thing to use was pans and/or what  
4 I call a wooden spirkle, which she used to keep on the  
5 windowsill because she stirred the porridge when she  
6 made -- or my dad made the porridge in the morning. And  
7 that was just -- usually over the head with that,  
8 because you would usually just be cowered against the  
9 wall until she did it, with the pans and things,  
10 whatever came to hand, it was just -- and her knuckles  
11 too, sometimes, but usually on the head.

12 Q. Did you have any injuries being hit with pans --

13 A. I remember being older or even my sister and I when we  
14 were in our bed at night together, because the Tom and  
15 Jerry adverts, the old adverts, when one of them got hit  
16 on the head you could see -- that you could feel the  
17 lump, in the TV it's above the hairline because it makes  
18 a joke of it, but that's the kind of things we had.

19 We didn't really have real physical bruising, that  
20 type of thing, in that sense that you could see, there  
21 wasn't that kind of thing, although you did have welts  
22 from the belt and that was usually on the bare bottom.  
23 You had to take your jammies down, or whatever clothing  
24 if you were getting the belting across the bottom.

25 Q. The belting and the hitting and the physical abuse, how

1 frequently did that occur?

2 A. Most days. It was usually very often. Because when we  
3 came home from school we also had to wash our -- because  
4 we wore white knee-length socks, so that was my job to  
5 get them off and get them clean, and then on a Friday  
6 the school uniforms went as well, so I had to wash the  
7 skirts because I had to sew them, because they had big  
8 box pleats, so I had to sew the pleats together and then  
9 wash them. And then when they were ironed the stitching  
10 would come out, I would take that out. But if we didn't  
11 get our socks properly clean, and mine were often  
12 covered in blood at the back of the knees because I had  
13 really bad eczema, so I was ... cracked skin in all the  
14 joints and things, so oftentimes the backs of my knees  
15 would bleed onto my socks and I would have to get salt  
16 to try and get the stains out and it was often a case of  
17 doing them again and again and again until I got the  
18 stains out, because if I hadn't done them, so if  
19 I hadn't done them it would be get them done again, back  
20 into the kitchen sink to get them cleaned.

21 Q. You're talking about cleaning and trampling washing in  
22 the sink. Did you have any protection for your hands  
23 and your feet against water and soap?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No? Even --



1 A. Even bleach.

2 Q. Even though you had eczema?

3 A. Even though I had eczema, no. And I was raw a lot of  
4 times. My skin was raw, especially on the hands, the  
5 elbows, the backs of the knees, my heels and the back of  
6 my head was a real bad mess oftentimes, and I had  
7 ointment that I had to put on, but during the cleaning  
8 process that never came into question.

9 Q. The hitting and the physical abuse, was that directed  
10 only at you or did your sister receive that as well?

11 A. No, my sister would sometimes get it, but my -- if we  
12 were misbehaving or we were making too much noise in bed  
13 on a Sunday morning, for example, if my father came into  
14 the room, he would have the belt and he would lean over  
15 the bed to belt my sister. If my mother came into the  
16 room, it would be me that would get it. So my mother  
17 tended to go for me because I was the oldest, so it was  
18 my fault if there was anything untoward or whatever, it  
19 was my fault because I was the oldest, so I always got  
20 it from her.

21 Q. You mention cleaning your school uniform. How was  
22 school? Was school something you enjoyed?

23 A. No, because I was oftentimes just scared. Sorry.

24 Q. You felt scared and that affected your ability to --

25 A. To learn, yeah. Because obviously teachers in those

1 days weren't -- they were quite strict and obviously if  
2 you didn't pick something up quickly, or like  
3 I didn't ... they would often -- you know, especially in  
4 a -- it was a Catholic primary school and we had nuns,  
5 so you would get the knuckles or the chalk duster on the  
6 back of the head and on the shoulders. So school for  
7 me ... I just wasn't able to learn properly.

8 Q. You tell us about that at the top of page 8 of your  
9 statement, paragraph 44, about the nuns hitting you with  
10 wooden dusters. You also say you would be punched?

11 A. Just with a -- just the knuckles on the shoulders at the  
12 back, yeah, if you didn't -- if your writing wasn't up  
13 to standard or that kind of thing, if they came to check  
14 on what you were writing or your sums or whatever.

15 Q. You also tell us about your sister and your sister was  
16 left-handed.

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. What happened to your sister?

19 A. Because she was left-handed, they tied her hand with one  
20 of the straps they had behind and she was forced to  
21 write all the time until she learned to write with her  
22 right hand, because left-handed people were classed as  
23 stupid and she is actually more intelligent than I am,  
24 or was at that time, but that's how they judged her.

25 Q. In this kind of environment, you know, filled as fear as

1       you were, were you able to make friends at all?

2   A. We did have friends. More so there was like a family  
3       that lived a few doors along from us and we could  
4       interact with them at play time at school, which was  
5       good. But when we were at home we weren't allowed to,  
6       because we weren't allowed out of our garden at all, for  
7       many years, to go and play, because there was  
8       a semicircle outside where all the kids that lived  
9       around about us could play, but we weren't allowed out  
10      of the garden. We got out into the back garden  
11      sometimes, but certainly not the front garden, because  
12      that was my foster father's pride and joy. He grew  
13      roses, plants. It was a beautiful garden, but we  
14      weren't allowed to play there. We would be allowed to  
15      go out on the path at the back door.

16   Q. Your friends at school, were they aware that you were in  
17      foster care as opposed to living with family?

18   A. Not to my knowledge, no, because it's nothing we ever  
19      spoke about in those days, it was just -- they were our  
20      parents and that was what it was.

21   Q. Were you able to confide in your friends at all about  
22      how you were being treated?

23   A. No. We wouldn't have dared. As I got older I knew  
24      obviously something wasn't right in the way we were  
25      being treated, but when you're that young, you know,

1           that's just how life -- or your life is at the time.  
2           It's not until you get a bit older and then obviously  
3           when my friends got to go to different places, got to go  
4           to cinemas, got to -- and I used to think why are we not  
5           allowed to do that? But we just weren't.

6           So as I got a little bit older, I realised their  
7           life was very different from my life.

8    Q.   When you weren't at school and you weren't at home doing  
9           the chores, did you get to do anything? You say you  
10          weren't allowed to go to the cinema. Were there any  
11          sort of clubs that you could join or anything like that?

12   A.   No. We never did things like Brownies or anything.  
13          There was nothing -- we didn't do anything outside of  
14          the home. We did get to play in the back garden, as  
15          I say, on the pathway, but not allowed out to the front  
16          garden or outside the garden at all for play.

17   Q.   I don't think it's covered in your statement, but in  
18          relation to church, were you required to go to church or  
19          was that part of your routine at all?

20   A.   Yeah, we had to go every single Saturday, we had to walk  
21          down to chapel for confession once we'd made, by the age  
22          of seven or eight, we'd made our first Holy Communion.  
23          And then every Sunday we had to go to chapel, because my  
24          mother was obviously a Catholic, a staunch Catholic.  
25          She never ever went to chapel herself, because I take it

1 she couldn't walk far because of her leg ulcers, but [REDACTED]  
2 and I had to go every single weekend that would our --  
3 Q. In relation to those leg ulcers, I think quite early on  
4 in your statement you tell us that you had certain  
5 duties in relation to the ulcers?  
6 A. Yes. There used to be I'm assuming a nurse, I think it  
7 was a nurse or a health visitor that would come at times  
8 to change bandages. Mostly my mother did it herself,  
9 but once I got to a certain age, I would do the -- kneel  
10 down in front of her, because it was both legs, to do  
11 the bandages, and then to have to wash -- because often  
12 the bandages would be weepy, because they were infected  
13 a lot of times. So once I got the wounds dressed and  
14 the bandages on, then I would take the other bandages  
15 away to be washed.  
16 Q. How old were you when you started to do that?  
17 A. Probably from the age of eight or nine. Quite young, as  
18 far as I can remember, when I got taught to do it.  
19 Q. During your time in foster care, did you have contact  
20 with any of your birth family?  
21 A. No, no. We had no idea about them at all. Well, other  
22 than my own memories from before we were put into the  
23 original children's home I had memories, but we had no  
24 information, nothing at all.  
25 Q. Did anyone, whether your foster parents or a social

1 worker, anyone explain to you why you were living where  
2 you were or where your other siblings might be or your  
3 parents?

4 A. No, we had absolutely no information at all other than  
5 just knowing that we were sisters, my sister and I.  
6 That was it. There was nothing ever, ever mentioned.

7 Q. On page 6 to 7 of your statement from paragraph 36 you  
8 tell us about people who came to the house to visit.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You mention some -- some of the names you've told us  
11 about already. I think firstly there was your foster  
12 parents' birth daughter?

13 A. Yeah, [REDACTED]

14 Q. And she would bring her children?

15 A. Yes, she had two girls and also at the time we did not  
16 know but the man that used to come and visit, [REDACTED]  
17 he turned out to be [REDACTED]'s natural first-born son,  
18 but I think he was brought up by my foster parents  
19 because in those days it was too shameful that [REDACTED]  
20 would have a child out of wedlock.

21 Q. How did these people treat you?

22 A. They were -- they were perfectly fine. [REDACTED] was  
23 always really nice. And her two daughters that used to  
24 come, we could play with them when they came, but we  
25 could see quite clearly there was a complete difference

1 in the interaction from how my mother and father treated  
2 them and to how they treated us. It was completely and  
3 utterly different.

4 Q. In what way was it different?

5 A. Well, because like [REDACTED] was the youngest and [REDACTED] You  
6 know, [REDACTED] would sit on my mother's lap and it was like  
7 what I would now call a normal relationship where you  
8 have grandchildren, like I have with my own grandchild  
9 or even my own children. They just come in and it's all  
10 perfectly natural, they chat away, they climb onto your  
11 knee, you know, get treats, that type of stuff. That's  
12 what I would class as a normal type of life, whereas we  
13 just didn't have that interaction because we weren't  
14 even allowed to speak unless we were told to speak or  
15 asked a question.

16 Q. Did any of these people who came to the house, were they  
17 aware of how you were treated in the house?

18 A. As it turns out in later years, [REDACTED] was aware, the  
19 girls' mum. She had known what was going on, but  
20 I didn't find that out until I was an adult and had left  
21 the actual original children's home that I was in when  
22 I went to Keith. She had known what had happened, but  
23 didn't report it because I don't know if her own life  
24 was that good with them maybe? But no, at the time no,  
25 and we certainly would never ever have made anyone aware

1 of anything because we just had to be silent and that's  
2 how we grew up.

3 Q. In relation to social work visits, do you remember  
4 whether anyone from Glasgow Corporation came to see you?

5 A. I wasn't aware of so much where they came from. The one  
6 social worker I do remember was a lady called  
7 Ms Richmond, and she stuck in my mind because she was  
8 very red headed and very strict and quite -- I was aware  
9 of friction between her and my foster mother, but we  
10 never got to sit with her, my mother was always there,  
11 and she did ask and I do remember her asking my mother  
12 to speak to us on our own and my mother was furious and  
13 said, "Absolutely not, anything you have to say to these  
14 children, you'll say in front of me while I'm here", but  
15 my sister and I would never have dared tell anyway  
16 because it was so ingrained to us you just keep silent.  
17 In that sense.

18 Q. Moving on to page 9 of your statement, we've already  
19 heard of the abuse that you'd been experiencing in  
20 foster care, but from paragraph 52 you tell us very  
21 specifically about abuse you experienced there. Are you  
22 able to tell us what happened there?

23 A. Yes. It wasn't long -- well, it doesn't -- I don't  
24 remember it being long after we got there that my father  
25 just started being close, if you like. He wanted to



1 stroke and then he wanted me to -- to stroke him in  
2 certain ways. That's how it started initially. And  
3 then it would move on to what we called the back lobby,  
4 where we had the kitchen but there was a doorway and you  
5 went through the doorway and it was just a long thin  
6 corridor really. At one end was the coal bunker and  
7 then there was a couple of big cupboards which were what  
8 they would use for storing food and things, like  
9 a pantry almost, and then it was the back door, and he  
10 would always take me into there and close the door off  
11 from there in the kitchen and he would want to fondle  
12 me, but more importantly he would want me to fondle him,  
13 and obviously touch him in places and he would -- I'm  
14 sorry.

15 LADY SMITH: There's no need to apologise. You're talking  
16 about intimate touching, I take it, are you?

17 A. (Pause)

18 It happened for many years. Sorry. It happened all  
19 those years while we were there until I actually started  
20 my periods at the age of 13. And then it stopped.  
21 Unbeknownst to me at the time I didn't know why, but  
22 obviously now I know why. It would stop when I had my  
23 periods. He did try to penetrate on occasions, but  
24 obviously I was a tiny little thing and it wasn't  
25 possible. But he would still rub until he would

1 ejaculate into his hanky and things like this.

2           Although it maybe doesn't make sense to somebody  
3 listening to it, throughout the years in a sense he was  
4 never cruel in that way. He would always -- after, you  
5 know, offer me a bit of chocolate or something, but tell  
6 me to hide it, because obviously he didn't want his wife  
7 knowing. But she knew anyway, because she would often  
8 open the door to the -- to where we were in the back  
9 lobby and she knew perfectly well what was happening,  
10 but she would just slam the door shut. And then when it  
11 was over I would usually get a beating because I think  
12 she blamed me for what he was doing. I was bad, I was  
13 evil, I was wicked, I was a bitch and that's my whole  
14 life from my mother. There was no kindness, no --  
15 nothing like that. I was always bad and evil and  
16 wicked. Never called by my name. She called my sister  
17 by her name, she called her [REDACTED] her name was  
18 [REDACTED] but never ever got called by my own name.

19           But the abuse went on all those years, and as I say,  
20 it sounds strange even me saying it, I suppose, now but  
21 it wasn't cruel in a sense of he didn't ...

22 LADY SMITH: That doesn't sound strange to me at all. I've  
23 heard similar accounts from people in similar positions  
24 to you, and indeed at a session with expert  
25 psychologists that we had here in March, one of the

1 things they explained is how common it is for some sort  
2 of attachment to develop between an abuser, initiated by  
3 the abuser and perpetuated by the abuser. So don't  
4 think that's odd at all. And not unusual for grooming  
5 practices such as giving treats, offering treats. It  
6 happens.

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: It sounds to me just like what I have heard  
9 before, as I said.

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: So don't worry about that.

12 MS RATTRAY: 'Angela', the abuse that your foster father  
13 inflicted upon you, how frequently did that happen? Was  
14 it every week, was it a daily occurrence, was it -- you  
15 know.

16 A. Sometimes it would be more than once a week, it would  
17 just depend, but it happened most weeks. Sometimes  
18 there was a bit of a break. I don't remember it being  
19 a long break, but sometimes there would be a bit of  
20 a break. And then -- but I don't know if -- because  
21 **BGW** who we always called the lodger, he lived there  
22 and worked every day, but he would -- Friday night would  
23 be his drinking night and we would have to polish --  
24 once he'd put his work boots and things and his stuff  
25 would get washed, we would have to polish his boots and

1 polish everybody's boots and stuff like that, but BGW  
2 would go out on a Friday night and of course in the  
3 early hours -- because my foster father never used to  
4 come into our bedroom for the abuse, it always happened  
5 downstairs in what I call the back lobby, whereas BGW  
6 would come up into the bedroom, he was obviously drunk,  
7 and my sister and I shared a double bed so I always made  
8 sure she was pushed to the wall because he would do the  
9 same sort of things but oftentimes he was very drunk,  
10 the smell was awful, and tried to do the same.

11 But again, I'm a tiny little person, so it would be  
12 a lot of -- as I say, rubbing and ejaculating and that  
13 kind of thing.

14 Then he would leave the room, et cetera, and  
15 oftentimes the next day, once he eventually got up and  
16 he would be sober, you know, he would put a sixpence or  
17 a thruppenny in my hand and say, "Hide that away". You  
18 know, that was his way of -- of doing that.

19 So he -- again, he wasn't cruel in the sense of he  
20 was always nice to us. I mean, he came in from work  
21 every night and he was fine. He was much nicer than my  
22 parents ever were. But when it came to obviously the  
23 abuse there ...

24 Q. I think you tell us that other people knew about this.

25 A. I'm pretty sure, yeah, they did. BGW would come

1 home from the army and him and my father, I remember  
2 lots of fights in the living room and I remember one  
3 night [REDACTED] had -- it must have been at a weekend,  
4 [REDACTED] must have been home on leave and [REDACTED] had been  
5 in the bedroom and I just remember -- the bedroom was  
6 dark and I remember [REDACTED] coming in and yanking him  
7 out, "You leave those kids alone", but he also had the  
8 same fight with my father and had him by the scruff of  
9 the neck at one point and said, "You leave those  
10 children alone". And I remember one night I was crying  
11 in bed, my sister had had an earache but I managed to  
12 rock her to sleep, which I often did because she had bad  
13 ears, and I remember in the middle of the night or it  
14 seemed in the middle of the night, and [REDACTED] sat on  
15 the bed and he put some sweeties at the side, he says,  
16 "It's going to be all right, you'll be all right", and  
17 it makes me wonder, although I don't know, if he had  
18 been through similar things to what we were going  
19 through.

20 But there were other visitors came to the house that  
21 they knew of, and I'm pretty sure they knew as well.

22 Q. This happened to you. Do you know whether it ever  
23 happened to your little sister?

24 A. No, because I wouldn't let him go near her. I think he  
25 would, he would have at times, but I just would not let

1           that happen to [REDACTED]

2   Q. I think you also tell us, turning to paragraph 58 of  
3       your statement on page 10, you have already told us  
4       about the physical abuse and emotional abuse that your  
5       foster mother subjected you to. And you've told us  
6       about your eczema and you tell us here about something  
7       which happened in relation to your eczema.

8   A. Yes. I did have horrific eczema as a child, and  
9       although my mother got ointment and things like that  
10      from the doctor, and I was covered in it at night-time  
11      and then my hands would get bandaged and then polythene  
12      bags over it overnight so it would sink in overnight for  
13      the worst parts and then I would wake up in the morning  
14      because it was itchy and I would rip it off.

15            But then there was a while when it started -- I'm  
16      assuming it was eczema had started in my scalp and it  
17      gradually got worse and worse and it was open, weeping,  
18      just a mess. And my mother had a -- it was like --  
19      I want to say like a balaclava, but it's not. It was  
20      that sort of shape on the head but it had a button under  
21      here and it was almost cashmery in feel, it was very,  
22      very fluffy, and I had to wear that to cover my head  
23      because I still went to school, but it got to the point  
24      where it was so so bad that the hat was actually stuck  
25      onto my head and the teachers had asked me to remove it

1           when I was in class and I just said -- I refused to  
2           remove it, because I couldn't remove it because it was  
3           stuck, it was -- I was just one encrusted mess, it was  
4           horrible.

5           I remember getting sent home and I think I got  
6           a note home with me informing obviously my mother that  
7           I had refused to take this off and the reason behind her  
8           ripping it off, I think, was because obviously she'd  
9           been embarrassed and obviously been told that I had to  
10          take this off in school. But where we had the deep sink  
11          in the kitchen, I got put over the sink and she  
12          literally -- well, you can imagine, if something's  
13          sticking to a wound, the impacts that's going to have.  
14          And I remember screaming and crying and then getting  
15          slapped on the head for screaming and crying because she  
16          got it off and it was painful.

17          But then we had like in the old days the wooden  
18          scrubbing brushes that you used for the floor and she  
19          had the water running and that was ...

20    Q. She used that scrubbing brush on your head?

21    A. She scrubbed my head to try and scrub off the scabs and  
22          make it clean. And that pain has never left. That was  
23          extremely painful. But obviously it was such a mess  
24          I then ended up in hospital with it. But to my  
25          knowledge it was just a case of it was bad psoriasis

1       that got badly infected, which it was, but looking back  
2       at it now, I dare say doing what she did certainly  
3       didn't improve anything. So I was in hospital for  
4       a good few days.

5    Q. I think actually from reading, as you know, 'Angela', we  
6       haven't been able to recover any Local Authority records  
7       for you, but we do have one or two references to your  
8       foster care experience in the Abelour records when you  
9       moved on to the small group home and you'll probably  
10      know yourself that within there there is reference to  
11      you actually spending two weeks in hospital because of  
12      your eczema.

13   A. Mm-hmm. Yeah, because it was on -- I mean, I had it all  
14      over my body anyway, but my head was the worst and they  
15      thought they were going to have to -- at the time they  
16      couldn't cut my hair off because it was still stuck to  
17      my head, but once they started treating it to see, my  
18      biggest fear then was that -- because they had mentioned  
19      that they would maybe have to cut all my hair off to  
20      allow healing to happen.

21             But yeah, I do remember that because I made a friend  
22      in the hospital, because he had the same condition. He  
23      was really bad.

24   Q. We've covered this before, but during your time, was  
25      there anyone at all that you could have told what was



1           happening to you?

2   A. Well, looking back now possibly that you would -- you  
3       know, like you would say to children now tell a teacher,  
4       tell somebody, but we had nobody that -- we just  
5       wouldn't have dared, because it had to be kept -- you  
6       know, everything was silent. And we were so ingrained  
7       with not speaking unless we were spoken to. You know,  
8       it wouldn't be something we would offer forward because  
9       we just -- we never ever spoke to another adult unless  
10      they gave us permission to speak, because that's how we  
11      were brought up or trained, if you like. That's what we  
12      had to do, so in that sense ...

13   Q. Moving now to paragraph 66 of your statement, 'Angela',  
14      on page 11, and you tell us about leaving your foster  
15      placement. How old were you at that stage?

16   A. At that point I think I was -- I was pre-teen certainly  
17      still, maybe about 11, 10, 11 or 12, I can't quite  
18      remember, but I remember that my mother had to go to  
19      hospital and as it transpired, it was a stroke and she  
20      was there for quite a while, because my father was still  
21      obviously at home, but [REDACTED] used to come every day to  
22      make sure things were -- were okay. My father still did  
23      the cooking and things. And then eventually she came  
24      home, but her face obviously had completely changed  
25      because one side had been paralysed and also one side

1           where she couldn't use her arm to feed herself. So  
2           I would be the primary carer to try to either feed her  
3           or to help her and get dressed and things like that.  
4           But eventually through time she did manage to learn to  
5           use her -- I think it was her right hand again, so that  
6           she was able to feed herself and able to speak  
7           coherently again and things like that, it just took  
8           time, but during that time -- I mean [REDACTED] and I were  
9           responsible for everything that went on in the house and  
10          the cleaning wise, ironing, washing, all that type of  
11          stuff, so we were already -- you know, that wasn't  
12          an issue in that sense.

13        Q. You tell us, I think, after your mother was recovering,  
14          foster mother was recovering from her stroke, you don't  
15          think it was long after that that Ms Richmond, the  
16          social worker, began to visit?

17        A. Mm-hmm. I just -- I do remember she seemed ... I think  
18          possibly there were other social workers, but to us it  
19          could have been anything to do with other children that  
20          had come overnight, because my mother did overnight  
21          stays with other children. We would wake up and there  
22          would be children there. But Ms Richmond stuck always  
23          in my memory because it was the latter part of our stay,  
24          you know, because we were taken away just after my 14th  
25          birthday, and I do remember that -- Ms Richmond coming

1 on two occasions at that point. It didn't seem far  
2 apart, maybe it was, I can't actually remember the  
3 timescale, but I do remember the argument and the raised  
4 voices. But I think it was because she wanted to speak.

5 Q. You mentioned there about your foster parents taking in  
6 other foster children sometimes on a short-term  
7 emergency basis.

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 Q. I think you also tell us that while your foster parents  
10 were elderly when you were staying with them --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- they had actually fostered for very many years before  
13 you and your sister arrived with them?

14 A. Yes. I remember my mother had told us that they had had  
15 a brother and sister before us, the [REDACTED] because  
16 they were better than us, because I was so bad and  
17 wicked, but the children that they had before us were  
18 far better children was what she used to tell us, but  
19 they had also fostered most of their -- or a lot of  
20 their life, I think as well as [REDACTED] and I. [REDACTED] and  
21 I were the last two, because they were so old, because  
22 we went there in 1964 and my father retired officially  
23 from the railway the following year in 1965, so he was  
24 obviously 60 at that point. They were both very old  
25 when they took us on, but my mother's explanation was

1           that they had pleaded with her to take us because nobody  
2           else -- they didn't want to separate us because we were  
3           too close in age and she was the only person that  
4           eventually would agree to take us both together and  
5           that's why we were sent to them specifically.

6   LADY SMITH: Do you know how old they were?

7   A. I -- my foster father was born on [REDACTED] 1900, so he  
8           was 64 in 1964. Well, he was 65 when he retired, what  
9           he would have been then. I just remember -- because  
10          I remember him being born exactly on the 1900s.

11   LADY SMITH: Was your foster mother a similar age?

12   A. She wasn't much younger, I don't think. There wasn't  
13          much -- many years between them.

14   LADY SMITH: So they were both in their early 60s when you  
15          arrived?

16   A. They were very old, yeah.

17   LADY SMITH: Yes. Sorry, I'm smiling at the idea that early  
18          60s is very old. Perhaps that's a personal reaction.

19   A. Well, that's it, I'm 64 myself this year, so to think of  
20          it, you know, at this age I would be more than capable  
21          of raising children even still, but in those days,  
22          because I think they looked different and people at our  
23          age now don't look as old as our parents did at the same  
24          age, if that makes sense.

25   LADY SMITH: You say you're capable of doing it, but the

1 prospect of taking on two children at the age of four or  
2 five years old who are not your children --

3 A. Yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: -- who come from a background of trauma?

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: And you have other responsibilities and one of  
7 them, you've told us, the foster mother, had health  
8 problems.

9 A. Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Tall order.

11 A. Yeah.

12 LADY SMITH: I'm not asking you to be sympathetic, given  
13 what happened to you, but just looking objectively at  
14 what was happening --

15 A. Yeah, it was something my sister and I always said. We  
16 thought they were far too old to be taking on -- they  
17 were far too old to be still doing -- if it was their  
18 job, to be doing that job.

19 MS RATTRAY: 'Angela', what do you remember about leaving  
20 the foster home?

21 A. Literally overnight. We went from normal everyday life  
22 to waking up -- it was two weeks after my 14th birthday,  
23 waking up that morning and facing two big suitcases in  
24 the living room and my mother just said, "You're going  
25 today and you're leaving, I've had enough of your bad,

1 evil, wicked ways and you're not staying here anymore".  
2 And that was the explanation as to what was happening to  
3 us. We had no idea what was coming.

4 And then Ms Rogers, who I take it was a social  
5 worker, came to pick us up, we got put in the car and we  
6 weren't even told where we were going till we actually  
7 arrived at the children's home in Keith from Inverness.  
8 It was just a total bolt out of the blue. We had no  
9 idea.

10 Q. I think we know from your Abelour records or have  
11 gleaned from there that Ms Rogers was a social worker  
12 with the Abelour Trust?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Whereas Ms Richmond was a social worker from Glasgow  
15 Corporation.

16 A. Oh okay, right.

17 Q. And that surprise and your -- how did you feel about it?

18 A. I remember my sister and I just whispering to each other  
19 at the back of the car where are we going or what was  
20 happening because we had literally no idea. And we  
21 thought we had done something or I especially thought  
22 I had done something majorly wrong, that in the morning  
23 we were just disappearing in a car going somewhere and  
24 we were trying to think where were we going to go  
25 somewhere to get punished or -- we had no ideal until we

1 obviously got to the children's home and then it was  
2 explained when we got there and got inside that this was  
3 going to be our new home and this is where we were going  
4 to live from then on.

5 Q. We heard about your experiences at the small group home  
6 in Keith with Abelour --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- when you last gave oral evidence, and I think we  
9 remember from then that whilst it took you some time to  
10 adjust into your new living arrangements and you were  
11 upset by the sudden move --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- but overall your experience in that home was  
14 a contrast --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- to the very negative experience you had in foster  
17 care?

18 A. Yeah, absolutely. It took us a long time to get used to  
19 it because eventually we realised this is what a normal  
20 life should be like, where you were talked to, you know,  
21 there were no real restrictions, you weren't made to  
22 clean, you weren't made to do this, that or the other.  
23 In retrospect, treated like a human being. And it was  
24 a good experience although it took a lot of time for us  
25 to adjust, because we were quiet. We didn't know we

1           were allowed to speak or -- you know, and eventually we  
2           realised that we could speak and we could -- obviously  
3           there were other children there that we were allowed to  
4           mix with, because we had no social skills in that sense  
5           of having mixed -- apart from the few times that we  
6           mixed with kids during the school time or at play time,  
7           we hadn't got any of those sort of skills so we really  
8           didn't know how to behave, I guess.

9           But obviously in time we learned and it was a good  
10          experience. There was no cruelty anymore, nothing like  
11          that, you know. It was really good.

12        Q. You tell us at page 16 of your statement, paragraph 96,  
13          that whilst you were at Abelour, your foster parents  
14          died?

15        A. They did, while we were there. My foster father, we got  
16          news that he had died from a thrombosis in his legs, and  
17          then exactly a year later my foster mother was in  
18          hospital and died shortly after that as well. I had  
19          gone to see -- I didn't see my foster father, because he  
20          died, we just got the news that he had died, but my  
21          foster mother, my sister and I went up to Inverness to  
22          the hospital to see her. Because although we'd had  
23          a cruel life, we still had a loyalty because they were  
24          still a parent or what we had known as parents at the  
25          end of the day, so we did go to see my foster mother in



1 hospital and she didn't know who we were initially, but  
2 then did know who we were and we'd just gone to see her  
3 basically and then before we left, she had turned around  
4 and said to me she was -- she was sorry, that I wasn't  
5 evil and I wasn't bad, and in some senses ... it didn't  
6 make it all alright, but it gave me maybe some form of  
7 closure or admission that I wasn't bad, you know,  
8 because I was grown up believing that I was not a nice  
9 person and she had said she was sorry, so ...

10 But again, in times gone by as my sister -- because  
11 my sister's still very angry, her answer to that is,  
12 "She was facing going to heaven or hell because she was  
13 such a staunch Catholic, she had to atone before she  
14 died".

15 I didn't see it that way because I think differently  
16 to my sister, but my sister still, even after all these  
17 years, is very angry about what happened to us.

18 Q. 'Angela', I'm going to move to that third section of  
19 your evidence there that I spoke about at the beginning  
20 and you talk about impact. At page 17 in paragraph 104  
21 you tell us a little about the impact that your  
22 experience has had on you, but your experiences in  
23 foster care, how has that affected you as you've grown  
24 up and in adult life?

25 A. I've tried not to let it over the years, and the more

1 I've began to understand things as life's gone on, but  
2 mostly for me it's -- it -- it's affected the type of  
3 person I am, it's affected the confidence I've had in  
4 all my life, whether that be in school even after I left  
5 foster care. I'm not a stupid person, I know that, but  
6 when it came to exams at school and things like that,  
7 I was always too scared of getting it wrong or giving  
8 a wrong answer in case I did get beaten or made to feel  
9 belittled.

10 So for me, although I managed to get three what they  
11 call standard grades now, they were 0 grades at the  
12 time, I knew I wasn't stupid but I couldn't achieve what  
13 I needed in life to -- to -- in a school manner.

14 And then as a young adult again the confidence  
15 wasn't there, and as I've said before, as a young  
16 teenage adult, the face went on, the mascara, the  
17 lipstick and the blusher, and that's remained with me  
18 all my life, because it's my barrier because nobody  
19 knew, in that sense, so nobody would ever see that side  
20 of me. All they saw is a smiling happy person, because  
21 my values are I would never ever treat other people the  
22 way I had been treated, you know, whether it be  
23 a customer in a shop that I was serving, whether it be  
24 anybody I met, I just learned at a young age never ever  
25 to judge a book by its cover because somebody could look

1 at me and say, "Oh, isn't she looking good today?" You  
2 don't know what's going on behind that veneer of  
3 somebody, so that's taught me always to have my veneer  
4 there, because I buried so much for so many years. It's  
5 just been in its little box locked there and every now  
6 and again it rears its ugly head and I do have  
7 a breakdown or I get really emotional or -- at different  
8 stages in my life it comes out.

9 But the effect for me and how it's impacted my life  
10 is I just didn't have the chance, perhaps, to be the  
11 person that I might have been, and I don't regret the  
12 person I am, because I've -- in my opinion, I've done  
13 a wonderful job in having two beautiful children and  
14 treated them, I hope, with the love and respect and the  
15 confidence to go in their lives and do what they want to  
16 achieve and never to be frightened, where is I'm still  
17 that little frightened ... person ... so the foster care  
18 was a bad impact for us because there was no love, no  
19 affection, but throughout all of that, for what we  
20 didn't have on that side, it was a bad impact, but for  
21 me I was determined I wasn't going to be that person  
22 that I was taught to believe I was. I was going to  
23 change that, and that side of it I did manage, you know  
24 I did change, because I'm not a bad person or -- I would  
25 never treat anybody badly or judge somebody for -- you

1 know, you don't know what's happened in their life. But  
2 it has impacted the person I've become because of the  
3 confidence and that kind of thing. I've never managed  
4 to overcome that side of it.

5 Q. I think you also have something to tell us in relation  
6 to the effect on your life of having no knowledge of  
7 your birth family and siblings.

8 A. Yeah. This has been horrendous for my sister and I.  
9 For all the years after we -- we'd gone into the Abelour  
10 system, after the foster care abuse, for many years  
11 afterwards we've both been trying to find -- because we  
12 had no information. I had a fantastic memory, although  
13 even into my early 20s, 30s, I thought is it my  
14 imagination? I remembered the names and had memories of  
15 my siblings and my mother and father before we even got  
16 taken away from them, and grandparents. I had all these  
17 memories, so I knew we had come from what I thought was  
18 a family of six and I remembered the names, remembered  
19 times when we were in Glasgow, remembered being in  
20 a tenement building, remembered falling down a flight of  
21 stone steps, still got the scars on my knees, remembered  
22 being sat on a bunker and getting them sorted by  
23 obviously my own family and being given a piece with  
24 butter and sugar in those days -- because we didn't get  
25 sweeties -- to make it better.

1           So throughout the years my sister and I have tried  
2           to find information and we just have hit a brick wall.  
3           I had tried with what I thought was the Strathclyde  
4           Region, which it still comes under. Eventually, I'd had  
5           my first daughter by this time and I think her -- no,  
6           I had had both girls by this point, we'd been trying,  
7           I eventually managed to speak to a gentleman,  
8           Eric McKenzie, who I'd phoned to try and get information  
9           from the Strathclyde region. He was actually the man  
10          that had sent my sister and I to Inverness, so he was  
11          going to send me what information they could give me.

12          They had no information to give me as to where my  
13          family was, but the information on paper was my  
14          brothers' and sisters' names and dates of birth.  
15          Basically what I knew already. I had said to him --  
16          because he said he remembered us distinctly, and I had  
17          said, "Well, whatever you sent us from, you sent us from  
18          the frying pan into the fire because of the abuse we  
19          suffered with our foster parents", and the phone went  
20          dead at that point. There was no other contact at all.  
21          However, I did get the sheet of paper which gave me my  
22          brothers' and sisters' names, and as it turned out, it  
23          wasn't my imagination, I had actually remembered  
24          correctly. They were my brothers and sisters.

25          We tried then to get our records from the Abelour

1 Trust and I eventually managed to get hold of a number  
2 where I could phone them for our records and they said  
3 they had been destroyed in a fire. So I asked: Is  
4 there no other way that we can get information? My  
5 sister also did the same a few years later, so they gave  
6 her our file numbers, which were 5 whatever they were,  
7 but also she was told by a different person the records  
8 were destroyed in a fire.

9 So at that point, I mean both my children were --  
10 [REDACTED] was at school, my youngest was at school, we  
11 thought we're just never going to hear anything, and  
12 then anyway, fast-forward to all these years later when  
13 the Inquiry came up, I'd been hearing about it on the  
14 radio for years -- for a whole year -- before I actually  
15 decided one day to phone simply because the lack of  
16 information or even finding anything out that my sister  
17 and I have ... and probably thousands of us have had,  
18 we've come up against a brick wall and I know it's  
19 different in adoption, because there are facilitators at  
20 either side where one can maybe get information about  
21 their family.

22 For our time, because obviously I understand it's  
23 many years ago, you're talking about the 1960s, but even  
24 into the 1970s, trying to find information, we got  
25 nowhere. And when this came up, this was the reason for

1 me doing this, so that things could change in foster  
2 care systems, that children would have a better way of  
3 finding things out.

4 There is still abuse going on, I understand that,  
5 and obviously there always will be in forms of abuse,  
6 whether it be parental abuse, whether it still be foster  
7 care abuse. There are still so many children slipping  
8 through nets today that I -- I don't know why it's still  
9 shock -- but it really shocks me. And I just wish  
10 something would be done for a better all-round system to  
11 deal with children in foster care like us.

12 Because we had nothing after foster care. We were  
13 told: out into the world you go, there you go, get  
14 a job, that's your life, you fend for yourself. There  
15 was no ongoing help through teenage years, there was no  
16 ongoing help whether you were able to go to a college or  
17 even the opportunity to go to a university -- there was  
18 just nothing.

19 I feel that there are cases where obviously and  
20 foster care children can go to that and they are  
21 beginning to get that sort of help, but it's still  
22 falling down in so many places. There are still so many  
23 children slipping through these nets that the  
24 authorities need to understand the all-round impact.  
25 You know, it's not just about the actual maybe physical

1 or mental abuse that children are suffering, it's the  
2 overall support for the rest of it all around it, you  
3 know. There just -- it's just not all there yet and  
4 it's important for -- for me, anyway, and probably  
5 thousands of children that have been abused in the past  
6 to see that perhaps there have been some changes, but  
7 it's still not there yet.

8 It has such an impact on your life. It's affected  
9 my whole life. I've missed out on possibly having met  
10 my family before they died, you know. My mother died,  
11 my father died. All my siblings are dead now, with the  
12 exception of two. But I only found this out totally  
13 unbeknownst to me and totally a shock. I came into this  
14 to do this, and running alongside that, discovered that  
15 they went and searched records and found all my  
16 information and I'd been dealing with this for the last  
17 few -- sorry, for the last few years, when I've been  
18 searching my whole life.

19 I didn't expect this side of it to happen and I'm so  
20 grateful for it, don't get me wrong. But like I've  
21 said, at one point -- for sometimes it's too little too  
22 late, because my family's gone and I could have -- and  
23 my sister, had we had that information or that system  
24 set up for us, even in the 1970s, even in the 1980s, for  
25 us to find our family, because my father wasn't dead at



1 that point. My mother was. My siblings weren't dead at  
2 that point, that I now know are dead.

3 So [REDACTED] and I have lost all of that because there was  
4 no after-care system for us to be able to find this  
5 information and it's taken me now till when I first  
6 started the Inquiry at the age of 60 or whatever I was  
7 and then all this -- and I've had to process this  
8 information and that's been very difficult, because  
9 I sometimes don't quite know how to handle it.

10 My information -- and I was once told by  
11 a clairvoyant that one day I would get all the  
12 information and every question answered that I would  
13 need. My daughter brought it to my attention when I got  
14 my information about my family, when the kind girl [REDACTED]  
15 that ended up being part of this, traced my family and  
16 I got an A4 envelope that thick and she kindly did  
17 an actual family tree for me, besides the basic  
18 information of my family. She traced my family back  
19 generations. I now have all this information.

20 And a clairvoyant, my daughter pointed out, when  
21 I was stood with this envelope, she says, "Mum, that's  
22 the envelope that the clairvoyant all those years ago  
23 said one day you would get the answers you were looking  
24 for and it would come in an A4 envelope, would come to  
25 you through your letterbox".

1 I didn't even remember about it, but all this  
2 information has come through something I didn't expect  
3 it to, because I wasn't looking for my family, I wanted  
4 to get this out so that things could change, but because  
5 of all the way -- the lack of information or the lack of  
6 the way this has worked for us, it was just too little  
7 too late because our family was -- has been and gone,  
8 where had we had the correct support network around our  
9 lives and the system, we may have found our family long  
10 ago. If that makes sense.

11 LADY SMITH: Very much so.

12 A. So my sister's very -- I'm not angry, I'm very sad and  
13 very hurt, but my sister's so, so angry. Still. And  
14 she is a alcoholic as a result of what happened to us,  
15 has been all her life.

16 I've been the lucky one in some senses that I've  
17 managed not to be -- you know, I've maybe been a little  
18 bit luckier and been a little bit stronger, but she's  
19 not. She's in a bad way and has been.

20 MS RATTRAY: I think, 'Angela', one of the other lessons  
21 that you suggest might help at paragraph 113 of your  
22 statement, you speak about that children need to have  
23 a voice and to be listened to.

24 A. Yeah. Absolutely. Because we were silenced. And that  
25 was normal, maybe back in the 1960s or whenever, but

1 even now children are still too -- some children will  
2 say something, whether it be to a teacher or not -- and  
3 I have personal experience of this recently. They have  
4 told a teacher that they trusted. The teacher has  
5 passed it on to a social setting. The child has not  
6 been believed. This teacher has fought for  
7 an investigation to happen and she's fought long and  
8 hard for this investigation for this child and fought  
9 against the departments, so-called departments, that  
10 this child is saying what happened.

11 The investigation happened and it has all been true,  
12 the father admitted, and this is in this day and age and  
13 this is appalling.

14 So children in some settings are still not being  
15 listened to. They have to have a voice. We didn't have  
16 a voice, because we were too scared to -- to say  
17 anything and we had nobody that we could, so children  
18 are put into a setting in foster care or whichever way  
19 it is, there has to be a network at the side that runs  
20 alongside that where there are relevant -- you know,  
21 not -- foster carers are wonderful people. Not  
22 everybody has the experience that I had. There are many  
23 beautiful people out there that will take on children.  
24 But on the rare occasion that a child still has or has  
25 something happen to them, there has to be an overall

1 system in place that the child can speak without either  
2 not being believed or -- you know.

3 Because if we'd said something at our years, people  
4 wouldn't believe us. You know, we just wouldn't have  
5 been believed. And we were too scared. But with things  
6 like this, there has to be an overall system in place to  
7 protect.

8 Scotland has put in place a child's right. Children  
9 have rights. So in that case, children should have  
10 rights, whether they're with a parent, with  
11 a grandparent, whether they're in foster care, wherever  
12 they are, children have rights, there's the children's  
13 rights now in Scotland, they should have the right to  
14 speak in whichever setting they're in and to be heard  
15 and actually to be listened to, and for me this is why  
16 I would hope that something might be learned from all  
17 these thousands of people that have been in the same  
18 position as my sister and myself have been in.  
19 Something has to come out of that along the way so that  
20 things can be learned to improve.

21 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, 'Angela'. I have no further  
22 questions for you.

23 My Lady, I'm not aware of any other outstanding  
24 questions.

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

1 applications for questions?

2 'Angela', that does complete all the questions we  
3 have for you today. Thank you again for agreeing to  
4 come back and talking about experiences in circumstances  
5 where I can see it's not easy to go back and tell us  
6 what's in your memory from all these years ago.

7 A. (Witness nods)

8 LADY SMITH: I'm very grateful to you for being able to do  
9 that, though, and share your thoughts about what was  
10 wrong, what could have been better, what could be better  
11 for the future. I very much take those on board.

12 A. (Witness nods)

13 LADY SMITH: I'm sure you'll now be exhausted after  
14 everything you've given us this morning, but can I just  
15 assure you it's been very worthwhile from my  
16 perspective.

17 A. Thank you.

18 LADY SMITH: I'm able to let you go now and I hope the rest  
19 of the day is better --

20 A. Thank you very much for listening to me.

21 LADY SMITH: -- than your morning has been so far.

22 Thank you.

23 A. Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: I want to mention there have been some names

1 used in the course of 'Angela's' evidence, her foster  
2 parents, the [REDACTED] other children in the [REDACTED]  
3 family and names of other children they fostered. These  
4 names are all covered by my general restriction order  
5 and cannot be mentioned outside this room.

6 Ms Rattray, it's getting on for the normal morning  
7 break time.

8 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: I think we should probably take the break now.

10 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

11 We then have another oral witness, who is due to  
12 give evidence at 11.45.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 (11.24 am)

15 (A short break)

16 (11.45 am)

17 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

18 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

19 The next witness is 'Patricia'. 'Patricia' was  
20 committed to the care of the Greenock and Port Glasgow  
21 social work department in [REDACTED] 1973. That was part of  
22 Glasgow Corporation at the time. It then became part of  
23 Strathclyde Regional Council. However, it is in the  
24 area of Inverclyde Council --

25 LADY SMITH: Yes.

1 MS INNES: -- and it is assumed that they would take  
2 responsibility as she came from that area and was placed  
3 with foster carers in that area. The placement came to  
4 an end in circumstances which are described in the  
5 statement when she was nearly 16 in 1984.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

7 'Patricia' (affirmed)

8 LADY SMITH: 'Patricia', before we begin your evidence,  
9 I just want to explain one or two things. The red  
10 folder in front of you has your written statement in it  
11 and you'll be taken to that in a moment, but we'll also  
12 put your statement up on the screen and take it to parts  
13 of the statement that we are going to look at from time  
14 to time during your evidence.

15 Other than those practicalities, it's important you  
16 appreciate I do understand that what we're asking you to  
17 do here isn't easy. You're coming here to talk about  
18 what happened when you were a child and what happened in  
19 circumstances that may trigger emotions that take you by  
20 surprise. I know that. I get that.

21 It's absolutely okay if you need to pause, if you  
22 want a break, or if you have any questions. You're  
23 allowed to ask questions here. It may have been harder  
24 when you were a child, but we want to hear anything that  
25 you have to say.

1           So please be reassured that whatever works for you  
2           will work for me, and I want to do all I can to make  
3           what I know is going to be a difficult job as easy for  
4           you as we can. All right?

5   A. Okay, thank you.

6   LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll pass over to Ms Innes and  
7           she'll take it from there.

8           Ms Innes.

9   MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

10   Questions from Ms Innes

11   MS INNES: 'Patricia', we understand you were born in  
12           Greenock in 1968. Is that right?

13   A. Yes.

14   LADY SMITH: Sorry, 'Patricia', one practicality. Can we  
15           get you nearer the microphone, because we need to hear  
16           you through the sound system. Right, let's carry on.

17           We'll see if we can make that easier for you. Let's  
18           give that a go.

19           Ms Innes.

20   MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

21           Your witness statement, we give it the reference  
22           WIT-1-000000712. I wonder if I can ask you to look at  
23           the last page of the statement, please, which is  
24           page 57.

25           We see at paragraph 247 that you say that you have



1 no objection to your witness statement being published  
2 as part of the evidence to the Inquiry and you believe  
3 the facts stated in this witness statement are true, and  
4 I think you signed it on 2 June 2021. Is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. I'm going to deal with your evidence covering  
7 a number of topics.

8 First of all, I'm going to ask you some questions  
9 about your early life before you went into care.

10 Then when you were in foster care I'm going to cover  
11 the following topics.

12 1, religion.

13 2, social work supervision.

14 3, issues in relation to being able to contact your  
15 siblings.

16 Then we'll hopefully talk about the time that you  
17 left foster care.

18 Finally, the lessons that we should learn from your  
19 experience. Okay?

20 At the beginning of your statement you tell us  
21 a little bit about your family and you tell us that you  
22 are one of eight children; is that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. At the end of paragraph 2 you say that there were four  
25 boys first and then four girls?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. At paragraph 3 you tell us that your sister who was born  
3 in 1966 had died before you were born, but we'll come  
4 back to talk a little bit about what you found out about  
5 her later in your evidence, if that's okay?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You tell us, I think, that you lived together with your  
8 mum and all of your brothers and sisters. Was your dad  
9 living in the house with you at the time, can you  
10 remember, or was he somewhere else?

11 A. No, my dad lived with us.

12 Q. Okay, your dad lived with you. You tell us at  
13 paragraph 11 of your statement on page 3 that your dad  
14 had died on [REDACTED] 1973; is that right?

15 A. Yes, it was the day before my fifth birthday. He  
16 drowned.

17 Q. Was that just a few months after you had been taken into  
18 care? Or was it before you were taken into care, can  
19 you remember?

20 A. I think it was just before I was taken into care.

21 Q. Okay. You tell us about your mum and I think your mum  
22 became unwell; is that right?

23 A. Yes. She had cancer.

24 Q. And was she in hospital?

25 A. Yes: she was in the Greenock Hospital.

1 Q. Okay. You tell us, I think, that you were living in  
2 a particular street in Greenock before you were taken  
3 into care. Is that right?

4 A. Yes. I lived there till I was older.

5 Q. Sorry?

6 A. I lived there till I was older. Just took me out to  
7 a home for a little bit and then put me in another home  
8 and then they put me back to the street where my  
9 parents -- my sister died, and that's where I stayed  
10 till I was a teenager.

11 Q. Okay. So you were living on this street in Greenock,  
12 I think it was [REDACTED]?

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. You were living there before you were taken into care  
15 and you tell us that you went into a couple of homes.  
16 I think you were at the Grosvenor Road Children's Home  
17 in Greenock, you tell us?

18 A. Yes, it's called Grosvenor Road, sorry, in Greenock,  
19 it's just about two roads from [REDACTED].

20 Q. Okay. Then you tell us at page 5 and paragraph 20 that  
21 there came a point where you hadn't been that long at  
22 Grosvenor Road and you were told that you were going out  
23 for the day. Can you tell us what happened?

24 A. Yes. They took us out. They took my two sisters in the  
25 car and they went in one car and I went in the other.

1 My two big brothers, then my youngest out of the four  
2 were standing on the little hill. They took my sisters  
3 one way and me the other and I never saw them again for  
4 a few years.

5 My second eldest brother, the second out of  
6 youngest -- he ran out, away, when that happened.

7 Q. Okay. You tell us about this at paragraphs 20 and 21 of  
8 your statement. Then at paragraph 22 you say that two  
9 people took you away in the car but you don't remember  
10 their names. Do you know if they were social workers or  
11 who they were?

12 A. They were Social Services. I didn't know their names,  
13 they just come to collect us.

14 Q. Did you have any idea where you were going?

15 A. No. They drove me around for a little bit and then they  
16 took me away after that.

17 Q. You say at paragraph 22:

18 "The car drove about and they couldn't take me to  
19 wherever they were going to take me ..."

20 So they took you back to [REDACTED] but  
21 to a family called the EIH-EOT [REDACTED] I think?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Did you then stay with the EIH-EOT [REDACTED]?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You say that you didn't see your sisters for another

1 three years after that?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. When you saw them again, were they in Quarriers at that  
4 time?

5 A. Yes, they were in Quarriers Village, which is a big  
6 children's home.

7 Q. Okay, right. Now can I ask you a little bit more about  
8 the **EIH-EOT** At paragraph 28 on page 6 you tell us  
9 that you think they were in their 40s at the time that  
10 you lived with them?

11 A. Yeah. I don't count people's ages, but, yes, probably  
12 for the age I was a child, yeah.

13 Q. If we go over the page to the top of page 7, you say  
14 that they had two sons and two daughters who were a lot  
15 older than you?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. I think the oldest daughter was ready to leave secondary  
18 school, so was she still living in the house when you  
19 moved there?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. Then the other daughter was also at high school,  
22 and then the sons, you say that they were both working?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Were they still living in the house although they were  
25 working?

1 A. Yes. One of them was getting ready, he was going to be  
2 getting married soon.

3 Q. Right, okay. I think you tell us that over the time you  
4 lived there, they gradually moved out as they got  
5 married and set up their own homes, perhaps. Is that  
6 right?

7 A. Yes, that's correct.

8 Q. If we move on, please, to page 10, paragraph 42, you  
9 tell us there that your family were Protestants and your  
10 mother was a member of the Orange Order. Is that right?

11 A. My mother and my father, they were both Protestants and  
12 all my brothers and sisters are all Protestants except  
13 myself.

14 Q. You tell us there that the people that you were placed  
15 with were Catholics.

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. You also tell us that not long after arriving there, you  
18 were baptised as a Catholic?

19 A. A year after my parents had both passed away, I was  
20 baptised Catholic in St Mungo's chapel in Greenock.  
21 I got a little pink dress with little tassels on it and  
22 the oldest brother lifted me up and put me in the font  
23 because I was quite small. I'm still small now, but he  
24 lifted me up so the priest could put the water on me.

25 Q. You also tell us that you also after that made your Holy

1 Communion?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Did you have any choice in doing these things?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you know if any of your family members were consulted  
6 about that happening?

7 A. Not that I'm aware of.

8 Q. If we go on over the page, please, to paragraph 47 on  
9 page 11, you tell us that one of your brothers came to  
10 the house and what was his reaction to what had  
11 happened, that you'd been baptised --

12 A. He was shouting at the EIH-EOT about it and at me  
13 being a Catholic and telling them that I was  
14 a Protestant and there was a lot of abusive language  
15 used at the time.

16 Q. You also say at paragraph 49 that in the particular  
17 street that you were living on Protestants and Catholics  
18 used to row all the time?

19 A. That's correct. Because you couldn't -- it was the way  
20 the living was in those days and you couldn't be friends  
21 with someone that was a Protestant. Catholic and  
22 Protestant was very different in them days.

23 Q. You've told us of course that this was a street that  
24 you'd lived in before with your family?

25 A. Yeah, it's the same street that I was born in and it was

1 the same street that I grew up in.

2 Q. Did the fact that you were now living with a Catholic  
3 family, did that cause you issues with people in the  
4 street?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What sort of things?

7 A. I had everybody telling me every day of my life that  
8 I was a Protestant and who my family were, that my mum  
9 used to be a member of the Orange Order. I have  
10 a picture with me that I've got beside me of my mum,  
11 it's the only picture I do have. But they were very,  
12 very much Protestants and nothing else.

13 Q. Okay. You say there that you went to a Catholic school  
14 as well; is that right?

15 A. Yes. I went to St Mungo's Primary School and then  
16 I went on to St Stephen's High School in Port Glasgow,  
17 where I made my confirmation.

18 Q. Did you continue to have a sense that there were  
19 difficulties because you were a Protestant placed in  
20 a Catholic school? Did that continue to give rise to  
21 issues for you at school?

22 A. Yes, because I knew that my family were Protestants.  
23 I couldn't understand why I was a Catholic, because  
24 I was a little girl. I was only a child. But I had to  
25 do what I was told to do. That's how it was.



1 Q. Can you give us your reflections on how you feel about  
2 the fact that this happened to you and you were placed  
3 with a Catholic family?

4 A. For me, I don't know who I am. I don't know what my  
5 religion is. I feel they took everything from me to who  
6 I should have been. Everything that robbed me of my  
7 life. Your religion's your identity, it's who you are,  
8 and my parents' wishes would never have been for me to  
9 have been baptised a Catholic when they were members of  
10 the Orange Order. I still to this day hear that I've  
11 got to remember I was a Protestant, when my oldest  
12 brother from England(?), you know, he sees me in the  
13 town, he always walks away and says to me, "Don't forget  
14 I'm a Proddy", that's how he says it to me.

15 And it hurts, because I never had a choice. I was  
16 five when they died. People made choices for me and  
17 they were called Social Services.

18 Q. I want to move on to the next topic that I said I would  
19 speak to you about, and that's social workers came to  
20 visit you. So if we can look on, please, to page 22,  
21 paragraph 101.

22 You talk there about a Ms Hibert coming to see you  
23 at the EIH-EOT What was she like?

24 A. Ms Hibert was lovely. She was my first social worker.  
25 She come all the time when I just moved in with the

1       EIH-EOT       and she was always dressed nice with  
2       a little -- she had a tweed jacket, a little -- she had  
3       a brown little satchel, a leather brown briefcase. She  
4       talked to me. But she left after a little while and  
5       then after that I got quite a number of social workers  
6       after that, but they didn't care like Ms Hibert did,  
7       they didn't care about me. They were seeing  
8       Mrs EOT       in five minutes, how school is? That was  
9       it, nothing. But Ms Hibert did care. She was lovely.  
10      I'll always remember. Always.

11    Q. You say at paragraph 102 of your statement that she was  
12      very prim and proper --

13    A. Yes.

14    Q. -- but she was lovely and she cared about you, and you  
15      had that sense from meeting her then?

16    A. Yes. And she got -- it's actually not even on here, but  
17      she got me my first pair of shoes from down  
18      Roxburgh Street, because we had got a piece of paper  
19      and -- I will never ever forget these shoes, because  
20      they were burgundy and -- they're really old in them  
21      days, but she got me my first shoes that I needed, it  
22      was the first bit of clothing I had actually got since  
23      I had been in care --

24    LADY SMITH: What else do you remember about the shoes?

25      You've told me the colour, 'Patricia', what else do you

1 remember about them?

2 A. They were lace and there were little like -- little  
3 raffle type on the top. They were really old-fashioned  
4 in them days, but it was the colour that she got me.  
5 Because she took me to get them. I went there with a  
6 lady who helped me over the last four years and took her  
7 to where the shop was, because it was one of the places  
8 that I got to go maybe every six -- or once a year to  
9 get something to wear, I only got one outfit from them,  
10 that's what I got from them.

11 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

12 MS INNES: You then say at paragraph 102 that when Ms Hibert  
13 left, everything changed. You said that you then had  
14 a range of different social workers.

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Just before we move on to them, you say that Ms Hibert  
17 never sat you down and spoke to you about your family.  
18 She was more interested in what was going on and whether  
19 you were settling, "She wanted to know where I slept and  
20 she was the only social worker who wanted to know that".

21 A. She wanted to know about me and what was going on and  
22 she -- she cared about me. And then she had to tell me  
23 that she would be leaving and she had to go somewhere  
24 but she never said where. I remember the day when she  
25 told me it like yesterday, and I didn't want her to go.

1 But she said the next social worker would be nice, but  
2 nobody cared after that. It went downhill. My life  
3 went down the hill. So -- maybe it was because I liked  
4 her and I know she cared for me, but ...

5 Q. You said that the other social workers that came would  
6 come really to speak to the foster parents and would  
7 just speak to you for five minutes about school?

8 A. They always come after school, so I would come from  
9 school, when I come in they would be there. Then I had  
10 to go to my room while they spoke and then they would  
11 call me down and just ask me how school was and how my  
12 day was and that was it, away they went. They were  
13 always gone by about half past 4.

14 Q. Would the **EIH-EOT** both be there when you were speaking  
15 to the social worker or --

16 A. No, because Mr **EIH** worked at the docks. He worked  
17 at -- I think it was called  where they made the  
18 big ships and all the big ships for going on the river.

19 Q. Was Mrs **EOT** the person that they were speaking to  
20 then?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did she stay in the room when you were called down to  
23 speak to them?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You talk about what you can remember of them and you say

1           that at one point you had a gentleman, you said:

2           "I wasn't comfortable with having a man as a social  
3           worker and I wouldn't speak to him. I would rather  
4           speak to a lady, that was how I was when I was younger."

5   A. That's correct. The social workers didn't stay long.

6           I only had them for about less than a year.

7   Q. And then it would be somebody else?

8   A. And I was lucky if I saw them twice. I told the social  
9           worker when I went to find out about my parents four  
10          years ago, I told them all their first names. Only one  
11          of them I remembered their second name, that was Kathy,  
12          I remember her second name. But all of them I gave  
13          their first names, so ...

14   Q. Did any of them ever speak to you about your family --

15   A. Never.

16   Q. -- about your brothers and sisters? No.

17          Were they people that you felt that you could say,  
18          you know, "I would like to see my brother or sister",  
19          or, "Where are they?" or anything like that?

20   A. No, because when I asked to go and see my big sisters,  
21          because they never spoke about my family to me, when  
22          I asked to go to see my two big sisters in Quarriers,  
23          they told me they had to make an appointment to go and  
24          see them and that took a long time.

25   Q. When you say they told you there would have to be

1 an appointment, was that the **EIH-EOT** or was that the  
2 social worker?

3 A. That was the social worker to make an appointment to go  
4 to Quarriers.

5 Q. Okay. Right. We're going to move back in your  
6 statement, please, to page 14 and if we can talk  
7 a little bit more about the efforts that you made to see  
8 your brothers and sisters, okay?

9 At the bottom of page 14 you talk about your sisters  
10 being in Quarriers and you go on at page 15 at  
11 paragraph 66 to talk about your first visit to see your  
12 sisters. Can you remember that visit?

13 A. Yes. It was in Quarriers, when you go into Quarriers  
14 Village, they have lots of big cottages. They're still  
15 there today, people live in them and bought them now.  
16 And inside the house it was really big, the house they  
17 were in. They were in cottage 33, which is way at the  
18 very back. And they had a big sitting room and that's  
19 where I had to go to see my two sisters. I had to sit  
20 there with their mum and dad, and then they had a dining  
21 room and then they had the big kitchen and then they had  
22 like a big play room and they'd all -- in the play room  
23 they had all their own little wardrobes with their  
24 names, everybody had their own little cupboards, but  
25 they're little miniature wardrobes, and then you come

1 out and then they had all the coat hanger with their  
2 names and their little school coats and their shoes  
3 below.

4 Then you went in through to the bathroom, where they  
5 had lots of wash hand basins and they all had their own.  
6 They had everything of their own. Cottage 33 had a nice  
7 home.

8 Q. You mentioned that I think the housemother and father  
9 were there, I think you call them aunt and uncle, is  
10 that right?

11 A. Aunt QAH and uncle [REDACTED] that's what I was told to call  
12 them, for the other children being in the home that  
13 I had to say they were my aunt and uncle.

14 Q. So they were in the room when you had this first visit  
15 with your sisters. And I think you also say that the  
16 social worker stayed in the room as well?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. After that first visit, were you able to go back and see  
19 them again?

20 A. Yeah, but it was a long time. It was quite -- maybe I'd  
21 say about seven, maybe eight, could be nine months. It  
22 was almost a year. The whole time they were in care,  
23 I only stayed with them once for a sleepover. I never  
24 got any Christmases or birthdays with them. And the  
25 weekend that I stayed with them, I got grounded for

1 a month, because I went to the Protestant church and the  
2 foster family that I lived with grounded me because  
3 I was a Catholic and I didn't understand what I did  
4 wrong. I just went with aunt QAH and uncle and my  
5 two sisters and all their brothers and sisters that they  
6 got that I never -- that I never got. That Social  
7 Services took from me.

8 (Pause)

9 LADY SMITH: 'Patricia', I think I have the picture. The  
10 two sisters that were in Quarriers were older than you,  
11 but one of them was the one that was nearest in age to  
12 you amongst your brothers and sisters. Is that right?

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: What you saw was them together in Quarriers and  
15 they were living in what struck you as happy --

16 A. Yeah.

17 LADY SMITH: -- nice circumstances?

18 A. They had a lovely life.

19 LADY SMITH: And you weren't allowed to live with them?

20 A. I -- I don't know till this day why they didn't let me  
21 go live with my big sisters. I was only five when my  
22 parents died. My family don't speak with me. They  
23 don't -- I'm a nobody to everybody. I should have had  
24 a family.

25 LADY SMITH: I suppose you didn't get the chance to get to



1 know them if you were only seeing them very, very  
2 occasionally.

3 A. No. They had their own bedrooms, so the couple of hours  
4 I was, there I had to divide my time between the two of  
5 them. Because sisterly things which I saw as a child  
6 growing up from just my friends and what you see when  
7 you went to Quarriers, that's what happens with  
8 children. They get their own bedrooms and they get all  
9 their own things and they bonded together and they got  
10 to do things, the other big sister was looking after  
11 little sister. I never got none of that. I never had  
12 that.

13 And on the one time of year that I did get to see  
14 them, I only got a few hours, maybe four or five hours  
15 on that day, that was all I had, because the social work  
16 worker, she was at work so it was done in working hours.

17 MS INNES: I think you go on to tell us at paragraph 68,  
18 'Patricia', that you had to continue to book  
19 appointments to see your sisters. And sometimes the  
20 appointments were cancelled.

21 A. That's right. Inside when you -- I went four years ago  
22 with the -- someone, and this person was very close to  
23 my heart and we went there and I had to go and do things  
24 in my head that I never wanted to do. But as you enter  
25 into Quarriers they have like a gatehouse and they have

1 a big book and if your name wasn't on that, you weren't  
2 getting through because they didn't allow you because  
3 you have an appointment to get there. If you've not got  
4 that, you don't get there.

5 But on a couple of occasions they would let you go  
6 through and when you got to the house they turned me  
7 away at the cottage 33 where my sisters lived. So they  
8 told them that because they never had an appointment  
9 they couldn't come in, so that was how aunt QAH and  
10 uncle [REDACTED] because they had plans for the sisters and  
11 the brothers and the children all were doing activities  
12 and things, and I wasn't allowed to see my sisters, so  
13 I got very upset and very angry over it. Very.

14 I still do now, because I have lots of flashbacks of  
15 it.

16 Q. Okay. If we move on, please, to page 17 of your  
17 statement, you tell us at paragraph 77 that one of your  
18 sisters had an accident with a bus in Port Glasgow.  
19 I don't know whether you feel able to tell us about  
20 trying to see your sister when you knew that she was in  
21 hospital.

22 A. I was at the school opposite. She was in the Protestant  
23 school across the road and I was in the Catholic school,  
24 but I used to try and bunk off to go there and see her.

25 And then on this Friday afternoon, everybody

1 chatting in school saying there was a bad bus accident  
2 just before the Port Glasgow High on the back roads, as  
3 we called them, and somebody was seriously injured, they  
4 were pushed off a bus and they were trapped underneath  
5 it and they were dragged for 200 yards. Lots of stories  
6 I heard.

7 I came home from school and the social worker's car  
8 was there and I went in and I said to her was she to  
9 tell me about my big sister, because I knew then and she  
10 asked me to sit down and I asked her was my big  
11 sister -- she's my eldest sister -- and was she alive or  
12 was she dead? Because I heard all stories in school  
13 that day.

14 I told her I wanted to go and see her at the  
15 hospital and she said no, we can't because we had to  
16 have an appointment. So I used -- I told her to F off  
17 and that I was going to the hospital, because that was  
18 my big sister and I was going to see if she was going to  
19 be okay. And I ran out the house and I went down the  
20 lane. The social worker came after me. She took me in  
21 the end to the hospital and we went into the intensive  
22 care unit in Inverclyde Royal Hospital, and that  
23 hospital wasn't long built then, it was quite a new  
24 hospital at the time, and we got there and her aunt  
25 **QAH** and the doctor were there and the doctor told me

1 I couldn't come in, and so did aunt QAH and I pushed  
2 them out the way and my sister was bandaged from head to  
3 toe in lots of machines. She was -- she's very lucky to  
4 be here today, to be fair, even though I don't see her.

5 But I laid beside her and put my -- I laid on the  
6 back of her and put my arms around her and told her that  
7 I loved her and that when she gets better I would buy  
8 her some sweeties. And the doctor took me off the bed  
9 and then I was told to leave with the social worker and  
10 I got told off outside, but it went over my head because  
11 that was my big sister. She could die at any time and  
12 I knew that.

13 Q. After this happened and that first visit to the  
14 hospital, were you able to see your sister again when  
15 she was recovering?

16 A. No. She had to be moved to a specialist hospital called  
17 Canniesburn and I never saw her for a year and a half  
18 after that, because I wasn't allowed to because  
19 obviously she had lots and lots of skin graft operations  
20 to rebuild her.

21 LADY SMITH: Canniesburn specialised in plastic surgery at  
22 that time, they still do so.

23 A. That's correct, Lady Smith.

24 She had lots of plastic surgery done to her body.  
25 But they had to prepare me when I went there what I was

1 going in to see with my big sister. I had to meet  
2 doctors when they took me to visit her.

3 MS INNES: You say in your statement at the bottom of  
4 page 18 that you were asking the social worker to  
5 arrange this but the answer was no, essentially.

6 A. That's correct, because she was very sick. I didn't  
7 know she was in Canniesburn until the day I went there.  
8 And I always remember Canniesburn, like Lady Smith just  
9 said, it's for plastic surgery. She had lots of skin  
10 grafts from her back and her leg to build body to build  
11 her body because she was very badly disfigured in this  
12 bus accident. [REDACTED] I saw  
13 my sister -- because I had to ... the doctors prepared  
14 me what I, as a young girl, going in to see.

15 I took her some books and sweets that the social  
16 worker paid for for me to take in to her, but I only got  
17 like an hour with her because she was still very poorly.  
18 She spent a long time in Canniesburn and it was far away  
19 from Greenock. It was very far away, I think it took  
20 over an hour to get there in them days.

21 Q. Were you able to see your other sister when --

22 A. No. They never took me to see her either. And I'd been  
23 asking a few years ago when I went to see them, I went  
24 and I -- she asked me never to tell my big sister that  
25 I got to the hospital the day she nearly died, because

1 she said to me, 'EIG [REDACTED] she doesn't know that you got  
2 into the hospital", and for the first time I heard last  
3 year from her, she remembered. I haven't spoken to her  
4 since then actually. She said, 'EIG [REDACTED] I remember you  
5 lying on the bed and putting your arms on me and telling  
6 me you were going to buy me sweets and that you loved  
7 me", and she said, "But I'll never be the big sister  
8 that you want me to be". (Pause)

9 Q. If it's okay, can we speak about your brother [REDACTED]?

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 86 that you  
12 didn't see either -- well, this brother [REDACTED] you  
13 didn't see him until you were 14?

14 A. Him and [REDACTED]. I found them.

15 Q. We'll come to [REDACTED] in a moment.

16 In terms of [REDACTED] was he in foster care? Was he  
17 living with family members? Who was he with?

18 A. He -- he lived with another aunt [REDACTED] and she lived in  
19 [REDACTED] just down by the [REDACTED]  
20 Hospital, and I used to get my arm and trap it in the  
21 door in the toilets at school so I could get bunking off  
22 school. I wouldn't go to the hospital, because I used  
23 to go up to [REDACTED] because I didn't know what  
24 house it was, but when I lived in [REDACTED]  
25 people told me things that I always remembered and kept

1           it up here, so that I could go there and one day just  
2           knock on the door and one day I did that and a big lady  
3           opened the door and I said, "My name's EIG [REDACTED] and my  
4           name's -- does my big brother [REDACTED] live here?" And she  
5           cried and put her arms out to me and she says, "I know  
6           who you are" and she took me in.

7           And he was away at school or college maybe.

8           I don't -- he was out -- and the other children were  
9           at school, because she had children, but I didn't stay  
10          long because I had to go back because I was bunking off  
11          school to go and find him.

12        Q. You say that you did get to see [REDACTED] after that, but  
13          you had to make her promise that she wouldn't tell  
14          anyone?

15        A. That's correct.

16        Q. You didn't feel that you could tell the EIH-EOT [REDACTED] that  
17          you were seeing him?

18        A. No, because they -- they were strict. They were --  
19          I think in them days people were strict anyway, but not  
20          like them, but they followed the rules of Social  
21          Services, everything that -- you know, they didn't want  
22          to do wrong by Social Services. But they did in the  
23          end, so ...

24        Q. Okay. Then you go on in the next paragraph of your  
25          statement to talk about meeting your big brother [REDACTED]

1       who you've already mentioned. You tell us about how you  
2       found out where he lived. Can you tell us about that?

3   A. Yeah. I went to the -- the [REDACTED] youth club with my  
4       best friend who -- she is like a sister to me now.  
5       She's here today with me.

6       We called them the corner boys, one of the drunks.  
7       But they were all nice, you know, they were nice to you  
8       when you were kids, the corner boys, and he told me that  
9       my big brother lived up this flat and he said, "See  
10      where that light is?" and I said, "There are lots of  
11      lights", but he said, "See that one there", and he  
12      counted it up and told me it was on the eighth floor.

13      So me and my best friend, she went into the youth  
14      club and I remember this night because George Michael  
15      had just released -- I don't think it was out just for a  
16      couple of months, "I'm your man", but I went up there,  
17      I was brave but I didn't know what I was going to get  
18      when I went to that door.

19      But he never forgot me either. I told him who I was  
20      but he knew who I was. And he took me in and he had  
21      this grey table and it was quite low. Lots of pens and  
22      coins on it and a couple of cans of beer and he told me  
23      about I was baptised a Catholic and I've got to know  
24      that I was a Protestant and he told me about my two  
25      eldest brothers and they'd went to Quarriers and aunt



1        QAH and uncle [REDACTED] called the police and that on them,  
2        because they wanted to go and tell my sisters -- they  
3        were trying to get help to get us all together as  
4        a family. But they were not allowed anywhere near  
5        Quarriers. They get into -- I don't know how much was  
6        involved in it, but they weren't allowed to come back  
7        near my two sisters in Quarriers Homes.

8                So that made me more determined to find [REDACTED] and  
9        [REDACTED] and I did it. I stole money and things, but I did  
10       it because I wanted to find my family. My family  
11       I don't have now and the family I should have had. They  
12       weren't my choices. They were -- this is what I was  
13       dealt in life. They didn't care about me. I was just  
14       a child. You know, I was just -- I'm just a number to  
15       these people. But they don't realise when people grow  
16       up the effect it has on them.

17    Q. You've mentioned your other brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
18       there. Can you tell us how you were able to find your  
19       brother [REDACTED]?

20    A. I used to go to the ice rink with my best friend and he  
21       used to live in Kilwinning, which I found out. But  
22       I used to go down there and each time I would try and go  
23       to Kilwinning and it was near enough and it wasn't  
24       like -- so I'd go there and I'd go in streets and knock  
25       on people's doors to see if my brother was there. And

1 Kilwinning is not a very big place in them days, a very  
2 small place, nice houses, nice windows, quite nice where  
3 it was, and one day I knocked on this lady's door and  
4 I spoke to her and she said, "No, I don't know anybody  
5 by that name", and I said he's dark skinned, he's  
6 handsome, he's my big brother, and she said, "Is he down  
7 there?" And she just pointed to a house and I knocked  
8 on the door and my brother opened the door that day to  
9 me.

10 I said to him who I was and he knew who I was too.  
11 I only saw him a couple of times after that because he  
12 went to London. But he told me what happened with  
13 Social Services and what he did, and he said he was  
14 sorry for what happened to me and he couldn't take me  
15 from [REDACTED] and he was sorry that he knew  
16 that I was going to suffer with everybody telling me  
17 everything. He couldn't understand why they didn't take  
18 me out of [REDACTED] with the rest of them and  
19 why I was left there.

20 He said to me, "EIG [REDACTED] one day when you get older,  
21 you remember everything I've told you". I said,  
22 "I remember everything since I was a little girl", I was  
23 gifted with a memory. I think it was because I saw  
24 things and I knew that things were happening, but as  
25 a child you can't express it. It's natural when you do

1 things. So if you say to a five-year-old now don't do  
2 that, they might get naughty and not understand, but  
3 a memory's a gift and I've got one of them and I grew up  
4 in [REDACTED] every day of my life being told  
5 how wonderful my parents were and all about my brothers  
6 and sisters, so I could never escape from it.

7 Q. You also talked about your brother [REDACTED] and you tell  
8 us a little bit about him. Were you able to find him  
9 again?

10 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both became alcoholics  
11 and they drunk themselves to death. [REDACTED] had  
12 an accident through drink, but it led them to the drink  
13 what happened to them. But [REDACTED] had lived on the  
14 streets and I found him down in the town, people told me  
15 where he was, and I used to go and see him but sometimes  
16 he'd get really like aggressive towards me because he  
17 wanted me to give him a pound which I never had because  
18 I was still a child and I never had money, but he just  
19 wanted another drink to kill his pain.

20 He told me all about it, he told me everything he  
21 did, the same as [REDACTED] They did try to keep us together  
22 as a family but they were only young. They were young  
23 lads. They weren't 30-year-olds or 40 -- they were  
24 under the age of 20. They tried to keep the family  
25 together but Social Services wouldn't allow it.

1           But I managed eventually to get him into Inverclyde  
2           Centre where they put people that have got alcohol  
3           problems and drug abuse and it used to be the old  
4           sailors building, but I got them somewhere to stay.

5           But I couldn't go and see him all the time, because  
6           I didn't want people -- if I went there I had to sneak  
7           in in case anybody passed by on the main road and saw  
8           me. I was scared I would get grounded.

9   Q.   Okay.

10           Finally in this section on page 22 you tell us about  
11           your sister who had died and that -- you tell us at  
12           paragraph 98 that your foster sister had taken you into  
13           her grave, to your sister's grave, and she told you not  
14           to tell anyone that you'd gone there?

15   A.   That's correct. She took me to the grave and when  
16           I went into Social Services four years ago I've still  
17           got the little girl in my head every day, so I drew  
18           a picture of the gates and the wall and where it was  
19           broke and the headstones and she said to me when she put  
20           the blanket down we were going swimming and she got her  
21           finger and nearly put it through my head and told me  
22           I was never to tell anybody she took me there. I said  
23           why, she said I want you never to forget this place.  
24           I said why. She said one day you'll need to come back  
25           here, because she knew that was my big sister's grave

1           and I had grandparents as well, they died when I was,  
2           I think, five. I didn't know I had grandparents.

3           (Pause)

4           I only found out I had grandparents four years ago.

5   Q.   You found your grandparents' graves four years ago?

6   A.   Yeah, my sister's in the same grave as them.

7   Q.   I think you tell us in your statement that a person has  
8       helped you put together a family tree. I think you've  
9       had difficulties in getting any records, for example,  
10      from Social Services, but somebody has assisted you in  
11      tracing your family and finding their graves. Is that  
12      right?

13  A.   Yeah, I made a phone call to Social Services but I never  
14      told my best friend, she just dropped me in the town  
15      when I went to do the -- meet the person. And this --  
16      and the phone call I made was to ask them could I come  
17      and look at my file, because I found out then that  
18      I could look at these things because I didn't know you  
19      can do these things because it's Social Services and  
20      people are afraid of them.

21           So it took a few weeks but the man kept in touch.  
22      His name was Brian. He was really nice. And he called  
23      me to just give me an update, they're still trying to  
24      get someone to allocate to me. But they did it and  
25      I was given a lovely person who over two years worked

1 to -- but she did it on gradual stages to take me.

2 My mum was in one cemetery, my father was in  
3 another, my sister was in with my grandparents that  
4 I didn't even know I had until that day, and my sister's  
5 grave was where I drew in the picture, where the tree  
6 was and the headstones were all broken and the gate, the  
7 gate had been bricked up. It had all been -- just by  
8 the old wall, they'd filled it back up. But she was  
9 able to find it through help, obviously, which she did.  
10 She did a lot of work to get -- and she took me to the  
11 graves at separate occasions. I never did -- I did them  
12 separately, not on the one day. It was done over  
13 months. Obviously because of the effect it was --  
14 because I didn't know it.

15 I used to go and look there when I was a kid, but  
16 Greenock cemetery is humongous. I used to go and play  
17 hide and seek and try and find it. But trying to find  
18 a grave in Greenock cemetery is like trying to get blood  
19 from a stone, I should say.

20 Q. Can I ask you now about you leaving the EIH-EOT home.  
21 You tell us about that on page 26. If we can look,  
22 please, at the final couple of paragraphs there, 117 and  
23 118, so you tell us that this was just before your 16th  
24 birthday, and essentially I think your foster father saw  
25 something which he misconstrued.

1 A. What does that mean?

2 Q. Sorry, I should have -- he saw something happening and  
3 he thought that you were doing something that you  
4 shouldn't have been doing --

5 A. Yeah, that's right.

6 Q. -- but he was wrong about that.

7 A. Yes, he was.

8 Q. He was wrong.

9 You tell us at paragraph 117 that when you went  
10 home, your foster father came in shouting and screaming  
11 and he told you that you were going to be out of the  
12 house at 7 o'clock the next morning.

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Are you able to tell us what happened the next morning?

15 A. He sent me to my room that night and said that to me,  
16 and on the Friday my best friend had -- she used to let  
17 me wear her clothes, because I never had much and she'd  
18 just bought this new outfit and she lent it to me to go  
19 out with this boy and he caught me snogging the boy and  
20 my legs around his waist and he thought that we were  
21 having sex. I was a kid, I was a child. And I told him  
22 I wasn't, and he said I was late, I was two hours late  
23 for being in. I just wanted to be a little girl and  
24 have fun. I wanted to enjoy my life, but every time  
25 I did that, I always got grounded.

1           And he told me when I got back home, he was wanting  
2           to kill me he was so angry. His son stopped him. He  
3           hit his son that night and he sent me to my room, told  
4           me to go up to my room, he was throwing me out at  
5           7 o'clock the next morning. But I never slept, I just  
6           laid on the bed, on the top of the bed that I had.  
7           I had a very small room at the gable end of the house  
8           I called it.

9           And he came in that room at 7 o'clock and gave me  
10          a black bag and took some of the clothes that I had,  
11          said I'd come with an effing black bag and I was going  
12          out with an effing black bag and he threw me out.

13          I don't like black bags now, I don't.

14   Q. I think that's something that has stayed with you  
15          throughout your life from --

16   A. It's still happening in Social Services now. I have the  
17          clippings on my mobile. It's happened to other children  
18          and that needs to be really addressed that kids  
19          proper -- it happened to a young boy a few months ago in  
20          Nottingham at Christmas and he walked into a police  
21          station and that story tore me in two, because it is  
22          still happening, he was 12 and he went to the police  
23          station when his foster carers threw him out, they threw  
24          him out with a black bag. You can't do that to children  
25          this day and age but it's still happening. And I stress



1           that it is. You can Google it yourself. You can read  
2           about this little boy in Nottingham. That brought it  
3           back home to me. It is still happening. They're still  
4           failing children in that way.

5           That's what people can do, foster carers can do it.  
6           They can do what they want. There's no law stopping  
7           these people from doing these things. But it is  
8           happening.

9   Q. You tell us over the page at page 27 in paragraph 119  
10       that you were put out of the house first thing in the  
11       morning as you say you saw the -- I think you went to  
12       a lady who asked you why you were out at that time in  
13       the morning and I think you also describe --

14   A. Her name was [REDACTED] She lived on the top floor in the  
15       close and she was looking out her window. She told me  
16       to come up and I said no because I knew he was so angry  
17       that morning still -- but she made me come up. And then  
18       my foster mum come and gave me £5 and that was a lot in  
19       them days and she had to go, because if he would have  
20       saw her he would probably have went crazy at her.

21   Q. Neither of your foster parents had contacted Social  
22       Services to tell them?

23   A. No.

24   Q. I think you then tried to contact Social Services and  
25       you talk about at paragraph 124 to going up to

1 a building in Dalrymple Street and the building was  
2 locked and there was a number that you could phone and  
3 you tried phoning that number.

4 A. I went to the local police station first.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. I went to the police station in Greenock -- the  
7 building's still the same to this day. And I walked  
8 into there with a black bag and I asked them if they  
9 could help me to tell me where Social Services was and  
10 he told me to come down and walk across to the end of  
11 the town, it was on the same -- the main road. I call  
12 it a main road now, but it was Dalrymple Street, and he  
13 told me to go along there and Social Services was over  
14 there and there were no questions asked in why I was in  
15 the police station at that time of the morning.

16 So I went there and as I was going there, I went  
17 down and there's a place called the Custom House Quays  
18 and I went down, the building -- it's the only one  
19 that's there now, and the fire escape is still there, so  
20 I sat underneath there with my black bag and I just  
21 cried, because I didn't know what to do or where to go  
22 or who to speak to, because I went to the police and  
23 I thought maybe they would have helped but nobody --  
24 nobody cares. Nobody cares about you.

25 So then I got myself together and went to Dalrymple

1 Street and I got the number and then the boy that I was  
2 with the night before, he told me to call him -- when  
3 this was all my foster father was trying to hit him.  
4 And I called him and he come down to the town and whilst  
5 he was on his way to me I phoned Social Services. It  
6 was in Glasgow.

7 And the man answered the phone and I told him what  
8 had happened and he said that he couldn't come and get  
9 me and I said why not and he said because he was on the  
10 phone and he had to be there to take phone calls from  
11 people like me and that if I got to Glasgow then he can  
12 get me sorted, but because I was in Greenock he couldn't  
13 help me.

14 But I told him that I was only a little girl and  
15 I never had anywhere to go and he said there's nothing  
16 he could do, so that was it. I just effed and blinded  
17 at him and put the phone down, because same again,  
18 nobody cared. I was just that little girl, you know,  
19 just don't worry about her, she's a nobody.

20 So then the guy that I'd met, he come and he gave me  
21 £20 and he said he had to go, he was going to his mum's  
22 caravan. His parents actually offered to take me there.  
23 Because I didn't know them, I'd just met them the night  
24 before, it was very difficult. You don't just go with  
25 strangers or -- but I said bye and I've never seen that

1           guy since. One day I'll say thank you to him for giving  
2           me the £20.

3           But I went in the town and I went to Aulds the  
4           Bakers, because Aulds was really posh and when I went  
5           there I sat in the back and I loved chips and gravy, so  
6           I went and got myself a cup of tea and some chip roll  
7           and gravy. And then I come out of there and I met

8           ██████████ This is a lady who I knew who was on the ██████████  
9           ██████████ and she asked me why I was out so early and I told  
10          her what happened.

11         Q. And you say she took you to her house?

12         A. That's correct.

13         Q. I think you stayed with her and then it came to the  
14          Monday at paragraph 129 and on the Monday your foster  
15          sister-in-law took you to Social Services and dropped  
16          you outside with a black bin bag. Was that Social  
17          Services in Glasgow?

18         A. No, it was Social Services in Dalrymple Street. Because  
19          she was going to have a baby at the end of ██████████ --  
20          because this happened in ██████████ so my birthday's in  
21          ██████████ And she -- she gave me another £20 and she  
22          said she couldn't come in because she was going to do  
23          something because she was having a baby. And she was  
24          really sorry for what happened to me that was it. I was  
25          just dumped outside there as well.

1           And then I sat on a little bench up the stairs. You  
2 go up the stairs and you get two doors with glass-wired  
3 windows and on the right they had like a glass window  
4 and I told the lady what happened. I think she thought  
5 I was crazy, but she told me to sit on the bench and it  
6 took about two or three hours for somebody to come and  
7 see me.

8           But they did ask me what they wanted me to do --  
9 they asked me what I wanted them to do and I said I have  
10 nowhere to live, I have nowhere to go, and that whole  
11 day they just left me there. They let -- I wanted to go  
12 to the bakers, the wee bakers around the corner and get  
13 some food and they wouldn't let me, they told me  
14 I couldn't go unless somebody went with me. I said,  
15 "I'm not going to run away, I've come here for help".

16           And at 4 o'clock they told me they had nowhere for  
17 me to stay, they couldn't find a home for me. But  
18 I said they needed to find somewhere because I never had  
19 a home. (Pause).

20 Q. I think what happened was that you ended up going back  
21 to [REDACTED]'s again for a couple of nights, I think at  
22 least.

23 A. For another two nights till the Wednesday.

24 Q. On the Wednesday you say that you had to go to  
25 a meeting.

1 A. Yes, they -- at the EIH-EOT. And I didn't want to go  
2 to it, but I had to. And they said that they were sorry  
3 for what they did because they knew that they were going  
4 to get into a lot of trouble for it, but I said, "I'll  
5 never forgive you for what you did to me", and I never  
6 looked back. Because I -- my parents died when I was  
7 a kid and they were all I had, but they weren't --  
8 because your parents shouldn't throw you out when you're  
9 a kid. They shouldn't. No child deserves to be on the  
10 street. No child. It doesn't matter what they do.

11 I didn't do anything. I just kissed a boy. That  
12 was all I did.

13 Q. After this meeting, you say that you stayed with  
14 a neighbour, I think, for a few days and at  
15 paragraph 137, by this time your 16th birthday had  
16 passed and you say at paragraph 137 that Social Services  
17 told you they couldn't help you because you were 16?

18 A. That's correct. So they got me a board and lodgings and  
19 I had to get a job and pay for it. So I got like it's  
20 called a YTS and you get £30 a week, so I had to give  
21 £26 of that, which couldn't understand why  
22 they weren't contributing to her, but they told  
23 that they had to get her to teach me to live on my own  
24 and said, "It's ludicrous, you're only 16", but  
25 I was only with for a few months and liked her

1 men, she liked her sailors and -- but she -- she made me  
2 pack lunches to go to work with and I would walk up and  
3 down from Port Glasgow to go to my best friend's and one  
4 day I ran away there and I didn't want to go back, but  
5 my best friend's mum had to send me back because it  
6 was -- Social Services had put me there.

7 But [REDACTED] went to -- she moved to England to -- away  
8 down Devon way, and I -- she told Social Services and  
9 they never come to the house to get me anywhere to live  
10 and [REDACTED] told me I was out in that big world on my own  
11 and I never looked back, because there was no way they  
12 were going to help me. I just -- I wasn't their  
13 responsibility. I was only 16, so I wasn't their  
14 responsibility.

15 I understand there's being a child and being  
16 a teenager, but when you don't have a mum and dad and  
17 you don't have any big brothers and sisters and you  
18 don't have a family because you don't know who they are  
19 and you're out on the streets, it's not a nice thing.

20 I live with that every day now. It is very scary  
21 what I lived with, very frightening. I've been  
22 traumatised with what happened to me and I never want to  
23 see a child to go through what I go through every day  
24 now.

25 I have a son and I love him very, very much. He

1 winds me up, but I love him ... he is 30 this year, but  
2 his aunt always says to him, my best friend, she calls  
3 him his auntie, she always says to him, "Tell mum you're  
4 the child and she's the adult", and it's nice we have  
5 that bond with his aunt, I call her his auntie, because  
6 she's always been there for him and me. She's here  
7 today with me. She got me through some of the toughest  
8 and darkest days of my life.

9 Q. I think you've already told us about some of the lessons  
10 that we should learn from your experience but if we can  
11 look at that please in your statement, just to make sure  
12 that we cover these. So at page 53, paragraph 229,  
13 first of all, you talk there about records and the fact  
14 you've told us about your search for your family and  
15 I think one of the things that you would say that we  
16 must learn is that records shouldn't be destroyed and  
17 that they should be kept so that people can know who  
18 their family is or who their parents were.

19 A. I think records should be kept for a minimum of 150  
20 years, because what I went to do was the hardest day of  
21 my life going to Social Services to try and see if they  
22 had something they'd got from my parents' house that  
23 they had taken out and my parents had left or, you know,  
24 something. They had nothing. And to be told that is  
25 soul destroying.



1           But I worked with the people at Social Services and  
2           they helped me build out a little -- it's not a family  
3           tree, it was just to find my parents' grave, which  
4           I only saw for the first time a couple of years ago.

5           But I can't go and visit every week, because I live  
6           in another country. So I can't go there.

7   LADY SMITH: 'Patricia', thinking back to what you do have  
8           of your family, you mentioned you have a photograph of  
9           your mother with you.

10   A. Can I show you her?

11   LADY SMITH: You don't have to, but I'd love to see it if  
12           you do want to show it to me.

13   A. It's the only photo I have.

14   LADY SMITH: It must be very precious.

15   A. I was given -- this is my mum. This is --

16   LADY SMITH: I'd love to see it close up, if I may. (Pause)

17           Oh my, what a beautiful woman she was.

18   A. Everyone used to tell me.

19           And that's her brother. That's her brother there  
20           with her.

21   LADY SMITH: Wow, so smart too. You keep taking care of  
22           that. It's a wonderful photograph, 'Patricia'. Thank  
23           you for sharing it.

24   MS INNES: One of the important things I think that you want  
25           to tell us is about what happens if children are

1 separated, and I think you'd say from your own  
2 experience families should be kept together, but if  
3 they're not and they are separated, you say at  
4 paragraph 231:

5 "I think they should be able to see each other every  
6 week and have contact every day to build up a bond."

7 A. That is correct, because at Social Services I -- in the  
8 country I live in, I know people who have been in the  
9 care system, social workers, and I get to hear things on  
10 how social service is run. And at present they had  
11 something not so long ago with a thing called I Promise,  
12 but until they do I Promise, the Promise is that  
13 siblings should never be separated if their parents are  
14 both deceased, like mine. There should be regular  
15 contact. Even if it's just -- we have mobiles now, but  
16 contact every day, unless there's a really, really  
17 strong belief there is something seriously ...

18 But no, if they've not got that like mine, there  
19 were nothing wrong with my family life. They can  
20 contact them even on the phone for five, ten minutes to  
21 talk to them. They can FaceTime now and get that, and  
22 once a week I think a meet up, have dinner together and  
23 have a get together or a sleepover. Obviously if it's  
24 brother and sister, they've got to get separate  
25 bedrooms, but children have brothers and sisters now and

1 their kids still sleep in the same bedroom.

2 They need to have that contact to remain to have  
3 that bond, that when they grow up that they can turn to  
4 one another when they need their family.

5 I don't have that. I've never had that. I've never  
6 experienced to go to a cousin's birthday party or the  
7 niece's 21st or the Christmas party and all the get  
8 together or going to my sister's and having a cup of  
9 tea. I don't have that.

10 People take these things for granted. They don't  
11 know how lucky they are to have it. And I tell people  
12 when you have a family, get them in your two hands and  
13 never let them go, because what I've been through,  
14 I would love just to have a cup of tea around a table  
15 with my brothers and sisters and I'll never get that.  
16 For us all to be together, what's left of us.

17 Q. You also tell us at paragraph 237 that if parents die,  
18 like yours did, the child shouldn't be living anywhere  
19 near where they grew up and that's from your own  
20 experience of being put back into the same street, as  
21 you've told us.

22 A. I was moved two doors along and lived there for just  
23 under ten years. I heard everything every single day of  
24 my life about my life that I should have had, and maybe  
25 if I had moved away my life might have been a bit

1 different and I wouldn't have ended up on the streets,  
2 but unfortunately I did.

3 Q. You also talk about the support that children should be  
4 given if, for example, they've lost their parents or  
5 they're put into care, that they should have counselling  
6 or support in those circumstances.

7 A. When my parents died, they should have been able to say  
8 to me, "We're going to take you here and explain things  
9 to you", like my eldest sister had to tell her little  
10 sister, who is my big sister, that she was on holiday  
11 and when I first saw her when I was eight she told me  
12 that. And I asked her why did she never come to see me,  
13 she said she had to tell [REDACTED] she was on the holiday  
14 and I said but I wasn't on holiday, I was still in  
15 [REDACTED] and why didn't she take me on the  
16 holiday with her.

17 But they were in Quarriers, they weren't on  
18 a holiday, they were in a children's home, but it was  
19 far away when I was a little girl. So it was like going  
20 on a holiday, because it was far away in the car when  
21 you got there if you got to see them.

22 Q. One of the things that I think that you might want to  
23 say today is that you're not just speaking for yourself,  
24 that you're speaking for your siblings and particularly  
25 your older brothers as well. That's one of the reasons

1           that you've come?

2   A. Yes, this is why I've come today because my two eldest  
3       brothers who died, obviously I never got to go to their  
4       funerals as well. One of them I don't know where his  
5       body is. I've not been to do it yet, because it takes  
6       a lot to go and do what I'm doing now, let alone to try  
7       to find out where they all were. But I am doing this  
8       because of what they told me, that they tried, but they  
9       were young lads, they were not grown men, like 30s,  
10      I said, they were young boys, young lads. They were  
11      very young when my parents died, they never stood a hope  
12      in hell with Social Services.

13           I went to the police station -- and I'd like to  
14      mention this if it's okay, Lady Smith.

15   LADY SMITH: Please tell me about it, 'Patricia', go on.

16   A. I went to Greenock police station two year ago. I'd  
17      just had an operation, I had a tumour removed for cancer  
18      in a London hospital and I made an appointment to go  
19      there to report the historical abuse. I did go with  
20      a member of Social Services and that appointment was  
21      booked and we were both turned away. The police  
22      wouldn't do nothing. They weren't interested. And that  
23      was Strathclyde Police.

24           The meeting and everything was -- it's all been done  
25      legal and they turned me away. They actually turned me

1 away in front -- and the social worker tried to say,  
2 "But she needs to report this", but they were not  
3 interested.

4 We took all their details, we have them, you know,  
5 their card numbers and -- the damage is -- these people  
6 never stop. They're in power. But they forget the  
7 effects it has on people and I come out of there with  
8 the social worker and I said, "Do you see what I mean?  
9 They just reject people. You're just a number, you're  
10 a statistic in life". I'm living proof of it, because  
11 I'm sitting here telling you it. I'm not a silly woman,  
12 I'm broken hearted at what happened to me and I can't  
13 fix it, and neither can you, but hopefully I can make  
14 and help to make a little change in the law that nobody  
15 suffers what I have.

16 It's bad enough losing your parents but losing your  
17 brothers and sisters with it should never have happened.

18 MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'Patricia'. I have no more  
19 questions for you and there are no applications, my  
20 Lady.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Are there any outstanding applications for  
23 questions?

24 'Patricia', that does complete all the questions we  
25 have for you today. Thank you so much for engaging with

1 us as you have, both by providing your detailed written  
2 statement -- can I assure you everything in your written  
3 statement is also part of your evidence. I know we've  
4 touched on parts of it today and not everything that's  
5 there, but I have read it, I do know about the detail  
6 that you've given us there.

7 You said in your evidence that you think you have  
8 a very good memory and your memory has been to our  
9 advantage, because we have so many memories relayed by  
10 you to us that are directly relevant to the work we're  
11 doing here, absolutely right, and it means that you are  
12 contributing valuable material to the evidence we're  
13 gathering to do what we can to make things better for  
14 the children in the future.

15 So thank you so much. Please go away being assured  
16 you're not just a number to us, you're not just  
17 a statistic. You're a person with their own individual  
18 experience who has gone to the time, trouble and  
19 effort -- I know it's been huge effort -- to bring it  
20 all and put it before us.

21 Thank you so much for that.

22 A. Thank you.

23 LADY SMITH: I'm able to let you go and I hope you manage to  
24 have a restful afternoon.

25 A. Thank you.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, we'll stop now for the lunch break  
3 and then this afternoon we move on to read-in evidence;  
4 is that right?

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

6 LADY SMITH: It may be shortly after 2 that we do that, but  
7 it won't be long after 2.

8 Thank you very much -- oh, before I rise, just  
9 a reminder about my general restriction order. The  
10 EIH-EOT names have been mentioned, as have quite  
11 a number of 'Patricia's' siblings' names and at one  
12 point she used her own name. All these are protected by  
13 my general restriction order and the names cannot be  
14 repeated outside this room. Thank you

15 (1.12 pm)

16 (The luncheon adjournment)

17 (2.00 pm)

18 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

19 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. We now have time for some  
20 read-ins.

21 'Helen' (read)

22 MS RATTRAY: The first one of those is a statement of  
23 an applicant who wish to remain anonymous and has chosen  
24 the pseudonym 'Helen'. Her statement is at  
25 WIT-1-000000859.



1           'Helen' was boarded out by Glasgow Corporation to  
2 a placement with ENJ-ENK ██████████ in Glasgow  
3 from ██████████ 1962 until ██████████ 1974, when 'Helen' left  
4 to live in Arnprior Hostel in Castlemilk. She returned  
5 to the foster placement on ██████████ 1974, where she  
6 remained until finally leaving in ██████████ 1975.

7           "My name is 'Helen'. I was born in 1959. My  
8 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

9           I was put into foster care at a young age and  
10 I don't know where we lived before that. I have  
11 a younger sister and I have an older brother and I don't  
12 know where he is and I've never met him. I understand  
13 he was taken away from my mother too. I also have  
14 an older sister. I didn't know her when I was a little  
15 girl. She was taken away as a child by our grandparents  
16 and lived with them. I met her later on in life but we  
17 have no relationship.

18           I have a memory of being taken away in a big black  
19 car. I was greeting for ages to be taken off my mother.  
20 I was only aged three at this time. It was just me who  
21 was taken away in the car, but my younger sister came to  
22 live in the same foster home later on. I don't know who  
23 was in the car with me, but they must have been from the  
24 Local Authority. I was taken to John Street in Glasgow.  
25 I vaguely remember being there and I was crying for my

1 mother.

2 I learned as an adult from my records that I was  
3 taken away from my mother because where we lived wasn't  
4 clean. She was warned about it once or twice before  
5 I was taken off her. I think there was a social worker  
6 involved with my mum when I was very young. My records  
7 state that I was taken away from Glasgow. Then my  
8 younger sister was taken off my mum later on. I think  
9 I first got put into a hospital because I had the  
10 chickenpox. Somebody told me that afterwards. I don't  
11 remember anyone explaining to me at the time what was  
12 happening. I vaguely remember greeting all the time.

13 After that I was put into a children's home but  
14 I don't know anything about it. I wasn't in there for  
15 long. What I do know I've learned from my records.  
16 I don't have any memories of being there. I don't know  
17 how long I was in the first place. The next place  
18 I went to was the foster home and I believe the family  
19 I lived with were Catholic and my care was organised  
20 through the church.

21 The names of my foster parents were ENJ-ENK  
22 ENJ-ENK They had a son and he was aged 12. I'm  
23 not sure if I was still aged three when I went to live  
24 with ENJ-ENK or if I was a wee bit older. I think  
25 I had already started school when I went there, but

1 I don't know.

2 Their property was a bottom flat. Sometimes it was  
3 clean and sometimes it wasn't clean. There were two  
4 bedrooms. There were a few foster kids that came after  
5 me and my younger sister. There was a girl and two  
6 boys. My sister went to ENJ-ENK with me and she was  
7 only six months old when she went. I think she had been  
8 in the children's home with me before ENJ-ENK The  
9 other foster children were babies. I don't know how  
10 long I lived there before the three foster babies  
11 arrived. I think they stayed for a long time with the  
12 ENJ-ENK

13 I don't know where everybody slept. ENJ-ENK  
14 had their own bedroom and the other children were in the  
15 second bedroom. I don't have memories of the bedroom.  
16 I have memories of the living room. I was afraid of  
17 spiders. I took unwell with whooping cough and  
18 I remember ENJ-ENK put spiders on me.

19 Mr ENK worked as an ambulance driver. I don't know  
20 how old they both were. They asked me to call them  
21 ENJ and ENK. No one said anything about how  
22 long I would live in their flat.

23 When I was about seven, ENJ-ENK moved to another  
24 address in Glasgow.

25 I don't have any memories of arriving at ENJ-ENK

1 flat. I don't know if they made any efforts to settle  
2 me into their home. I don't know if I had my own bed in  
3 the first flat. When I got up I had to look after the  
4 other kids. ENJ-ENK were out all the time and they'd  
5 leave the kids. I looked after the other kids when  
6 I was five or six and got them ready for the day.

7 I have no memory of being put to bed myself at  
8 night. It was a nightmare at night-time as I'd be kept  
9 wakened up by ENJ-ENK Mostly that was myself they  
10 did that to, but sometimes the others too.

11 If I didn't have a breakfast on for their own son,  
12 I'd get leathered. I had to make him sausages or toast.  
13 I had to make him something before he got out of bed.  
14 I missed his breakfast once and got a tanking for it.  
15 Mrs ENJ did that. She beat me up with a belt.

16 I got nothing for my breakfast. We weren't allowed  
17 to touch anything in the cupboards. I don't know what  
18 the other kids got. We were too scared to touch  
19 anything in the kitchen. I didn't get any snacks or  
20 treats to eat.

21 I don't remember the evening meal. I don't remember  
22 eating at ENJ-ENK I have no memories of being fed.  
23 I had to steal food out of shops. I was caught and  
24 I got a tanking for it from ENJ-ENK They found out  
25 because the police got me at the door of the shop. Then

1 they took me back to ENJ-ENK . I was too scared to  
2 tell them why I was doing it. This happened more than  
3 once. I don't think schoolteachers ever noticed I was  
4 underweight.

5 I had to bath the younger kids in the sink. I was  
6 doing my best to do things and I was only small.  
7 I wasn't allowed to have a bath myself. I don't know  
8 how I washed myself. We weren't allowed things like  
9 toothbrushes and toothpaste.

10 I think the Local Authority gave ENJ-ENK money for  
11 them to buy stuff for us. I can't remember the clothes  
12 that we had. I don't remember getting taken to choose  
13 clothes or shoes.

14 I went to school in Whiteinch. That was a primary  
15 school. It's likely I went straight into Primary 1 at  
16 this school when I moved in with ENJ-ENK . I think  
17 I wore a uniform for school. I think the social workers  
18 bought it. I had to walk myself round the corner to get  
19 to school.

20 The son was at a different school from myself. He  
21 was at a secondary school.

22 I can't remember if I had lunch at school. I walked  
23 back home after school. I came home in the middle of  
24 the day once and ENJ-ENK didn't like something I did  
25 so Mrs ENJ cut off all my long hair and sent me back to

1 school the same day. She did it out of badness so the  
2 other kids would make fun of me.

3 I was kept off school all the time and fell back  
4 with a lot of things at school. When I was at school  
5 I would fall asleep with my head on the desk because the  
6 ENJ-ENK were keeping me awake at night. No teacher asked  
7 me why I did that or why I was off school. There was no  
8 extra help for me. The teachers would favour the bright  
9 kids.

10 I fell so far behind that I went to a special needs  
11 primary school in Drumchapel. I don't know the name.  
12 I got taken there on a bus. One time I was taken home  
13 and someone came with me to chap the door for ENJ-ENK  
14 and nobody was in. I was left standing there. I don't  
15 know how long I was standing waiting for ENJ-ENK  
16 I just know I was left there.

17 ENJ-ENK went to chapel all the time. They  
18 were at St Paul's. I didn't go to chapel. I went to  
19 a Catholic school and I think I made my first communion  
20 there. I remember I wore a dress and I think ENJ-ENK  
21 provided it. It wasn't a nice memory and they didn't  
22 make a fuss of me.

23 I cleaned the fireplace out in the morning before  
24 school. After school I came home to tidy the house and  
25 look after the wee ones and get them ready for bed.

1 I had to change their nappies and their clothes.

2 I think Mrs ENJ was in the house when I came home from  
3 school. There was an old black iron and I had to iron  
4 the kids' clothes.

5 I did chores around the house at weekend as well.

6 The younger kids in the foster home weren't at  
7 school. I don't know if anyone was with them during the  
8 day if I was at school. Maybe Mrs ENJ was with them,  
9 but I don't know. I was left to look after the lot of  
10 them. I remember my sister told me years later that  
11 I got the brunt of everything.

12 I wasn't taken on any trips anywhere or on  
13 a holiday. I don't think ENJ-ENK went on holiday  
14 themselves. I think their son got to go out to places  
15 like the cinema and he got pocket money.

16 After school I had chores to do. There weren't any  
17 toys to play with or any books and comics to read.  
18 I didn't go to any clubs after school like Brownies.

19 They had a telly and I was sometimes able to watch  
20 it. I could put the telly on for the kids when they  
21 were out. When ENJ-ENK were coming back in we'd  
22 switch it off. If it was left on, hell would break out.  
23 That was the sort of time when physical punishment would  
24 happen to me.

25 The weekends were terrible. She would lie in her

1 bed all day as well as Mr ENK and their son. I'd have  
2 to look after the kids as well as ENJ-ENK

3 I didn't get any pocket money. I don't remember  
4 having any personal possessions.

5 There was no celebration of my birthday and I didn't  
6 even know when it was until I left. That was the case  
7 for the other foster children too. Their son had  
8 a birthday that was celebrated. They made a fuss of him  
9 and gave him a cake and presents. If we were given  
10 things like books by other people in ENJ-ENK family,  
11 Mrs ENJ would take them off us and give them away.  
12 That happened to me when I was about seven or eight.

13 I don't remember Christmas with ENJ-ENK or the  
14 flat having any decorations.

15 When social workers were coming we were told to keep  
16 our mouth shut. I used to hear Mrs ENJ saying, 'Don't  
17 mark them in case the social workers see it'. The  
18 social workers came in and never said a thing to me.

19 I didn't have any visits apart from the social  
20 workers and I didn't have any contact with my own  
21 mother.

22 I didn't have any dental care. I remember our  
23 doctor was in Partick, a Dr McKimmins, or something like  
24 that, and they'd make sure we didn't have any marks. We  
25 used to get a medical from him every year and the social



1 work organised it. Social work didn't go to the meeting  
2 though. Mrs ENJ would say to Mr ENK 'You can give  
3 them marks after they've been examined'. I heard her  
4 say that. I don't remember what happened at the  
5 medical. I think it was something the social workers  
6 asked for.

7 I don't remember being taken to see a doctor  
8 regularly or if I was unwell.

9 I don't have any memories of myself or the other  
10 children wetting the bed.

11 Physical punishment happened to the other foster  
12 children as they got older. They were coming up to  
13 toddler age but still babies.

14 Mr ENK broke my leg and there was nothing done  
15 about it. He flung me. It happened in the hall at the  
16 first flat. I don't know why he did it, maybe I was  
17 naughty. I was in a lot of pain. I had a plaster cast  
18 on my leg for a wee while so I was taken to hospital at  
19 some stage. When Mr ENK did that, Mrs ENJ was around  
20 so she saw what happened. When I went to Oakbank  
21 Hospital, nobody asked me what had happened. I was aged  
22 five or six, maybe seven when it happened. Nobody at my  
23 school asked me what had happened.

24 Mrs ENJ stabbed a pencil into my forehead. I have  
25 a scar now. I was maybe seven or eight when she did

1 that. I don't know what the lead-up to that was.  
2 I didn't get any medical attention. There was a cut on  
3 my head. None of the schoolteachers asked me about it.  
4 I misbehaved at school all the time.  
5 [REDACTED] used to keep me off school if I had  
6 bruises on my body. I fell behind with school work.  
7 I can't write to this day. Social workers told me years  
8 later that when they took me from my mother I was  
9 a normal child, but [REDACTED] kept me off school because  
10 of the bruises. I missed a lot of school as I often had  
11 bruises. They used belts too and they used them on all  
12 the kids, and that was both [REDACTED] who did  
13 that. That was their kind of discipline.  
14 A bone in my nose was broken. Mr [REDACTED] used to punch  
15 me in the face. I don't want to go into the details.  
16 Another time my finger was broken and they didn't  
17 take me for treatment. They used to pull our hands and  
18 fingers back. I don't know if that was a punishment for  
19 something, I think it was done out of cruelty.  
20 Sometimes they'd take it into their heads to make us  
21 stand for a long time on a pouffe and make us stand  
22 there in a corner all night with our hands behind our  
23 back and wakened. If you tried to sleep you'd get  
24 a leathering for it. They did it to all of us, but me  
25 mostly. They decided when we could go to sleep. They'd

1           punch us to stay awake. We were kept awake in the  
2           living room, not in the bedroom.

3           Mrs ENJ had a dancing school with her sister.  
4           I don't know if she was a teacher. I think they put me  
5           in front of people with a stookie on my broken leg and  
6           nobody questioned it.

7           I used to get it flung into my face that my mother  
8           was a whore or a cow. Your mother was this, your mother  
9           was that. I found out years later that she wasn't. My  
10          life was this and my mother was that. I was told I was  
11          just a foster kid. This sort of thing was said to me by  
12          both of ENJ-ENK all the time.

13          My sister told me about being abused later on and  
14          I was surprised as I thought it was only me it happened  
15          to.

16          I think the cruelty people came to the first flat  
17          one time, but nothing was done. I think it was when my  
18          leg was broken. It wasn't just for hitting me, it was  
19          for hitting all the kids. A neighbour had complained.  
20          They must have heard us screaming when we were getting  
21          hurt or we were left on our own. I must have heard the  
22          ENJ-ENK saying it was the neighbour that complained.

23          The worst of it came at the second house because  
24          I was getting older. I was aged about seven when we  
25          moved. They moved because they needed a bigger house.

1 It was an up and down house and there were bedrooms up  
2 the stair. There was a wee cupboard bedroom, two bigger  
3 bedrooms, a kitchen down the stairs, a living room.  
4 I shared a bedroom with my sister.

5 I still had to look after the other kids and make  
6 sure they went to school. They were old enough to be at  
7 school by this time. The day-to-day routine was like it  
8 had been in the first flat and I was doing a lot of  
9 chores.

10 All the kids staying with ENJ-ENK got abused.  
11 Mr ENK used to hold the kids up by their hair and their  
12 pigtails on the back of their head. It was horrible.  
13 ENJ-ENK still had the foster kids, the girl and two  
14 boys, and my sister. All of us were long-term foster  
15 kids. ENJ-ENK treated one of the boys differently  
16 from the others. I don't know why. They never touched  
17 him.

18 I didn't get much today to eat at the first flat and  
19 that was still happening at the second house. I was  
20 stealing food from shops. It happened a few times.  
21 I still had to prepare food for the son. I don't  
22 remember much about meal times at the second house.  
23 I have a memory of ENJ-ENK eating but not me. We got  
24 something but it wasn't like what ENJ-ENK were eating.  
25 I'd be doing the dishes.

1 I was becoming a teenager but I wasn't allowed to  
2 choose my own clothes. My friend from school gave me  
3 some clothes.

4 I can't remember what the arrangements were for  
5 bathing and washing. I still had to bathe the younger  
6 ones.

7 I had to clean out the coal fire. Nobody had  
8 washing machines and I had to hand wash all the kids'  
9 clothes and hang them out in the back.

10 [REDACTED] continued to go to chapel but I didn't go.  
11 I think I did my confirmation but I don't remember much  
12 about that.

13 I changed schools when we moved to the second house.  
14 I forget the name of the school I was going to next.  
15 I wasn't there often enough. I never went to school.  
16 I was kept off because of the marks on me. I was kept  
17 off school so much and had fallen behind I ended up  
18 being sent to another school at the age of 12. It was  
19 a special needs school. Before that, I never got any  
20 extra help at school. This school was two bus rides  
21 away for me. I was still kept off school by [REDACTED]  
22 but would go if I had the chance.

23 I had a good friend at school and I went about with  
24 her all the time. I used to walk home very slowly as  
25 I didn't want to go home. I went to her house in

1 Maryhill and her parents were good to me and gave me  
2 some dinner. I used to go home late as I didn't want to  
3 go home. I'd get beaten when I got home late. That was  
4 when I got a bit older.

5 I don't have any memories of Christmas. The same  
6 with my birthday. I didn't even know when my birthday  
7 was.

8 Social workers came and never picked up on anything  
9 going wrong apart from one. I was older then at 14.  
10 I used to pray social work could tell by my face I was  
11 being hurt. I wanted social work to take me away.  
12 I was threatened into silence. I was too scared to  
13 disclose the abuse. With my own grandkids I can tell by  
14 looking at their face if there's anything wrong with  
15 them. Social workers saw us in the living room where  
16 Mrs ENJ was too. We were displayed like dolls. They  
17 were never alone with us. They would talk to Mrs ENJ  
18 and watch us.

19 I was hoping they'd be able to tell there was  
20 something wrong with us. I couldn't open my mouth as  
21 I was threatened with Beechwood and didn't want to be  
22 put away there. We would all be quiet when the social  
23 worker came and they would see us all together. I don't  
24 know how often they came, but maybe once or twice  
25 a year. Different social workers came each time.

1 I can't remember any of their names. I was kept off  
2 school all the time and it that was never discussed.

3 I think the social workers offered to take us out  
4 and ENJ-ENK were afraid we'd open our mouths and told  
5 me to say no. It was mostly Mrs ENJ who said that.  
6 There was nothing done when the social workers came out.  
7 ENJ-ENK made sure there was no belt marks on us when  
8 the social workers were coming. ENJ-ENK seemed to  
9 know when the social work were coming out to see us and  
10 I think they got a letter.

11 I didn't have any visits apart from social work.

12 I don't remember getting annual health checks at the  
13 second house and that was mostly at the first flat.  
14 I didn't get taken to the dentist. I went myself with  
15 my friend in Maryhill to get my teeth checked when I was  
16 older. I think I was about 15 or 16 by that stage.  
17 Some of my teeth had to come out and I'd not had  
18 a toothbrush when I lived with ENJ-ENK

19 When my periods started, nothing was ever spoken  
20 about it and I didn't know what was happening to me. We  
21 were told about it at school. Me and my sister were  
22 called cows and told we were just like our mother when  
23 that started. I didn't have access to sanitary products  
24 and had to use toilet roll.

25 I ran away quite a lot from the second house.

1 I used to get beatings. I used to have to jump out of  
2 the windows to get away from it all. The police would  
3 bring me back and tell me off and say not to do it  
4 again. They didn't ask why I was running away. I was  
5 too afraid to tell them anything as I wouldn't get  
6 believed in those days. I started running away when  
7 I was 14. I ran away three or four times. I would  
8 sleep up closes and coal bunkers and stay away  
9 overnight.

10 I never got pocket money and had no possessions.  
11 I wasn't able to go out to places like the cinema or to  
12 swimming baths.

13 Mrs ENJ used to get her brother to watch us and  
14 abuse happened in the living room. Her brother sexually  
15 abused me. I don't want to go into any details. It  
16 happened every time he came to the house. I can't say  
17 how often he came to the house. I was only aged seven  
18 and eight and it continued until I left the house at 14.  
19 I never told any social workers about it. Her brother's  
20 name was ENL and I have no idea how old he was  
21 at the time. I think Mrs ENJ knew what her brother was  
22 doing. Something tells me that was the case. Years  
23 later, my sister told me that Mr ENK sexually abused  
24 her.

25 ENJ-ENK son sexually abused me as well. That



1 happened in the second house. I was about 10 or 11. It  
2 happened once or twice. When he did these things,  
3 ENJ was out of the house. I prefer not to  
4 give any details. He was 12 years older than me. He  
5 was in his early 20s and living in the family home.  
6 I don't know if he did these things to any of the other  
7 children.

8 The sexual, physical, emotional and psychological  
9 abuse took place daily and didn't stop until I ran away.

10 I left ENJ-ENK when I was 14. There were belt  
11 marks on me on my back, arms and legs, and I showed them  
12 to staff at school and they phoned social workers and  
13 they saw the marks. They took me to the Burgh Hall in  
14 Partick. Burgh Hall was the building where all the  
15 social workers were.

16 They took me away to a children's home in  
17 Castlemilk. That was a female social worker with black  
18 hair and she took me in a car to the home. I told the  
19 social worker that ENJ-ENK had caused the belt marks  
20 but nothing was done about what ENJ-ENK had done to  
21 me. No action was taken.

22 When I left ENJ-ENK I didn't have any personal  
23 possessions. I never had anything of my own.

24 I got told years down the line by another social  
25 worker that the one I knew at 14 had an idea there was

1 something wrong with me and wanted to pull me aside to  
2 me out of [REDACTED] flat. I did tell her years later.  
3 I don't remember her name. She came from the Burgh Hall  
4 office.

5 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]

17 I think I was in another home after Castlemilk and  
18 it was near to the Southern General Hospital. I'm not  
19 sure of any details. It was a short stay. It was okay.  
20 I don't have many memories of it. There were young  
21 children and babies staying there.

22 Then I went to stay with my friend and her family  
23 for about a year. I don't remember social work coming  
24 to check that address was okay for me to stay in.  
25 I think the family phoned the children's home to tell

1           them where I was as they had contacted the police.

2           I was happy staying with my friend.

3           Then I went back to stay with ENJ-ENK I was so  
4           mixed up and confused when I was about 15. My head was  
5           that wasted. It was the only place I had to go. They  
6           were okay with me for a wee while and then they started  
7           to lift their hands to me. Social workers were not  
8           aware I'd gone back to stay with ENJ-ENK I don't  
9           think I was there for more than a month and I was away  
10          again. My sister was still living with ENJ-ENK The  
11          ENJ-ENK didn't get charged with anything after the belt  
12          marks were found on me and they still had the other  
13          foster kids when I left them.

14          I left school when I was 15 or 16 and I worked full  
15          time in a bakery and that was the first time I had  
16          money. Then I was able to buy clothes and things for  
17          myself and go out places.

18          I stayed with Mrs ██████ in Glasgow for three or  
19          four years. She was a lady that I worked with in the  
20          bakery and she had a spare room. It was a happy time  
21          for me. Mrs ██████ was lovely and kind to me and  
22          I didn't know how to take that as it was the first time  
23          I'd experienced kindness. I was with her when realised  
24          when my birthday is as it was never celebrated with the  
25          ENJ-ENK

1 I was still under the care of social work and they  
2 said I could stay there. I had a male social worker who  
3 came out to see me at Mrs [REDACTED]'s house. She wasn't  
4 receiving any payments for social work as I had a job at  
5 the bakers by then. I think a social worker came out to  
6 see how I was until I turned 18. I was told in advance  
7 that they would stop being involved with me when  
8 I turned 18. I didn't get any support at all after  
9 that.

10 I had a baby boy of my own when I was 19 and he's 40  
11 now. His dad wasn't involved in his life. I went into  
12 my own home that just had bare floorboards. I didn't  
13 have anything of my own. That was very hard. Other  
14 people, like people from my work, had to give me things  
15 for the new home. I lived like that for the next three  
16 years. I was able to work at the bakery when my son was  
17 in nursery but then I left my work.

18 [REDACTED] ENJ-ENK looked after my son when he was about  
19 three or four but they hurt him as well. I was all  
20 mixed up and my new partner couldn't take to him as my  
21 son wasn't his son. I wanted to get him back and the  
22 [REDACTED] ENJ-ENK wouldn't give him back. They wouldn't even let me  
23 see him. That was a few months later. I went to the  
24 social work office at Partick, Burgh Hall, and explained  
25 what had happened. The social worker who dealt with me

1 as a kid went and lifted him back and she said to me,  
2 'Never let them look after your kid again'.

3 My son came back to me calling me names. My boy  
4 told me when he was a bit older that they used to hit  
5 him with a belt. That was the only involvement social  
6 work had with my boys.

7 [REDACTED] ENJ-ENK wanted to foster a wee girl and I got  
8 a phone call, I think they got my number from my sister,  
9 from Mrs [REDACTED] ENJ to tell me to take my story back and tell  
10 the social workers nothing had happened to me with them.  
11 I wouldn't do that. I didn't want another kid to go  
12 through what I did. They wanted to foster a wee girl  
13 for their son's daughter to play with and the social  
14 work said no because of the marks found on me.  
15 I believe this was around 38 years ago because of the  
16 age of my son. I'm so relieved that the social worker  
17 told them they couldn't do it because of the bruises  
18 found on me.

19 I met my long-term partner after my son was born and  
20 after that we had three sons together. The relationship  
21 was on and off for a long period and there were issues  
22 with his drinking and we separated and he was involved  
23 in their lives.

24 When he was aged about two or three, my second son's  
25 paternal grandparents favoured him as their first

1 grandson and they took him to live with them. I was so  
2 mixed up that I let it happen. I link that back to my  
3 experiences as a child. I wasn't able to argue and  
4 fight against them and just let him go. I didn't want  
5 any conflict.

6 After I had my second son, I remember my sister  
7 phoning me and I think Mrs ENJ had found out about what  
8 her brother had done and Mr ENK gave her a black eye.  
9 They put my sister out of the house and she ended up  
10 going to a hostel up the town. She said the money that  
11 they got from social work to keep her had finished. My  
12 sister had turned 16.

13 I don't know what happened to the other foster  
14 children. I hope that kids like that would be removed  
15 from the home now after what happened to me. I know  
16 that one ended up in jail later on. My sister told me  
17 that. That will have been because of how ENJ-ENK  
18 treated him. I don't know anything about the others.

19 When I had my own children it took me a long time to  
20 be able to cuddle them. I didn't have any affection  
21 when I was fostered by ENJ-ENK and I didn't know how  
22 to show it myself. I had no role models. I needed  
23 other people to help me. I used to walk up to people  
24 and accuse them of talking about me and start screaming,  
25 but nobody was talking about me. One day I was afraid

1 my own kids would be taken off me. I was frightened all  
2 my young life that if I opened my mouth and reported the  
3 ENJ-ENK I'd get put into Beechwood and I don't even know  
4 what that was, but it was always their threat.

5 I had to get help. It's only in the last 15 or 20  
6 years that I've begun to calm down. If anybody would  
7 come near me, I would get very anxious. I've had to get  
8 counselling all of my life. I didn't know how to  
9 interact with people, I wasn't used to mixing with other  
10 people as I was kept in the house all the time as a  
11 child.

12 I was always depressed and I am on antidepressants  
13 to this day. I didn't tell any of my doctors about my  
14 experiences in care. I have only ever shared my  
15 experiences with a support worker and we have known each  
16 other for ten years now. She's from the family support  
17 service, which is a social work resource. I had so many  
18 barriers up that I don't know how she got the story out  
19 of me. I think her service started working with me  
20 around 13 or 14 years ago, when my GP referred me and  
21 I was looking for my social work records. The first  
22 support worker left and then she came along and both  
23 were working with me on issues of mistrust of services,  
24 anxiety and flashbacks and nightmares. I didn't share  
25 my experiences with the first support worker, so she is

1 the first one I opened up to. We continue to speak on  
2 the phone now.

3 I couldn't mix with people and accused people of  
4 talking about me and shout at them. I didn't trust  
5 other people and would fall out with them and start  
6 arguments with them. My experiences affected my  
7 self-esteem and I was afraid [REDACTED] would come after  
8 me. I blocked out my memories but I have flashbacks of  
9 my time with [REDACTED] if there is a trigger, like  
10 seeing a man with glasses who looks like Mr [REDACTED] If  
11 I see someone who looks like him, I have to turn my head  
12 the other way. I have nightmares about my experiences  
13 and I still have to sleep with a light on at night as  
14 that's when things happened.

15 I've never spoken to my boys about my experiences  
16 with [REDACTED]. They know I grew up in care and my  
17 oldest has told me recently he could tell that something  
18 was wrong with my background. I have a good  
19 relationship with my sons and I'm close to my seven  
20 grandchildren.

21 I continue to get telephone counselling now and that  
22 is with regard to the loss of my second son, who died 12  
23 years ago. We speak about him and his death, but not  
24 about my experiences in care.

25 Regarding my birth family, I think my mother fought



1 to get me back for years but I didn't know that until  
2 I saw my records. Social work didn't allow her to see  
3 me. My eldest son has met the family but I didn't want  
4 to. I never knew where my mother's grave was. I found  
5 out that she stayed in Partick not far from where I was  
6 fostered out. I never saw her after I left ENJ-ENK  
7 I regret that now. I didn't see my brother and sisters  
8 either. I saw my older sister years later, but she  
9 didn't want to know any of us.

10 To this day I can't write and I need other people to  
11 help me write letters. That was because I was kept off  
12 school. It's affected my ability to get work too.

13 I grew up not knowing who I was or who I belonged to  
14 or who I came from. When I was getting married,  
15 I contacted a chapel to get my baptism certificate and  
16 the priest told me on the phone that he knew my mother  
17 very well and I told him I didn't know her and I asked  
18 to see him when I went to the chapel in person. When  
19 I went there, I saw someone different and she didn't  
20 want to chat to me at the door so I never found out  
21 anything more.

22 I've never reported what happened to me to the  
23 police. ENJ-ENK will be dead now, but their son might  
24 be alive. I'm not scared to talk to the police but  
25 I don't want them coming to my door.

1           I wanted to see my social work records. At first it  
2           was because I wanted to find out where my mother's grave  
3           is. I went to the social work department in town to ask  
4           about my records. They could find them and tell me  
5           about them but we weren't allowed to see them. I don't  
6           have copies of any of them.

7           Social workers should let the kids in care see their  
8           parents. Social workers need to look for the signs of  
9           abuse in the children's faces. See if there is a sign  
10          there that they are trying to tell you. Look at how the  
11          children are acting around adults in the home. Visit  
12          more often and ask why the kids are not in school. Be  
13          firmer about seeing the children alone and not with the  
14          foster parents. Nobody picked up on the signs and  
15          indicators for me like running away, broken nose and  
16          finger, starved, went to school with belt marks, no  
17          action was taken by the social work. The health visitor  
18          asked about my nose, which had been broken, but didn't  
19          do anything about it.

20          The school should have been firmer about me being  
21          sent to school. I missed so much schooling, but nothing  
22          was ever picked up on.

23          We should have been told about our birth families  
24          and I should have been told about my siblings and  
25          allowed contact. I didn't know anything about my mother

1 other than the lies ENJ-ENK were telling me.

2 I applied for criminal injuries compensation.  
3 I wasn't able to speak to the police so there was no  
4 crime reference number as I wasn't ready to do it,  
5 because I was fearful of repercussions. I was turned  
6 down and took it to appeal but still didn't get  
7 anything. It was a long, difficult process and  
8 devastating to have nothing to come out of the appeal.  
9 I felt like I wasn't being believed.

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

14 And 'Helen' signed her statement on  
15 23 November 2021.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 Ms Innes.

18 'Lisa' (read)

19 MS INNES: My Lady, the next statement to be read in is from  
20 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has  
21 chosen the pseudonym 'Lisa'. Her statement is at  
22 WIT.001.002.7420.

23 'Lisa' was placed with a EYB-EYC in  
24 Clydebank on two occasions.

25 The first was for a period of several weeks from

1 [REDACTED] to some time in [REDACTED] 1972.

2 The second was for a period of perhaps five weeks,  
3 from [REDACTED] into [REDACTED] 1979. The records do not  
4 have precise end dates for these placements.

5 The first placement was by Glasgow Corporation and  
6 the second was by Strathclyde Regional Council. The  
7 carers were living in what is now West Dunbartonshire.  
8 However, given where we've recovered records from and  
9 the terms of those records, it would appear that the  
10 current responsible authority is Glasgow City Council.  
11 For example, the Glasgow social work department  
12 continued to supervise the placement and to organise for  
13 'Lisa' to go to the carers.

14 Moving on to her statement:

15 "My name is 'Lisa'. I was born in 1968. My contact  
16 details are known to the Inquiry.

17 I was born in Cawdor Park House Hospital. I have  
18 two brothers who are a lot older than me, one was born  
19 in 1959, my other brother died in 2013.

20 I lived in Maryhill in Glasgow when I was very young  
21 with my mother and two brothers. My parents were not  
22 together. I don't remember much about that time.

23 When I was about three years old, we moved to  
24 a tenement in Drumchapel. My mum didn't work but she  
25 did some part-time cleaning of stairwells. Sometimes

1 she would take me with her and sometimes family members  
2 would look after me. My mum worked to get extra money  
3 for the family. She wasn't getting enough to live on."

4 From paragraphs 5 to 11 of her statement, 'Lisa'  
5 speaks of her life before care. She was abused by her  
6 father and eldest brother. When her mother found out,  
7 she called the police.

8 Moving now to paragraph 12 on page 3:

9 "The next thing I knew, I was being dragged off.  
10 I was taken away the same night. It was like being  
11 abducted. I was taken away by a social worker called  
12 Sister Paula. She was a nun and based at Drumchapel  
13 social work department. I think she lived at  
14 Knightswood. My mum had had dealings with her before.

15 Sister Paula drove me straight to a foster family in  
16 Clydebank. I had no belongings and just had the clothes  
17 on my back. Nobody explained to me what was happening.

18 I can't remember exactly what the foster parents  
19 were called. They were in their 40s. I don't know if  
20 they had other jobs. They lived in a two-bedroom  
21 semi-detached house with an upstairs and a downstairs.  
22 It was in Clydebank. They had two sons. I think one  
23 son was their biological son and the other son was  
24 fostered by them on a permanent basis. They were both  
25 older than me. I was only seven years old.

1           The house was clean enough. When you came in  
2 through the front door, the living room was to the left  
3 and the kitchen was to the side. There was a living  
4 room on the left on the ground floor and the kitchen was  
5 through the living room. My bedroom was also on the  
6 ground floor. There were stairs leading up from the  
7 hallway but I was not allowed upstairs.

8           My first impression of the foster parents was that  
9 they were obnoxious. If I asked for a cup of tea, the  
10 foster father would tell me to make it myself. I was  
11 only young and I didn't know where anything was.  
12 I ended up putting salt instead of sugar into my cup.

13           I had to share a room with the two sons and didn't  
14 like that I had to share with the boys. The room was  
15 a four by four and had a double bed crammed in and I had  
16 to share the bed with the sons and slept in the middle  
17 of them. It was horrendous.

18           The foster mother would come downstairs stark naked  
19 to wake us up. She would walk into our room with no  
20 clothes on at all and shout at us to get up and dressed.  
21 I remember looking at her naked and wondering if this  
22 was for real.

23           Once we were up, she would drive us to school.  
24 I went to Clydebank Primary School.

25           The foster mother's manner suggested that she

1 preferred the boys to me. I went numb and became  
2 totally withdrawn. I didn't speak to her at all.

3 Bedtime was at 9 pm. The foster mother was strict  
4 and would just shout at me saying, 'You! To bed. Now!'

5 We would all go to bed together at the same time. It  
6 was difficult to sleep with two boys' smelly feet in my  
7 face all night.

8 There was inappropriate nakedness in that house.  
9 The foster son would come into the room stark naked too,  
10 sometimes.

11 We would have normal food like fish and chips or  
12 fish fingers and peas. I never saw pudding. The food  
13 was okay.

14 I would eat in the living room. I didn't like  
15 eating in front of people. I would sit behind everyone  
16 else. I felt like an outcast and a caged animal so  
17 I wanted to hide.

18 A few days after I had been there, my mum came to  
19 visit me with my eldest brother. I said I didn't want  
20 to see her and walked back into the house. It wasn't  
21 because I didn't want to see my mum but because I didn't  
22 want to see my brother because of the things he had done  
23 to me when I lived at home. I didn't feel safe around  
24 him. I didn't want him near me.

25 My mum had a nervous breakdown during this period

1 and was sectioned.

2 My social worker, Sister Paula, came to visit me  
3 once. She brought my other brother with her and took us  
4 for Chinese food.

5 The foster mother didn't care at all about me or the  
6 children under her care. There was no washing or  
7 bathing in her house. She just didn't provide it.  
8 There was a toilet and bathroom upstairs but I wasn't  
9 allowed upstairs. I never used the toilet or bathroom.  
10 I went to the toilet at school. I never had a bath  
11 whilst living there. I was never shown around the  
12 house.

13 The foster parents were paid by the social work  
14 department. I would say that it was a money-making  
15 racket for them.

16 I was in foster care for a few weeks. The social  
17 work were discussing where they were going to send me.  
18 During that time I ran away more than once. I didn't  
19 feel safe there and had to share a bed with two boys.  
20 I had never done that before. I had only shared a bed  
21 with my mum but I had felt safe with my mum.

22 I wrote a letter to my best friend. I asked her to  
23 help me. I was trying to get back to my mum. I was  
24 scared and frightened. The only way for a child to get  
25 away from an environment like that is to run away.



1 I ran away and went to my mum's house. The door  
2 opened and I saw my eldest brother so I bolted down the  
3 stairs away from him. I ended up going to my mum's best  
4 friend's house. She must have called the police or the  
5 social work and told them that I was there.

6 St Paula came in a car and picked me up. She took  
7 me and my other brother to Maxwell House Children's  
8 Home. I can't remember if my eldest brother came too."

9 From paragraphs 34 to 212, 'Lisa' speaks of her time  
10 in four other care settings: Maxwell House Children's  
11 Home in Glasgow; a children's home in Helensburgh, which  
12 we understand from the records was Blairvardach;  
13 Abernethy Residential Home, Perthshire; and  
14 St Euphrasia's Children's Home.

15 Moving now to page 30, paragraph 213.

16 Paragraph 213 is redacted on the statement, but it  
17 tells us about the time that 'Lisa' was leaving  
18 St Euphrasia's and it says:

19 "I was given a leaving date when I turned 16 and  
20 I left St Euphrasia's soon after I turned 16. I had  
21 been there for five years. I also left school at the  
22 same time. I was basically told my time was up and it  
23 was time to go. Even if you had no stable home to go  
24 to, you were just sent home. I wasn't given any  
25 guidance or support for leaving. I had no social work

1 involvement. I was just on my own."

2 Now at paragraph 215:

3 "I went back to my mum's when I left care. She was  
4 threatened by the neighbours so she moved in with my  
5 auntie at her house in Charing Cross.

6 I was with my mum for a few weeks. My father and  
7 eldest brother weren't there. I went to a hostel in  
8 Glasgow after a few weeks. I didn't have any financial  
9 support. I didn't even know I could get support.  
10 I just did odd jobs to get money. Then the social  
11 worker, Margaret Kiernan, helped me get a flat when  
12 I was 17 years old.

13 I went to Anniesland college when I was 17 years old  
14 and did painting and decorating.

15 My other brother was getting into trouble with the  
16 police. He got lifted for shoplifting and stupid  
17 things. My mum got cancer a few months after I was out  
18 of care. I looked after her and she passed away a few  
19 years later. I then had to help out my other brother,  
20 who was later diagnosed with autism. He died a few  
21 years ago as well.

22 I had my first child when I was 21 years old and  
23 I had to grow up really fast. I learned to take care of  
24 bills and my child. I did it all myself.

25 I now have four kids and I have brought my children

1 up differently to how I was brought up. I have never  
2 forced them to do anything like dishes or clean floors.  
3 I tell them to see the doctor if they are stressed and  
4 encourage them to see the doctor. I have been very  
5 supportive of my kids. I see them as individuals and  
6 have always been there for them.

7 I have never reported anything that happened to me  
8 in care to the police or to anyone else.

9 I didn't like wearing dresses; I was a tomboy. It  
10 was probably because of what happened to me at home with  
11 my dad and brother. I had it in my head that  
12 I shouldn't wear a skirt. I felt more comfortable in  
13 denims and dungarees. My mum used to put me in dresses  
14 and I would take them off and put on trousers. My mum  
15 didn't understand how bad the abuse was and how it  
16 affected me.

17 I had suicidal thoughts as a child because of what  
18 was happening at home with my family. I was put into  
19 care but I never got any psychological help or  
20 counselling. I was failed by the system.

21 Then what happened in care also affected my mental  
22 health. My mental health has suffered from childhood  
23 and throughout my adult life.

24 I have had problems with food ever since the age of  
25 three. I have always found eating difficult. My mum

1 would put food down for me but I just couldn't eat it.  
2 I just refused. It had nothing to do with neglect or my  
3 mother. It was a psychological problem that stemmed  
4 from my abuse at home. That was never addressed when  
5 I went into care.

6 My issues with food have stayed with me throughout  
7 my life."

8 At paragraph 227:

9 "My education has suffered because of my time in  
10 care. I was moved around and not given proper  
11 schooling. When I did get to school, I never got the  
12 support from the home. I was just left to my own  
13 devices.

14 I have been prescribed and taken antidepressants  
15 from the age of 19 upwards. I still take them, as well  
16 as other medication.

17 I have seen a psychologist and psychiatrist for the  
18 last couple of years. I was recently referred to the  
19 Glasgow Association of Mental Health through Future  
20 Pathways. I also see a counsellor now.

21 I got my social work records in 2018. It was an  
22 organisation called Birth Link who helped me get my  
23 records.

24 I have read my records and what is written in them  
25 is crap.

1 Social workers need to tell the truth to kids or  
2 kids won't trust them. They need proper training and  
3 need to believe kids when kids tell them what is  
4 happening.

5 When it is recognised that a child has been abused,  
6 whether by their family or in an institution, they  
7 should be removed from that situation. Then they should  
8 get counselling at the time, as a child, so that it can  
9 be dealt with.

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

14 'Lisa' signed her statement on 2 June 2019.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS INNES: I have another read-in, which I think will take  
17 about 15 to 20 minutes. I'm just going to check with  
18 Ms Rattray. So I don't know whether it might be better  
19 to have the break now --

20 LADY SMITH: Why don't we just take a break now and then go  
21 onto that afterwards. Thank you.

22 Before I rise, just a few names there. ENJ-ENK  
23 who were foster parents, and people whose name was  
24 either EYB-EYC or EYB-EYC who were foster parents have  
25 been mentioned by name, but they are protected by my

1 general restriction order so the names can't be repeated  
2 out of this room.

3 Thank you.

4 (2.52 pm)

5 (A short break)

6 (3.05 pm)

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

8 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

9 'Grace' (read)

10 MS INNES: The next statement to be read in will be from  
11 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has  
12 chosen the pseudonym 'Grace'. Her statement is at  
13 WIT.001.001.6514.

14 Records recovered from Glasgow for 'Grace' cover  
15 only the period from 1981, when she left foster care to  
16 move to Glenavon Children's Home in Strathaven.

17 'Grace' tells us that she was placed with a Mr and  
18 Mrs [REDACTED] in Hardgate, Clydebank from [REDACTED] to  
19 [REDACTED] 1981 and from the documents we have, we know that  
20 the responsible authority was then Strathclyde Regional  
21 Council, and given the records that we have, it would  
22 appear that the relevant successor is Glasgow City  
23 Council.

24 She moved from the placement to Glenavon Children's  
25 Home on [REDACTED] 1981.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS INNES: "My name is 'Grace'. I was born in 1966. My  
3 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

4 I am a married woman with two children. I have been  
5 married for 31 years. I am currently employed as  
6 a community nursing assistant.

7 I was born in Springburn. Along with my parents, my  
8 older brother, younger sister and I initially stayed in  
9 Glasgow. We thereafter moved to Fort William.

10 As time went on, there were difficulties with my  
11 parents' marriage. You don't fully understand at the  
12 time, you just remember bits and pieces. My father was  
13 a chronic alcoholic. He left home and went to stay with  
14 his parents in Glasgow. We stayed with our mother.  
15 I think she struggled to keep the house and the kids  
16 going. We didn't have a terrible life, but there was  
17 quite a bit of dysfunction about it, it wasn't the best  
18 life.

19 This led to the family being evicted from our home  
20 in Fort William and my mother took the three of us to  
21 Nairn, where we stayed for a short period of time in  
22 a caravan."

23 From paragraphs 4 to 10, 'Grace' speaks of her life  
24 before care. Her father was an alcoholic, and as we've  
25 seen, her parents separated and her mum took her and her

1 siblings to live in Fort William. Her mum struggled to  
2 care for the children and keep the house going.

3 'Grace' and her sister then lived with relatives in  
4 Fort William, while her brother stayed with different  
5 relatives there. 'Grace' and her sister spent about  
6 a year to 18 months in foster care with a Mr and  
7 Mrs [REDACTED] in Inverlochy. 'Grace' says there were no  
8 issues with this placement.

9 The sisters then left foster care to live with  
10 various relatives in Glasgow. This moving around lasted  
11 for about two years before 'Grace' and her sister moved  
12 to Mugdock Children's Home in Milngavie when they were  
13 aged 12 and 8 respectively. In the meantime, their  
14 older brother joined the Navy.

15 Moving now to paragraph 15 on page 3, and this is  
16 redacted but it tells us about the time when 'Grace'  
17 moved from the children's home and the move into foster  
18 care.

19 What the paragraph says is:

20 "We left the children's home because it had to be  
21 closed down. I don't know why, whether it was  
22 unmanageable through costs and things, I really don't  
23 know. We were disappointed because we were well looked  
24 after at the home and I got on well with the  
25 houseparents. We weren't troublesome children, we done



1           what we were told. There were decisions made about  
2           where all the children would be placed. It was put to  
3           my sister and I whether we'd want to be placed in foster  
4           care or go to another children's home. At that time,  
5           being a bit older, I made the decisions for my sister  
6           and I. I was like a mother figure to her more than  
7           anything. We both decided we'd prefer to go to a foster  
8           placement and the application was put in place prior to  
9           the home closing.

10           The search was put out for a suitable family for us.  
11           They asked what type of family we would like and took  
12           that into consideration and looked for certain things in  
13           people. We were glad when we were given the choice  
14           rather than to be upset and go into another children's  
15           home because moving about just became too much, although  
16           that wasn't the end of it."

17           At paragraph 18:

18           "David Burke from Springburn social work department  
19           overseen the placement and a family took an interest.  
20           I don't remember going to meet them prior to going  
21           there. I just remember being shown a photograph of the  
22           family. It was of a mother, father, three sons and  
23           a daughter. These were the [REDACTED] who stayed at  
24           Hardgate, Clydebank. I'm not sure how long the period  
25           was before leaving the home and being put in the foster

1 placement. To me it seemed quite a quick process.

2 I would have been 14 and my sister was 10.

3 By this time, our family had handed full parental  
4 control and care over to the social work department.  
5 Over all this time we had no contact at all with our  
6 mother, we didn't know where she was after we left the  
7 caravan. We also had little contact with our dad due to  
8 his erratic behaviour.

9 We were placed within the family home in  
10 [REDACTED] 1981. Initially, my sister and I fitted in well  
11 with the family. We attended social gatherings with  
12 them. The three boys were older than us, but we saw  
13 them as brothers. We got on well. It was a basic  
14 council house. It wasn't anything big and fancy. The  
15 three brothers, who were FLV [REDACTED] the eldest and in his mid  
16 20s, the middle brother, who wasn't much younger, and  
17 the youngest brother who was about 18 or 19. They all  
18 shared a room. My sister and I shared a room with the  
19 [REDACTED] daughter, who was about 12 years old. My  
20 sister and the daughter shared bunks and I had a single  
21 bed.

22 We visited our grandparents, our dad's parents, now  
23 and again, but with my dad being there it was quite  
24 difficult. It was kind of limited. But the [REDACTED]  
25 knew there was family there and we'd like to keep in

1 touch with them as much as possible.

2 I began attending a high school and my sister went  
3 to primary. I don't recall it being a really difficult  
4 time. We were in that settling-in period so we weren't  
5 sure what to expect but it didn't seem a bad thing.  
6 When I'd went to Milngavie Primary, I had made a few  
7 friends there that I tried to keep in touch with when  
8 I was in Clydebank. I think that caused problems in  
9 foster placement because I tended to do as much as  
10 I could to maintain these friendships. It was important  
11 to me. I would meet them in Glasgow.

12 We were in the foster placement for a short period  
13 of time because there was some abuse directed towards  
14 me. I have given a statement to the police and my  
15 sister is aware of it. I have always found it difficult  
16 to explain this or tell anybody what happened to me.  
17 I knew that my sister was aware there was something, but  
18 she didn't know the details. I didn't want her to come  
19 here and hear things for the first time so I had to  
20 write a letter. I told her I couldn't tell her face to  
21 face.

22 The three boys in the house were like our brothers.  
23 As a family unit, you expect to become part of that  
24 family with the people who foster you, so you take on  
25 that role as siblings to a point. I saw them as

1 brothers. I wouldn't say I favoured one over the other  
2 two. However, things kind of changed.

3 I believe the family had cousins, who stayed with  
4 their gran because their mother had died. They stayed  
5 with her in a flat. The cousins and the brothers seemed  
6 to be quite close, that's how I got to know them,  
7 because they'd be in and out our house. Their names  
8 were Glen and Alistair.

9 My first recollection was that I remember being in  
10 the flat that wasn't the [REDACTED] house. I don't know  
11 how I got there or why I was there, but I found myself  
12 in a flat with the oldest brother, FLV and one of his  
13 male cousins. There was alcohol involved. I don't  
14 remember being forced to take it, I just remember I was  
15 drinking it. It was vodka and orange. It was my first  
16 experience of alcohol and I wasn't aware of the effects  
17 it would have on you and how quickly that can happen and  
18 I became intoxicated. I was lying on the floor feeling  
19 sick.

20 I remember the oldest brother, FLV trying to kiss  
21 me whilst I was on the floor. I was pushing him away  
22 saying no, no. That was all that was attempted at that  
23 point. I don't know anything else about that time.  
24 I don't know if I passed out because I don't remember  
25 getting home. Even the days after it, I don't recall

1 the circumstances. I don't know why. I can't remember  
2 going home or why I was there. I remember him leaning  
3 over and trying to kiss me and me pushing him away.  
4 That's all I remember.

5 It was never discussed again. We didn't speak about  
6 it. I didn't tell anyone. I didn't speak to him about  
7 it and he didn't speak to me. It was just left.  
8 I think I was frightened that I'd get into trouble for  
9 drinking, that was my worry. At 14, you shouldn't be  
10 drinking and it would look bad on me. As such, it  
11 wasn't discussed.

12 I don't know how soon it was after that episode that  
13 things got worse. The next situation must have been  
14 late at night because I believe everybody was in bed in  
15 the foster home. I was in bed, the daughter and my  
16 sister were in their bunks.

17 At some point during the night I heard a noise.  
18 I wasn't sure what it was, but it made me think that  
19 someone was in my room. Very soon after there was the  
20 presence of a male in the room, who sexually abused me  
21 whilst I was in the bed. I was frightened. I panicked.  
22 I knew what was happening but I couldn't do anything.  
23 I froze. I don't know if I thought that if I didn't do  
24 anything the person would go away. During that abuse  
25 I was expected to participate in sexual activity.

1 I don't know how long it went on. The room was  
2 dark. I was lying on my stomach and my face may have  
3 been facing the wall. I was too frightened to turn  
4 around. I didn't know who it was and I can't recall how  
5 long it went on for. Someone was removing my underwear,  
6 basically putting their hand under the covers, and as  
7 that was happening I couldn't move, I was paralysed.  
8 I was more at the bottom of the bed.

9 The male proceeded to put his fingers inside my  
10 vagina. I couldn't move, I didn't know what to do.  
11 Nothing was said. All I could hear was my own heart.  
12 He reached into the covers, took my hand and placed his  
13 penis in my hand and I had to simulate some kind of  
14 masturbation. I couldn't see anybody. I couldn't turn  
15 around. My body then said you need to react to this,  
16 this is wrong. I started going berserk, shouting,  
17 screaming and swearing to whoever was in my room at the  
18 time.

19 I've named the person to the police, I think it was  
20 the same person, although I couldn't see anyone. I felt  
21 it was **FLV** I can't be positive of that but my first  
22 instinct was that it was him because of the previous  
23 incident. The room was still dark and I wanted him to  
24 get out of my room and I was screaming to the point that  
25 the foster parents came in and put on the big light.

1 I was shouting, 'FLV's been in my room'. I didn't give  
2 any details then, I was just shouting, 'He's been in my  
3 room, get him out'. I really can't remember their  
4 reaction, but I think it was anger that I'd made this  
5 accusation. They said it couldn't have been FLV as he  
6 was just in from work.

7 I remember the parents being quite angry. It was  
8 during the night and there wasn't a lot getting said or  
9 done. They just wanted everything calmed down and it  
10 would get dealt with. I can't remember how the rest of  
11 the night went.

12 What stuck in my mind was, to me it's a very  
13 significant part, that when the big light was put on,  
14 I saw that the lightbulb had been removed from my  
15 bedside lamp. I remember seeing the lightbulb sitting  
16 where it shouldn't have been. It had to have been  
17 removed as I would have had my lamp on before going to  
18 sleep. It's always stuck in my mind and made me think  
19 it was premeditated.

20 I imagine the family would have contacted the social  
21 worker David Burke. The only conversation I remember  
22 having was with him in the foster home. As far as  
23 I remember, it was only the two of us there. I remember  
24 I gave him the details. It was decided that we had to  
25 be removed from the family. The foster family didn't

1 want us there. It was suggested that I go but my sister  
2 stay, so it seemed to me that I was the problem. I was  
3 adamant that my sister would not be staying in any place  
4 where I had been just abused.

5 There was no investigation at the time, there was  
6 nothing. There may have been talks with the social work  
7 and the foster parents, but nothing that I was part of.  
8 I had no contact with the police after the incident.  
9 I had no interviews with anyone else or counselling or  
10 anything. My recollection is that I gave my account to  
11 David Burke and that was the end of it. There was no  
12 Children's Hearing before or after I spoke with him.  
13 After I left the [REDACTED] I had no contact with the  
14 family.

15 There was a period of time when we were going to get  
16 placed somewhere but stayed in the foster home while  
17 this was organised. It might have been a few days,  
18 I don't think it was as long as a week. I didn't feel  
19 any fear that it would happen again because I knew it  
20 wouldn't. My life changed from that moment onwards in  
21 that I would never allow any sort of abuse, ie sexual,  
22 physical or verbal, to happen to me ever again.

23 During this time, none of the family spoke to me  
24 except [REDACTED] FLV who I had accused. It was a really  
25 difficult conversation, but he was the only one. He



1 bought me magazines too. The rest of the family  
2 isolated my sister and I during this time.

3 Prior to the incident, I had found Mr [REDACTED] easier  
4 to speak to than Mrs [REDACTED]. I didn't speak to her  
5 a great deal. It wasn't a bad relationship, but I don't  
6 think I responded to her as much as the rest of the  
7 family. I'm not aware of the [REDACTED] having a key  
8 worker. I just know that any involvement with us was  
9 with David Burke.

10 We were in the foster placement from [REDACTED] to  
11 [REDACTED] 1981, so that incident happened between that period  
12 of time. We were then moved to Glenavon Children's Home  
13 in Strathaven and that starts another journey."

14 From paragraphs 42 to 55, 'Grace' tells of her  
15 experiences in that children's home.

16 Moving now to page 12 and paragraph 56:

17 "At the age of 19 I became pregnant. That changed  
18 things as to where I could stay. I was still under the  
19 care of the social work department. At this time my  
20 social worker changed from David Burke to  
21 Hilary Finnegan. He felt there wasn't very much he  
22 could do for me in regards to care so it was decided  
23 I would no longer be under the care side of things.

24 With being pregnant, we decided to get married,  
25 which we did in 1986. I was welcomed into my husband's

1 family. They were supportive and strong people in my  
2 life. My mother-in-law and father-in-law took my sister  
3 in when she left care. She ultimately stayed with them  
4 for 18 years. They were the most supportive family we'd  
5 ever had. They are no longer with us any more, but  
6 being in a loving, supportive family has made us the  
7 people that we are today.

8 After telling the social worker David Burke the next  
9 time I mentioned what had happened to me was to my  
10 husband before I got married. I mentioned it to his mum  
11 as well and always said I was going to do something  
12 about it, I would deal with it. People who I'd worked  
13 with in the past knew I'd been in a children's home and  
14 asked how it was and I did mention it to two of them,  
15 not detailed, but that it happened.

16 I have two children. I have always put them first.  
17 My only focus and my only thought was that at some point  
18 I might have to stand up in court and I didn't want my  
19 children to go through it. They were young and didn't  
20 know anything about it. I thought that might be too  
21 much. Then my father-in-law became ill, so we took over  
22 and cared for him for a bit along with my sister before  
23 he died. Then my mother-in-law became ill and over the  
24 last 10 years we have cared for her.

25 I think that with the Inquiry coming along and the

1 children being older and knowing about it as well as my  
2 sister, I felt it was my time. It wasn't something  
3 I broadcast widely. The emphasis is on it now. People  
4 need to come forward and report these cases of abuse."

5 From paragraph 61 to 70, 'Grace' tells of regaining  
6 contact with her mother and discovering that she had two  
7 siblings that she had not known about, one of whom died  
8 as a baby. 'Grace's' father had died and she no longer  
9 has contact with her mother.

10 Now moving to page 15 and paragraph 71:

11 "My relationship with my husband is secure, strong  
12 and supportive. He is a loving husband. Sometimes  
13 I still get the physical feelings that I had that night,  
14 they still come back. Especially if the room is dark  
15 and my husband comes in and I just hear someone in the  
16 room. I waken and panic, get sweaty and have  
17 palpitations. But I can bring myself back to time and  
18 place and know I'm okay. I feel as if I have a guard up  
19 a lot. I am very alert. I feel I'm not at peace with  
20 myself. Not real peace.

21 I believe I sometimes overthink things with regard  
22 to meeting new people and making relationships. I am  
23 wary at first. Some people say I'm initially aggressive  
24 in my nature, but I don't mean to be. I think it's me  
25 hiding other things. I don't think it's always been

1 rejection through the care system, but it feels like it  
2 sometimes.

3 I do suffer from anxiety and have done for a long  
4 time. I don't know if it's related, I am an anxious  
5 person."

6 Then at paragraph 74:

7 "I haven't had great periods of depression, more  
8 anxiety. If I go to bed worrying about something, I lie  
9 there thinking about it. If I waken up with an anxious  
10 thought it stays with me all day, but I don't lose a lot  
11 of sleep. I have experienced that since the abuse. My  
12 GP referred me to a psychotherapist team. I've been to  
13 see them but that was just an assessment. I will get my  
14 first session with them this month.

15 I have managed to get my social work records. The  
16 police have them. I got what they had from Glenavon  
17 Children's Home onwards. There was an application put  
18 forward for the foster placement because they couldn't  
19 find it within the council archives at the time, but  
20 they were going to send it to the foster placement  
21 department to see if there was anything there. However,  
22 I received a letter to say that because of the data that  
23 was held within it, I couldn't obtain it. I don't know  
24 if it meant there was a third party named in it. I know  
25 they can redact that.

1 I felt it was vital for me to see what was said and  
2 what was done, so I felt disheartened when I couldn't  
3 get it. For a period of time, that's why I didn't  
4 pursue anything because I felt that I needed to get that  
5 evidence regarding the foster placement before I went to  
6 the police.

7 I applied for the social work records in 2008.  
8 I did get a lot of information but all regarding  
9 Glenavon Children's Home until I left care and got  
10 married, basically."

11 Then at the end of paragraph 78:

12 "I applied to the Inquiry. I was delighted when  
13 they told me they would hear my evidence, because to me  
14 that was a big step. I'm aware that it's separate from  
15 prosecutions and any compensation.

16 Early on I thought I had an opportunity to go to the  
17 police and I was told that I could do this and it  
18 wouldn't jeopardise what I said to the Inquiry. The  
19 police have come out to me and taken my statement. They  
20 have spoken to my sister too. They have recently got  
21 back to me and I have been told that there is a possible  
22 witness who has been identified and it depends on  
23 whether they want to give evidence. The police have  
24 asked to see me again in the near future.

25 I applied for my records through the Freedom of

1 Information Act. There's another group, INCAS, who I've  
2 been in touch with and had conversations with regarding  
3 my records because they feel that there should be  
4 something there. However, the police have been back in  
5 touch with me to say they have more records, more  
6 information. I don't know what they have, but there is  
7 something there. They applied to Dunbartonshire Council  
8 so I don't know if there's information on the foster  
9 parents or if there's anything regarding my placement  
10 there.

11 I don't think any child wants to be in the situation  
12 we were in. Every child wants to stay with their mum  
13 and dad. We didn't have bad experiences in care.  
14 I felt we were well looked after. If it needs to be  
15 there, it needs to be there, provided it's well looked  
16 into and the focus is on the child and what they want.  
17 However, I do feel that a lot of decisions are made  
18 behind closed doors and you don't have that involvement.  
19 When you're older you have more say, but you should when  
20 you're younger too. I have copies of reviews now but  
21 not then. I would often leave reviews tearful.  
22 Decisions were being made. I thought I was being taken  
23 in to be part of these decisions but basically it was  
24 put to you, 'This is what we think it is for you'.

25 I was taken into reviews but it was to tell me what

1           they were planning. You'd be asked to leave the room  
2           but conversations would be continued and you were never  
3           part of that. When I did have problems, I knew I could  
4           go to somebody, speak to my key worker about it.

5           I was never part of a review where my abuse was  
6           discussed and that angers me. I feel I was disbelieved.  
7           When it happened, I told those responsible for my care,  
8           expecting things to be done, but there was nothing more  
9           discussed with me. The only time was on the occasion  
10          I was alone with David Burke the day after the abuse.

11          With regards being in care, my sister and I didn't  
12          have the major problems that other children have had, we  
13          were guided quite well. We just went through it without  
14          major difficulties, but children need to be heard. At  
15          that time I felt it was all closed doors and you were  
16          spoken to when you needed to be spoken to.

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

21          'Grace' signed her statement on 5 June 2017.

22          In advance of her statement being read in, 'Grace'  
23          has been in contact with the Inquiry and asked that the  
24          following be read in together with her statement.

25   LADY SMITH: Very well.

1 MS INNES: "I thought I'd send some notes of thanks that  
2 could be added to the end of my statement. I'd like to  
3 thank the Inquiry for arranging for my statement to be  
4 read by a member of the team. It is very much  
5 appreciated.

6 Thanks to Lady Smith, her team and to all those  
7 involved in the Child Abuse Inquiry for their continuous  
8 dedication and hard work since its launch in 2015.  
9 A special thanks to [REDACTED] from the witness support  
10 team, who has been extremely supportive throughout.  
11 I could not have done this without her.

12 Finally, I am extremely grateful that the Inquiry  
13 has listened and has shown an understanding of the abuse  
14 suffered by children while placed in care through no  
15 fault of their own. Thank you all for caring.

16 'Grace'."

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you, Ms Innes.

18 Just while you're getting organised, let me clock  
19 the names that appeared in that statement that are  
20 covered by my GRO. It's essentially the [REDACTED] and  
21 members of their family who are mentioned. That's the  
22 [REDACTED] who were foster carers. Their names can't be  
23 mentioned outside this room, nor the names of family  
24 members.

25 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.



1 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady, I think we have time for one more  
2 read-in today.

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 'John' (read)

5 MS RATTRAY: This is a statement of an applicant who wishes  
6 to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'John'.  
7 His statement is at WIT.001.001.0044.

8 'John' was placed by Glasgow Corporation with  
9 a Mr and Mrs FJD/FJF in Motherwell from [REDACTED] 1969  
10 to the beginning of 1976, when he joined the army,  
11 although he did return to the placement when on leave  
12 until discharge from care in 1977 at the age of 18.

13 During the foster care placement, 'John' also  
14 attended Gryffe Children's Home from [REDACTED] to  
15 [REDACTED] 1973.

16 While the placing authority was Glasgow Corporation,  
17 at the beginning of 1976 the case was transferred to the  
18 Motherwell social work department of Strathclyde  
19 Regional Council. Records have since been recovered  
20 from both the current Glasgow City Council and North  
21 Lanarkshire Council, so in this instance we have two  
22 authorities who were responsible for the care both  
23 Glasgow, currently Glasgow City Council, and North  
24 Lanarkshire Council, albeit it was Glasgow who was  
25 responsible for the majority of time in foster care

1           until, in effect, 'John' was 16 and was self supporting  
2           in the army, albeit he wasn't formally discharged from  
3           care for another two years.

4   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5   MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'John'. I was born in 1959. I was  
6           born in Glasgow. My parents were married. I was the  
7           older brother and I also had two younger sisters. I was  
8           between five or six years of age when my parents  
9           abandoned me and my three-year-old sister in Glasgow.  
10          My younger sister was a baby and I think my parents took  
11          her with them.

12                 After being abandoned, I somehow managed to get me  
13                 and my younger sister back to our home address but our  
14                 parents were gone. We were looked afterwards by  
15                 neighbours. The neighbours then put us in touch with  
16                 other family members in Glasgow. I think that they  
17                 looked after us for a few weeks before we were put into  
18                 care. I don't know where my youngest sister was at this  
19                 time, she would only be a baby.

20                 I have not seen my parents since and I don't know if  
21                 they are still living. I have had no real contact with  
22                 my sisters for the past 35 years. I think I can  
23                 remember that on one occasion in 1964 or 1965 my  
24                 biological mother came to the school I was attending.  
25                 I think she wanted to try and take me back but nothing

1 ever happened.

2 I have no real recollections of my life before being  
3 put into care. Before I was abandoned by my parents  
4 I can remember having just started primary school but  
5 not much more. I don't recall being subjected to any  
6 abuse at home and I think that I had a normal family  
7 life.

8 I have no real recollection of my parents. I don't  
9 think that there was anything out of the ordinary with  
10 them. They treated us well as far as I know. I have no  
11 idea why they abandoned as they did. I have made no  
12 real attempt to track them down. They are almost  
13 certainly deceased now."

14 From paragraphs 8 to 11, 'John' speaks of his  
15 memories of Castlemilk and Eversley Children's Homes  
16 with his younger sister.

17 Moving now to paragraph 12 on page 3:

18 "I do remember the day the potential foster parents  
19 came to the home. I'd been in the home for about four  
20 years. I was taken into the piano room and made to sing  
21 to them while someone played the piano to accompany me.  
22 The prospective foster parents watched me perform.  
23 These prospective foster parents were FJD/FJF  
24 FJD/FJF I was being fostered out with my  
25 sister and as far as I can remember these were the only

1 potential foster parents I ever met.

2 At first we went and stayed for a few weekends to  
3 see if we could settle in. I don't think I was ever  
4 asked if this is what I wanted to do. I would be about  
5 10 or 11 years old at this time. It seemed like a good  
6 thing and I don't remember feeling bad about it.

7 The first visits with the FJD/FJF family were  
8 weekends or day trips out with them. They were very  
9 pleasant experiences as we were spoiled with sweeties  
10 and other presents which we were not used to. They took  
11 us to nice places.

12 Their names were FJD/FJF  
13 I would estimate that they were aged between 35 and 40  
14 years old at that time. They were married but had no  
15 children of their own. When we initially moved in with  
16 them they were residing in a council house in  
17 Motherwell. We were there for about a year. They then  
18 applied for a new built house in Motherwell. This house  
19 was very much bigger and in a very desirable area. They  
20 now had myself and both my sisters living with them and  
21 so they were entitled to a bigger house.

22 I had been there for about six months when the  
23 social work department managed to track down my youngest  
24 sister. She joined us at the FJD/FJF I stayed for  
25 four years with the FJD/FJF family, which was

1 an unbroken period, apart from the time I was forced to  
2 spend at the Gryffe Children's Home for troubled boys in  
3 Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

4 When I first moved into foster care I had no  
5 apprehensions. It was just me and my sister for the  
6 first six months before my younger sister joined us for  
7 the rest of the time we were to spend in foster care.  
8 I had a room of my own and my sisters slept in another  
9 room.

10 Breakfast at the house was always a slice of bread  
11 and butter and was eaten standing at the breakfast bar  
12 before we went to school. I thought this was strange  
13 behaviour but it was their routine.

14 We were enrolled at the local school and went there  
15 every day. When we came back to the house, we were not  
16 allowed to sit on the furniture, which was covered with  
17 plastic sheets. I would be terrified to sit anywhere  
18 but on the floor for fear of ripping the plastic sheets.

19 The house had an upstairs where all the bedrooms  
20 were. When you came back from school in the afternoon,  
21 you had to be quiet as the **FJD/FJF** would be downstairs  
22 napping on the sofas. You couldn't make a noise and had  
23 to stay in their presence while they slept. This really  
24 added to the tension in the house as you couldn't sit on  
25 the furniture and you were terrified that you woke them

1 up. I had nowhere else to go because of the grounding  
2 and house confinement. I couldn't make friends so I had  
3 no school friends' houses that I could go back to after  
4 school or at weekends.

5 The living arrangements were very intense. You  
6 would get smacked for bad behaviour. I considered this  
7 to be normal and it was not considered to be abusive  
8 punishment in those days. I don't think that they  
9 thought they were doing anything wrong. I also think  
10 that they didn't know how I was feeling, which was very  
11 awkward and added to my anxiety.

12 We lived as a normal family watching television and  
13 staying in our rooms to read. The FJD/FJF used to go  
14 out together once a week to socialise. We were left to  
15 look after ourselves.

16 The food provided by the FJD/FJF was adequate for  
17 what we needed. We had a piece of bread and butter for  
18 breakfast. Lunch was mainly school dinners apart from  
19 the holidays. There was always an evening meal which we  
20 sat down to. When I was being punished I was not  
21 allowed to sit down with the others and was called out  
22 of my room to sit and eat by myself. I was never called  
23 by my real name, which was very humiliating.

24 When I first started living with the FJD/FJF  
25 I attended primary school and then moved up to high

1 school. I could walk to school and although I attended  
2 and took part I wasn't interested in it but I didn't  
3 cause any trouble.

4 I also attended a residential institution in Bridge  
5 of Weir called the Gryffe. It was a residential home  
6 for boys who were troubled but it was not a borstal. It  
7 was somewhere in between. I was put in there after the  
8 [REDACTED] made a complaint about me to Social Services.  
9 It was the one chance I had in my life to get away from  
10 the [REDACTED] family but unfortunately things again did  
11 not work out and after being there for about a year  
12 I was returned to foster care with the [REDACTED]

13 I was never abused or ill-treated there. I suspect  
14 that it was like any other children's home.

15 My foster parents came to visit me and the result  
16 was that I ended back in their care. I didn't want to  
17 go back to the [REDACTED] but I didn't have any say in the  
18 matter. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]

1 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
2  
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4 I did receive pocket money after I returned to the  
5 FJD/FJF house from the Gryffe. It was a lost  
6 opportunity for me as I felt I could have been placed  
7 with foster parents away in the FJD/FJF

8 I returned to my old school when I came back from  
9 the Gryffe. It was very embarrassing as I had to  
10 explain to the other pupils where I had been.

11 I started smoking when I was 10 or 11. I wasn't  
12 getting any money apart from school dinner money. I had  
13 to make a choice between dinner money or a cigarette.  
14 I usually smoked two a day. You could buy cigarettes at  
15 the school gates. I had no real friends as I was  
16 grounded for so long. I didn't get any pocket money so  
17 I couldn't socialise with the people I knew at school.

18 It was only after I had been to the Gryffe  
19 institution that I started to get pocket money that  
20 I was entitled to through the fostering agreement that  
21 the FJD/FJF had with the social work department.

22 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
23  
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25 There was never a visit organised between my



1 biological parents and me. The only occasion I was  
2 aware of my mother showing some interest was when she  
3 came to the school and through the railings told me she  
4 was going to get me back. It never happened and I never  
5 saw her again.

6 In all the times I stayed at the FJD/FJF I remember  
7 one social work contact with me. There was no way that  
8 I was going to speak to the social worker in front of  
9 FJD/FJF They did leave me alone with the social  
10 worker, but they were able to hear the entire  
11 conversation through the serving hatch in the kitchen.  
12 I couldn't tell the social worker what was happening for  
13 fear of the consequences. They may have spoken to the  
14 FJD/FJF but I can't remember being involved in any  
15 discussions.

16 The truth of the matter was that there was very  
17 little control over the foster parents at this time.  
18 I suppose if I could, I would have run off but I had no  
19 place to go and I was very young. I really didn't know  
20 any better. I was trapped.

21 The abuse really started one day after we had been  
22 there for a few months. The FJD/FJF asked me one day  
23 what memories I had of biological parents. I remember  
24 telling them that my father reminded me of Rock Hudson  
25 and my mother was just like Princess Anne. Both FJD

1 and FJF appeared to get upset at this and started  
2 ranting and raving at me. I was told that when the  
3 FJD/FJF had found us we had odd shoes and how dare  
4 I think that my parents were royalty. I was shocked at  
5 this outburst. Thinking back I was only saying what  
6 I think any young boy of my age would say about his  
7 parents. The FJD/FJF took a dislike to me from that  
8 moment on.

9 I had a bed-wetting problem which was diagnosed by  
10 a doctor and is called nocturnal enuresis. The FJD/FJF  
11 did not acknowledge this and used to punish me for  
12 wetting the bed. I would have to wear the wet pyjamas  
13 to school under my uniform. This caused me problems at  
14 the school with the other pupils. I was called names  
15 and isolated at school. I was never able to make  
16 friends at school.

17 Looking back I can see things in a different light  
18 now that I am an adult. When we first moved in with the  
19 FJD/FJF we were living with them in one of the least  
20 desirable areas of Motherwell but as a result of me and  
21 my sisters moving in, they got a much better council  
22 house in a much better area of Motherwell.

23 One day I was kicking a football against the wall of  
24 one of the flats. The neighbour came out to give me  
25 a row and my stepfather intervened. He argued with the

1 neighbour. The result was that I was put on a curfew  
2 and grounded. It meant that I was kept in the house for  
3 90 per cent of my remaining stay with them.

4 At this time my sisters were not the subject of any  
5 abuse. They were actively encouraged to get me into  
6 trouble. I definitely put the start of the abuse down  
7 to the answer I gave to the description of my biological  
8 parents. I was always called a 'no user' by them and  
9 because of the bed wettings and the groundings I was  
10 unable to make friends at school. I had terrible  
11 feelings of uselessness and very low self-esteem.  
12 I spent a lot of the time in my bedroom reading books.

13 Because I was a smoker when I was 10 or 11, I used  
14 to have to find ways of getting cigarettes. When the  
15 FJD/FJF used to go out together once a week they would  
16 leave a packet of cigarettes lying about the house along  
17 with a purse. I used to pinch a cigarette or some  
18 five pence pieces from the purse to buy a cigarette at  
19 school. The cigarettes were sold at the shop at the  
20 school gates. Unbeknown to me, the FJD/FJF had  
21 deliberately left the cigarettes and the purse there for  
22 me to access and steal. I had been trapped by them.  
23 They kept a record for a few months of every cigarette  
24 or coin that I pinched. When they told me about the  
25 trap they had set, they called me thieving scum. The

1 groundings were worse and I was allowed no interaction  
2 with other people from school or my sisters. I had to  
3 eat my meals on my own after the rest of the foster  
4 family had eaten theirs.

5 The FJD/FJF then used this information to pass to  
6 the social workers. The result of this was that I was  
7 placed in Gryffe institution for troubled boys. I was  
8 to remain there for about a year. I would be about 13  
9 or 14 when I was placed in there. I have no idea why  
10 they would do this to me but it was all part of the  
11 abusive way I was being treated.

12 I knew it was wrong to steal but what sort of  
13 parents go about it that way to deal with such matters?  
14 When I finally got my pocket money allowance that I was  
15 entitled to the need to steal went away.

16 I was constantly reminded by the FJD/FJF how good  
17 they were to me and how I was no good, like my  
18 biological parents, and how I was a thief. I was told  
19 so often that I started to believe this and my opinion  
20 of myself fell even lower. They didn't call me by my  
21 name, they just referred to me as boy, but mostly as  
22 'hoi you'. I had never heard of abuse and couldn't  
23 define what they did to me. I now realise on looking  
24 back that although I did not suffer physical or sexual  
25 abuse I was being subjected to the worst type of

1 psychological abuse.

2 When I returned home after my spell at the Gryffe  
3 there were some changes for the better, like receiving  
4 my pocket money. I was still walking on eggshells in  
5 the house. I don't recall seeing or meeting with any  
6 social workers at this time.

7 This incident that I am going to describe may appear  
8 to be bizarre but it was another occasion when I was  
9 deliberately targeted by them and made to feel useless.  
10 I was sitting in the lounge with the FJD/FJF and my  
11 sisters. We were all watching television. I got up to  
12 go to the toilet and was asked where I was going.  
13 I told them I was going to the toilet. They asked me  
14 why. I repeated that I was going to the toilet. I was  
15 trying to come up with the correct term so that I didn't  
16 appear to be swearing at them. I didn't know the real  
17 term. The only appropriate words I could come up with  
18 at the time were that I was going for toilet water. On  
19 reflection it was not the best choice of words but  
20 I didn't know any better.

21 It caused FJF to jump out of her chair. She  
22 started screaming at me and calling me a 'fucking poof'.  
23 She went through to the kitchen and came back  
24 brandishing a kitchen knife at me. I firmly believe  
25 that she would have stabbed me if FJD had not

1       interfered and taken the knife from her. FJD told  
2       her that she was going too far. She continued raving at  
3       me calling me a poof. It was the only time that they  
4       were in disagreement over the way that they treated me.

5               This had the effect of causing me to doubt myself  
6       and wonder if in fact I was gay. I also questioned  
7       myself as to why as I was getting older I was not able  
8       to defend myself and face up to things. I was not  
9       physically abused by the FJD/FJF but I did get the odd  
10       smack, which was I found to be acceptable as a means of  
11       punishment. It was not excessive.

12              I was never sexually abused the whole time I was  
13       with the FJD/FJF I recall one evening when they came  
14       into my room after they had been on a night out. This  
15       was totally out of character for them. They put on the  
16       main light and showed me a poster of a girl wearing  
17       suspenders and stockings. It was a cartoon type  
18       picture. It was not pornographic. They said, 'What do  
19       you think of this you poof?' I was traumatised by this  
20       event. I didn't know what to think.

21              Shortly after arriving in foster care I was  
22       subjected to all the abuse that I have described.  
23       I lived in constant fear of the FJD/FJF I was  
24       terrified to do anything that most people would consider  
25       normal, like helping yourself to a biscuit, turning on

1 the television or going to your room without permission.  
2 Living was like walking on eggshells with consequences  
3 for failing to please the FJD/FJF I could do nothing  
4 right.

5 About a week after the incident with the poster  
6 I felt totally insecure. I had been called a 'no user'  
7 and a waste of space like my biological parents. I had  
8 no self-esteem and was full of doubt about myself.  
9 I did the only thing I could think of to escape.  
10 I joined the army as a boy soldier. I was 15 years of  
11 age going on 16. It was the year 1976. At that time,  
12 the army had 'junior leaders'.

13 I don't think I would have joined the army if my  
14 home life had been better. I served five years in the  
15 army. I think that the FJD/FJF were happy for me to  
16 join the army. It wasn't a career for me, it was  
17 an escape. I had taken O-level exams at school but  
18 I never really bothered as I knew I was going into the  
19 army.

20 After five years' service I left the army and  
21 instead of getting a flat I went back and stayed with  
22 the FJD/FJF I was now nearly 21 years of age.  
23 I didn't know what else to do as there was no guidance  
24 when you left the army. I would describe the army as  
25 being comfortable and I liked being in the army

1 environment. I carried my problems with me to the army  
2 but I was not subjected to abuse there.

3 My sisters were still living with the FJD/FJF It  
4 suited the FJD/FJF to have me back as I was paying dig  
5 money to them and helping them out to pay for things  
6 they needed to do and buy about the house. When I was  
7 in the army I had managed to get an HGV licence and  
8 found work delivering coal and frozen foods. This gave  
9 me an income but the FJD/FJF still treated me as a 'no  
10 gooder' and useless."

11 From paragraphs 54 to 61, 'John' speaks of his life  
12 after care. 'John' went back to full-time education and  
13 got a degree in sciences. He was a college lecturer for  
14 20 years but had to stop because of mental health  
15 problems. He married and had children. His marriage  
16 broke up as his wife could not cope with his problems.  
17 He remains good friends with his ex-wife and has a good  
18 relationship with his children.

19 Moving to paragraph 62 on page 14:

20 "I have never reported any of the abuse I suffered  
21 to the police or other authorities. I was not able to  
22 report the abuse I suffered at the hands of the FJD/FJF  
23 to the social work department as the only interview  
24 I had with them was conducted within their hearing and  
25 would mean that I would suffer even more for what I told



1           them.

2           I did have a lot of contact with **Secondary Institutions - to be**  
3 **Secondary Institutions - to be publis** He was a social work worker based  
4 there. I felt that he listened to me and was trying to  
5 help me. I thought there was an opportunity then to get  
6 me away from the **FJD/FJF** but it just didn't happen and  
7 it's one of my biggest disappointments with the care  
8 system.

9           The impact of the abuse I suffered at the hands of  
10 the **FJD/FJF** has been considerable. I have twice  
11 attempted suicide. I have always considered myself to  
12 be a weak person with very low self-esteem. The sense  
13 of isolation and humiliation can be overpowering.

14          I am aware that other people who have suffered  
15 physical or sexual abuse may well have physical scars  
16 which are obvious. I have no physical scars. I have  
17 had behavioural problems which I directly attribute to  
18 the abuse. What I suffered is no less painful and all  
19 the scars are emotional and not obvious to anyone  
20 looking at me.

21          In March 2016 I completed a six-month counselling  
22 and therapy course with a psychologist. This has  
23 enabled me to come here today to speak to you. The  
24 therapy finished and this was the first time I was able  
25 to confront the past and see it in a different light.

1 This was the first person to listen to me and to  
2 acknowledge what had happened. It's not revenge that  
3 I am seeking but acknowledgement.

4 I rank myself as the least abused person that you  
5 will speak to. I am not sure what will be achieved by  
6 me giving you my statement here today. I need people to  
7 recognise that what did happen to me in my childhood was  
8 wrong.

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9 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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13 I want to know how your parents are able to abandon  
14 you and why they are not tracked down and asked why.  
15 I want to know if they are accountable and accept  
16 responsibility for what happened to me and what my life  
17 became. I could have brothers or sisters and I don't  
18 know anything about them. Did my birth parents go on to  
19 have a good life? I don't know and it bothers me.

20 Why did the social work departments in Glasgow not  
21 have more meetings with me out of the hearing of my  
22 foster parents where I could tell them what was  
23 happening? It's only on reflection that I have these  
24 thoughts because when it was relevant I was just a child  
25 and didn't know any better.

1 I have spent half my adult life going to bed and  
2 hoping not to waken up. It's a terrible feeling.  
3 I wish I could sit down with my sisters and find out why  
4 they blamed me for leaving them in the care of the  
5 Neilsons to join the army. What happened to them when  
6 I left that caused them to resent me."

7 From paragraphs 71 to 73, 'John' speaks of trying to  
8 regain contact with his sisters. Moving to paragraph 74  
9 and page 16:

10 "My youngest sister informed me by text message that  
11 she had been a target of abuse and suffered mental  
12 health issues. This is one of the main reasons that  
13 I am making this statement to your Inquiry.

14 What is abuse? Is it getting a cigarette stubbed  
15 out on your body? Is it being called a poof? Or is it  
16 being sent to school in 'pishy pyjamas'? It's all these  
17 things and more. My foster parents, the FJD/FJF  
18 benefitted from having me and my sisters residing with  
19 them. They got a better house and money to look after  
20 us.

21 Evil people get older and should be accountable.  
22 I spent most of my childhood grounded in my bedroom.  
23 Psychological wounds don't show and being addressed as  
24 a non-person is 'life affecting'.

25 There were lost opportunities in my life when things

1           could have changed and my life could have taken  
2           a different course. The best chance for me was when  
3           I was at the Gryffe school for troubled children. There  
4           was a total lack of social work guidance or  
5           interference. I had no say in the matter.

6           I would have liked my birth parents to be held  
7           accountable for abandoning me and I would like my foster  
8           parents to be similarly held accountable for the abuse  
9           I suffered at their hands. I don't really want revenge  
10          at all. What I want is a recognition of all the  
11          mistakes that were made by the Social Services and other  
12          organisations who should have been able to support or  
13          advise me.

14          When I left the army, I had a number of  
15          acquaintances but no one I would describe as a friend.  
16          The army was full of people running away from family  
17          circumstances. When I came out, the only option I had  
18          was to return back to the FJD/FJF There was no  
19          support or advice given me and I didn't realise that  
20          I had other options.

21          I would need to think about whether or not I am able  
22          to provide oral evidence to the Inquiry hearings. I am  
23          an experienced lecturer but unsure whether I would be  
24          able to do this.

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 'John' signed his statement on 9 December 2016.

5 My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 MS RATTRAY: We return tomorrow at 10 am and tomorrow we  
8 will hear from three oral witnesses.

9 LADY SMITH: Yes, I see that.

10 I think one of them is due to be a videolink; is  
11 that right?

12 MS RATTRAY: Yes, the second witness at 11.45.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 Very well. One set of names there, the FJD/FJF  
15 are covered by my general restriction order and not for  
16 repetition. Otherwise I will rise now and sit at  
17 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

18 (3.54 pm)

19 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on  
20 Wednesday, 29 June 2022)

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I N D E X

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