

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our evidential
4 hearings in relation to the provision of foster care.
5 With the Jubilee weekend behind us, we're ready to
6 return to evidence today and our first witness I'm told
7 is ready to come and give evidence. Is that right,
8 Ms Innes?

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

10 The first witness is 'Bob'. Today we will hear
11 evidence from four members of the same family and
12 a statement will also be read in from another sister.
13 'Bob' and his siblings were in the care of Dundee
14 Corporation and now Dundee City Council, and they all
15 went to the same foster care placement on
16 [REDACTED] 1959.

17 It is not known when 'Bob' left that placement. It
18 will have been in the early 1960s, but we're unable to
19 ascertain a date on which he left.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 'Bob' (sworn)

22 LADY SMITH: 'Bob', you're looking at a red folder on the
23 desk, I suspect, and that has the hard copy of your
24 statement in it. We'll also bring parts of your
25 statement up on screen and so you can look at it on

1 screen or in hard copy or you don't have to look at it
2 at all, because Ms Innes will ask you questions that you
3 can answer as you go along, with or without helping
4 yourself by going back to your statement.

5 As we go through your evidence, 'Bob', please be
6 assured it really matters to me that you're as
7 comfortable as you can be, so if you have any questions
8 or concerns, do speak up, don't keep them to yourself.
9 If you want a break at any time, let me know. That's
10 not a problem. Whatever works for you will work for me.

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

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

15 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

16 Questions from Ms Innes

17 MS INNES: Now, 'Bob', we understand that you were born in
18 1949. Is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And I think you have a copy of your statement in front
21 of you and it will come up on the screen, and the
22 reference that we have for it is WIT.001.002.1862.
23 I wonder if which can just look at the final page of
24 your statement, please, page 11, and I think we see at
25 paragraph 59 that it says there:

1 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
2 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
3 I believe the facts stated in this statement are true."

4 Then I think we see that you signed it on
5 16 October 2018; is that right?

6 A. Oh, sorry, I can't hear you quite well.

7 Q. Okay. So I think we see at the end there your
8 signature.

9 A. Uh-huh, yes.

10 Q. And that you signed your statement on 16 October 2018.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If we can go back to the start of your statement,
13 please, I'd just like to ask you a little bit about your
14 life before you went into care. At paragraph 2, you say
15 that you are the second oldest of a family of 10; is
16 that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You tell us at paragraph 4 that initially you stayed in
19 Stirling until you were about five or six; is that
20 right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Then from there you moved to Dundee?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was that with your parents and your brothers and
25 sisters?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. At paragraph 5 you say that you moved around a lot and
3 you attended nine different schools.

4 A. I was told that at one point some time that I had been
5 to nine schools altogether, so I thought in my head
6 about that, yeah.

7 Q. Was that over your whole childhood?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. If we go over the page to page 2, we see at
10 paragraph 8 that you say that your mother left the
11 family when you were about nine. When she left, who
12 were you left with?

13 A. Just the father.

14 Q. Okay. You then say that you think that's when the
15 social work department became involved with you?

16 A. That's when we went to the shelter at Dundee.

17 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 9. You say that
18 initially you were put into a shelter in Dundee and you
19 say at paragraph 9:

20 "When I went there I think there were only six of us
21 who were placed there."

22 Was that the six oldest of the ten?

23 A. Yeah, the six oldest went to [REDACTED] yeah.

24 Q. What happened to --

25 A. I can't remember all that, but I think we all got taken

1 into care there, so ... and other people looked after
2 the younger ones, who were babies.

3 Q. So the four younger ones, you say other people looked
4 after them. Did you ever see the younger four again
5 during your childhood?

6 A. No. We never -- never got introduced to them at all.

7 First time I seen them was about -- about some time
8 in the 1980s, the first time I'd ever met them through
9 my family.

10 Q. Okay. Did you have any idea where they had gone when
11 you were a child or --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- did you find out later on?

14 A. No idea. I know one of them had been adopted by
15 relatives, the youngest, and the other three, I didn't
16 know where they had gone, no. Never seen nor heard of
17 them.

18 Q. You say that first of all you went to the shelter and
19 the one thing that you remember about the shelter is
20 that you were fed there and you say that you remember
21 that because it was so different from your life at home,
22 so I think that was your life with your parents. Is
23 that right?

24 A. When I went to the shelter?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Yeah, yeah, because life at home was pretty bad, so the
2 shelter was ... (Pause)

3 Q. An improvement?

4 A. Yeah, it was -- I don't know, I suppose we got fed and
5 stuff, you know, didn't get beat up.

6 Q. Okay. Then you say at paragraph 11 that you weren't at
7 the shelter for very long, maybe a couple of weeks.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Then you say the teacher at the school you were at just
10 told you that you were going to live in Fife and your
11 memory is that you were moved from Dundee by the
12 teacher, is that your memory?

13 A. Yeah, my schoolteacher took me and my brother. She
14 said, "You're going to Fife", and she had a little Ford
15 Anglia and her and her friend drove us to [REDACTED]
16 one night after Fife.

17 LADY SMITH: Which is not in Fife.

18 A. The teacher thought, "You're going to Fife", and it was
19 [REDACTED] and she was -- yeah.

20 MS INNES: So you and your brother, I think you said, were
21 taken to this house, and at paragraph 12 you say that
22 the woman who fostered you there was a Mrs BGC [REDACTED]

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Can you remember what your first impressions of her
25 were?

1 A. She was an old -- old-ish lady, you know, late 50s,
2 I suppose, she was kind enough when I first met her, she
3 was pretty much all right, but she took like
4 a God-fearing woman, you know? Strict and -- yeah,
5 strict I think is the best word to describe her.

6 Q. You tell us at paragraph 12 that she had three children
7 that you think were aged between 20 and 30. Were they
8 all living with her in the house or did they live
9 elsewhere, do you know?

10 A. One was a commando, he was away for a bit. Another one
11 was in the Navy and then she had a daughter. They were
12 there most of the time, but they did go -- you know,
13 I didn't see them for some time sometimes.

14 Q. Over the page at paragraph 13, you tell us a little of
15 what the house was like. Can you tell us what your
16 memories of it are from your time there?

17 A. Yeah, it was a lovely big house right across from the
18 beach, the sea. Lovely house. And yeah, well, we were
19 stuck in the back. There was a back bedroom, then there
20 was the kitchen, then there was another living room,
21 then a bedroom, and then the front of the house.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. We only knew the back of the house. We'd come in the
24 back door all the time, we never come in the front door,
25 or maybe on a Sunday some time we would go out the front

1 door, but always used the back door.

2 Q. Was it a house with an upstairs?

3 A. It had upstairs, but I never been upstairs. I went
4 upstairs once or twice -- no, once when I had my
5 accident and another time one of the guests told us
6 stories, we went up there and he told us a story and we
7 sat on the floor. It was only two or three times I had
8 been upstairs.

9 Q. You mention guests. Were these people that visited or
10 were they lodgers who stayed there?

11 A. Lodgers. Lodgers, a bed and breakfast, I suppose.

12 Q. Did they use the upstairs rooms in the house?

13 A. Sorry?

14 Q. Did the lodgers stay in the upstairs rooms?

15 A. Yeah, they stayed upstairs, yeah.

16 Q. You tell us a little bit more about this room at the
17 back. You say that there was no paper on the walls and
18 no carpets or anything on the floor.

19 A. No. The floor -- I don't know, there's no carpet,
20 linoleum through kitchen or -- I don't know about
21 wallpaper. There was just one bed, six of us in it,
22 three boys at the top, three girls at the bottom or
23 whatever, a big rubber sheet in the middle and you just
24 woke up in a pool of water.

25 When I started doing the deliveries, I got a little

1 bed at the side, a little camp bed, which managed to
2 stay dry. The bed was a big rubber sheet that was hung
3 out every day. There was just coats on the bed, no
4 proper bedding or pillow slips, just kind of old
5 pillows, all stained and no pillow slips or sheets or
6 anything like that.

7 When you got up, you just took off the wet vest and
8 put on another one. You know, just a big pile.

9 Q. You mentioned there that you did deliveries and we'll
10 come back to that. I think you tell us in your
11 statement that you started doing deliveries for a local
12 baker --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- is that right? So we'll come back to that in
15 a moment. You mentioned that there were no bed clothes
16 on the bed, just --

17 A. No, no sheets or proper blankets or anything. It was
18 all kind of coats and maybe an old quilt that was all
19 burst and stuff like that. You just ... the mattress
20 was sunk. Yeah.

21 Q. You say at paragraph 14 that in terms of washing, at the
22 end of that paragraph, you say that a tub was put into
23 the back living room and all six of you had to use that
24 to wash in?

25 A. Yeah. One of those aluminium tubs.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And just take turns about, six of us, the youngest first
3 or the oldest first, and everybody got a quick wash once
4 on a Sunday or something.

5 Q. Was there an inside toilet that you were able to use?

6 A. The toilet was outside, you had to go down the wooden
7 stairs at the back, which was slippery when wet, and there
8 was a toilet and then the wood shed and then the coal
9 shed underneath us. There was a bucket for when it
10 was -- at night-time.

11 Q. A bucket in the room at night?

12 A. There was a bucket at the side of the bed, yeah.

13 Q. Okay.

14 You say at paragraph 15 that you weren't allowed
15 anywhere else in the house except the living room, and
16 you were allowed to watch some television there. Can
17 you tell us a little bit about that?

18 A. Sometimes they'd let us go and sit underneath the dining
19 room table in the living room and watch -- it was Bronco
20 Lane or Laramie, that's about the only two I remember
21 watching. We'd get to watch that around about -- before
22 bed, you know. About 5 o'clock.

23 But in the kitchen we'd just stand around a flap on
24 the thing and eat there, eat there in the kitchen. We
25 did get a bit of television in general, yeah.

1 Q. You mentioned eating in the kitchen. Was there not
2 a table for you to sit at in the kitchen?

3 A. No, there was no sitting. You just stood round -- the
4 cabinet come down and you stood around it, you know.

5 Q. Was the foster carer doing that as well or did she have
6 her meals separate from you?

7 A. Oh no, she was never there. It was just ... you know,
8 made sure we -- I don't know. Yeah, she would kind of
9 put the toast out or something, whatever it was, or the
10 cornflakes every morning.

11 Q. You were talking about bedtime and at paragraph 15 you
12 say that you would be sent to bed about 7 or 8 o'clock.

13 A. Yeah. I used to lie in bed and look at -- there was one
14 window, a little square window at the top, by the door,
15 and you would see the sun and the blue sky and you'd
16 think the beach is across the road and you're lying in
17 bed on a summer's evening.

18 Q. Were you not able to leave the room?

19 A. Sorry? No, no, no, no.

20 Q. Was the room locked or was it that you weren't allowed
21 to leave it?

22 A. I don't know if it was actually locked, it might have
23 been but I don't think it was. You're not allowed --
24 you know. There was no reason to leave the room,
25 really, you know. You had a bucket there.

1 Q. If we move on please to paragraph 17, you talk there
2 about some of the chores that you did in the house.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. What sort of things did you have to do in the house?

5 A. In the house it was mostly the fireplaces, two
6 fireplaces, the main living room and the back living
7 room. I'd do these fires, sometimes my brother would do
8 it as well, and mostly chopping up wood, filling up the
9 coal buckets, that kind of work in the house.

10 Q. You say there that all of you had to collect wood from
11 the beach, usually on a Saturday, and you had to carry
12 it back to the house and chop it up.

13 A. Yeah, Saturday we'd all go out and we'd walk along the
14 beach and pile up bits of wood and then walk back and
15 collect them all and carry them all back in and then
16 maybe just chop a pile of small stuff up for later on
17 and, you know, see to the coal and that.

18 Q. Over the page at paragraph 18 you talk about the
19 accident that you had and you mentioned that a moment
20 ago in your evidence. I think you had an accident when
21 you were riding on your bike; is that right?

22 A. Yeah. With the money I made from the rolls, she bought
23 me a bike. It was a second-hand bike and I got it
24 painted and put new mudguards on it. It was Easter
25 holidays on the Friday and I'd have these lovely shiny

1 plastic mudguards and blue bike and on Friday I have
2 finished school early, a friend, a school mate was
3 delivering papers and I went round with him, first day
4 on it, crashed the bike, burst my head, got four
5 stitches and a clot of blood out. Had to go to Aberdeen
6 to get seen to. The bike went down a hill straight into
7 a house. Yeah.

8 Q. I think you say that when you came back from Aberdeen or
9 back from the hospital, that at that point you were
10 allowed to sleep in one of the beds upstairs?

11 A. One of the times I went upstairs, yeah. And I come down
12 for tea one night and halfway down the stairs I fell,
13 passed out, and I woke up in Aberdeen.

14 Q. I think you say initially after your accident you went
15 to the hospital in Dundee, you were sent home --

16 A. Previous to that, yeah.

17 Q. -- you then collapsed and you then ended up in Aberdeen?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Further down the page, please, you talk about -- under
20 the heading "Food" at paragraph 20, you talk about
21 standing at the fold-down unit.

22 Then at paragraph 21 you talk about this job that
23 you had delivering rolls.

24 A. Mm. It was a Morris Minor with the back door open, keep
25 one door open, I'd sit in the back there and you know in

1 the winter they'd put the chains on the back of the car,
2 there's pretty steep hills in [REDACTED] and I'd
3 just go and run with the rolls, they would be all ready,
4 I would pick them up, run to the door, sometimes get the
5 money under the mat and I'd do that from 5.00 until
6 7.00, I think six days a week, anyway. I don't know how
7 long I did it, about 18 months or two -- 18 months,
8 probably.

9 Q. Okay. What happened to the money that you made from the
10 rolls?

11 A. 12 and 6 I got, and they give it to Mrs BGC and she
12 was saving it for me, but one time she gave me half
13 a crown to go to Dundee to go to the pictures, but
14 that's about all I seen apart from the bike. I never
15 seen any of the -- so half a crown I got one day.

16 Q. Then at paragraph 22 you talk about going to throw
17 leftovers from toast.

18 A. Yeah, they used to have a little tray for throwing to
19 the birds, yeah. Stale bread. Used to walk across the
20 beach and throw it to the birds. Sometimes if you
21 picked a crust up and nobody was looking, you could eat
22 a hard crust. Put stale bread in there and ...

23 Q. Then you talk about -- you said a moment ago "if nobody
24 was looking", and you talk in this paragraph about your
25 sister getting caught.

1 A. Yeah, she was --

2 Q. -- eating one of the crusts?

3 A. Yeah. 'Janet' was caught pinching a scone, so she got

4 a scone and put soap powder on it and made her eat it.

5 Q. Is that something that you remember happening more than

6 once or just the once?

7 A. I remember it happening. I remember her giving her it

8 and she was stood there crying eating it and ...

9 Q. Okay. Then over the next page, if we can go down,

10 please, to visit, at paragraph 26, can you remember

11 anybody coming from the social work department to see

12 you when you were at the BGC ?

13 A. I can't really remember the social workers. I think

14 I heard that somebody was coming and we all got dressed

15 up and lined up and sent across the road to sit on the

16 beach. And I just kind of assumed or heard that the

17 social workers are coming to visit. So we were sent

18 over there and the social workers went in and I don't

19 know, they maybe got a grand tour of the place. I don't

20 know.

21 Q. You say there that when you went to the beach you might

22 have had your photo taken there?

23 A. Yeah, there was a photo taken for -- I remember the

24 photo. I don't -- I don't know. I think my mum had it

25 or something. Taking it for -- taking it for my mum or

1 something.

2 Q. Is that your only memory of having seen or known that
3 social workers were visiting?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. At paragraph 27 you talk about what happened at
6 Christmas time and you say that you remember being given
7 a box with a train set in it.

8 A. Yeah, it was an ordinary cardboard box, big cardboard
9 box like something else was in it and been in shop
10 store, it wasn't a proper train set box. It was just
11 a cardboard box full of train lines and trains and
12 things. And we put it on the floor, made a little
13 circle, run the train around it, put it back in the box
14 under the bed and that was Christmas. Never seen it
15 again.

16 Q. When you say it was put under the bed, whose bed was it
17 put under?

18 A. It was put under the bedroom adjoining the back living
19 room. You would go up a step and there was a bedroom
20 there and then the living room was behind it.

21 Q. So not the room that you were in then?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Then over the page at paragraph 29, you say that you
24 don't remember much about birthdays, although you would
25 be given half a crown on your birthday. Can you

1 remember that?

2 A. I can't remember any birthdays really, cards with
3 birthdays or getting a sweetie or something like that.
4 I can't remember a particular birthday that I got a toy
5 or something. I can't see a toy that I got at
6 Christmas -- maybe I got one and I can't remember one.

7 Q. At paragraph 30 you talk about berry picking. Can you
8 tell us about that, please?

9 A. Sorry?

10 Q. At paragraph 30 you talk about berry picking. Can you
11 tell us a little bit more about that?

12 A. Yeah, during the school holidays we'd get sent to pick
13 berries. We'd go to the top of the hill and go to the
14 berry fields and the farmer would put us all on the same
15 bit and we'd take -- we had to bring some berries home
16 because he made jam. We'd bring a basket full of
17 berries home plus what money we'd made, which I don't
18 know how much that would be, it would be something in
19 shilling, five or six shillings maybe or anything like
20 that, probably, and just give us that and we'd just go
21 there in the morning during the school holidays, that's
22 what we did.

23 Q. Did you know what became of the money that you were
24 paid?

25 A. No, they just give us the money and ...

1 Q. In the next section of your statement you talk about
2 abuse that you suffered when you were in this placement.
3 At paragraph 31, you talk about a specific incident that
4 you can remember with Mrs BGC 's son. Are you able to
5 tell us about that?

6 A. Well, we were stood in the back bedroom -- the back
7 living room, sorry, and I remember all of us were there,
8 all -- and we were all talking something at and I said
9 summat and he reached over, grabbed me by the throat,
10 picked me up, took me into that bedroom, threw me on the
11 bed, put a pillow over me and I was kicking and kicking,
12 and then I realised I can't get out and I just laid
13 still and he let me go. And I -- I didn't know if she
14 was shouting to him or something.

15 Q. Is this the son who was the commando?

16 A. That was FCC yeah.

17 Q. And --

18 A. Well, I was always on my guard every time I met him
19 after that, I think, looking back. But yeah.

20 Q. And you say you think you were about 12 or 13 at the
21 time?

22 A. Yeah, that would be before my accident, so the accident
23 was when I was 12.

24 Q. Okay. You also think that Mrs BGC was standing
25 watching it from the door?

1 A. Well, Mrs BGC was there, yeah, yeah, she was --
2 I mean, I don't know much else was going on, but I can
3 imagine she was probably screaming at him to obviously,
4 hopefully, let him go. I don't know what was said,
5 I don't know what I said.

6 Q. Then at paragraph 32 you say that you don't recall much
7 discipline from Mrs BGC herself.

8 A. Yeah, well, FJP was a pretty nasty person, but it
9 was, you know, just verbal abuse you got from her.

10 Q. When you say FJP are you referring to the daughter
11 or the mother?

12 A. Yeah, the daughter, yeah. She'd order us around and
13 make us do stuff and work and do -- you know, just
14 general dogsbody while she sat back.

15 Q. So you say at paragraph 33 that I think the son that
16 you've mentioned and his sister, who you've mentioned,
17 were the ones who were really nasty to you.

18 A. How do you mean, sorry?

19 Q. At paragraph 33, I think, that highlighted section
20 there, that's saying:
21 "FCC and his sister FJP were the ones who were
22 really nasty to us."

23 A. Yeah. Well, LAR was kind of ... I could see he had
24 a bit of sympathy for us, you could see he was the kind
25 of nice -- nice -- he was nice, you know, and talked to

1 us and stuff.

2 Q. So he was the elder son and he was nicer?

3 A. I think he was the oldest one, yeah. He was just nice,
4 but he never showed it in front of the rest of them.

5 Q. If we go on to the top of the next page, please.

6 At paragraph 34 you say there:

7 "There were times when some of the family were moved
8 out of the BGC but we never knew where they went or
9 what happened to them. One day they were with us and
10 the next they were gone."

11 I think there you're talking about your brothers and
12 sisters; is that right?

13 A. I think that was in answer to -- yeah, because, like,
14 FBS went to some convent and went to a borstal.
15 And I know later that FDB went to my mum's and stuff
16 like that.

17 Yeah. I can't really remember leaving and all that
18 and getting shifted about.

19 Q. So they would go and you wouldn't know where they had
20 gone?

21 A. No, no. I generally found out later, but I don't know
22 how later, but ... yeah.

23 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 35 that you ran away and
24 then you talk about what happened after that. Do you
25 know why you ran away from the BGC?

1 A. No, I don't know why.

2 Q. You tell us that you were placed in foster care, so
3 another foster care placement, I think, for about
4 a month with two other lads.

5 A. Yeah. I think it must have been like a stepping stone
6 between [REDACTED] and then going to the children's
7 home and I thought they had to fill the gap in between,
8 because I remember being with this foster parent for
9 a couple of weeks and then going to the children's home.
10 So whether they were waiting for a space for me or
11 something is what I can think about.

12 Q. When you were at this foster placement, did you go to
13 school?

14 A. Yeah. I remember getting the bus from there going back
15 into town. It was on the edge of Dundee somewhere and
16 it was back into Dundee, so I'd go back to the same
17 school, I think.

18 Q. Okay. What are your memories of being at school? You
19 said that you moved through lots of schools when you
20 were young?

21 A. Yeah. Well, I went to one school and the teacher just
22 told me to sit there, you don't have to do anything,
23 because I didn't know anything about what they were
24 doing. The kids were sniggering at me because it was
25 algebra. But that was in between two schools.

1 Q. And you hadn't been taught about it before?

2 A. No, not really. But when I got to the children's home
3 I went to the [REDACTED] High and that's where I spent my
4 last year.

5 Q. Okay. So you talk about moving on to a children's home
6 after you left the foster care placement with the other
7 two boys in it. Have you had any reflections on the
8 difference between the children's home and what you
9 experienced when you were living in [REDACTED]?

10 A. Yeah, the children's home was -- we had beds, we had
11 sheets, we had pyjamas, we cleaned our teeth, we had
12 a bath, we had television, we had a play room, we had
13 bike rides, we had Christmas parties, we had birthday
14 parties, we'd get out to play, we would mingle with
15 other kids, we went to school, we'd get dress uniforms,
16 proper shoes. Just everything. Central heating, warm
17 bedrooms. God, table sitting down, cups of tea, red
18 table, green table, mum and dad, food, you got your
19 little job to do. Just blended in. Lovely. Mixed in
20 and got on great.

21 Q. Is that something that you realised at the time or is
22 that something that you've reflected on as you've looked
23 back?

24 A. Well, really, just took it for granted, really. I just
25 didn't realise what you -- well, you didn't -- you just

1 thought you -- I don't know. Didn't know anything
2 better from what we were. You know, looking back you
3 see that -- you see how nice it was in the children's
4 home. And I look back to that with fond memories of the
5 children's home, you know. There were gangs of us, we
6 went on holiday and ...

7 Q. Then if we go on to paragraph 45, you say there that you
8 had -- sorry, it's at the bottom of page 8. You say
9 that you had run away when you stayed at the BGC
10 but sometimes you were returned or you were always
11 returned to her by the police.

12 A. Yeah. I don't know why I ran away at Duncan Place.
13 I just used to run away, I think. And children's
14 officer Mrs Harrington came, went up to -- that was the
15 head children's officer at Dundee. Had to go and see
16 her. Lovely woman. Asked me what I wanted to do in
17 life. And ... (Pause). And, yeah, she sent me to the
18 Navy.

19 Q. I think you said that you had told her that you wanted
20 to join the Navy?

21 A. Yeah, she asked me what I wanted to do, I said I wanted
22 to join the Navy, and ... and she did it.

23 Q. I think that you then did spend some time in the -- you
24 went to sea school, I think, and then you went to the
25 Merchant Navy?

1 A. Yeah, I went to sea school for 15 months in Wales and
2 then joined the Navy and away I went.

3 Q. Then over that time, were you able to find your mother
4 again?

5 A. I did when I come home from sea, yeah and seeing the
6 grandmother and found out things and found out, well,
7 where some of the family were and stuff like that. It
8 wasn't until I'd been married until about into the 1980s
9 that I found about the -- all of them. I knew that
10 [REDACTED] was in -- I remember she was in Glasgow and
11 I don't know where [REDACTED] was. Oh, he was in prison. [REDACTED]
12 was with my mum. And [REDACTED] had -- they were living in
13 [REDACTED] yeah. So I sort of seen them some time and
14 I come to visit them, yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: 'Bob', how old were you when you found your
16 mother?

17 A. Sorry?

18 LADY SMITH: How old were you when you found your mother?

19 A. Oh, that would be about 1965, because I remember I came
20 off a ship in 1965 and I had a bit of time and that's --
21 19 --

22 LADY SMITH: So you were still a teenager then?

23 A. 1965, yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS INNES: If we go on a little in your statement, you say

1 at paragraph 52 on page 10, you talk there about Duncan
2 Place, the children's home, was all right. Then you say
3 I think that the foster placement in [REDACTED] was
4 really bad but it was still better than your life with
5 your father.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You say that you've tried to block out most of the
8 foster care out of your mind. You don't want to dwell
9 on your time there, and you've not "felt the need to
10 have any support foster counselling for my time in
11 care", you say.

12 A. That was because when I was asked to do this and I had
13 to look back to that time, I thought: well, I never
14 really thought much about that. It was like gone, get
15 on with it. So -- yeah. It was obviously better than
16 being at home where we lived where we got real beatings.
17 So anything was better than that.

18 Q. If we go on to the final page of your statement, please,
19 under "Other information" at paragraph 57, so this is
20 where you're talking about some lessons that we should
21 learn from your experience and you say at paragraph 57:

22 "I think there should be more checking of children
23 in care and their welfare."

24 And you hope that children in care today are not
25 being treated like you were, and:

1 "Hopefully with people coming forward to the Inquiry
2 it can be of help to the children currently in care.

3 Can you maybe explain a little bit more about your
4 thoughts in relation to checking on children in care?

5 A. Yeah, it was -- when I was asked to do this, again, it
6 was a case of other kids might be in the position you're
7 in and nobody's ... and then connection with your
8 families, like we should have been -- you know, thinking
9 that we should have, like, met the rest of the family
10 once in a while, got to know our other brothers and
11 sisters, even though it was only a birthday or a -- or
12 a -- you know, Christmas or something like that, which
13 never happened. So things like that should have
14 happened. Because I look at my sister now, I know she's
15 my sister, so I still love her, but ... you know, I have
16 got no memories of her.

17 Q. Yes. So you talk about -- so that would be one of your
18 sisters that wasn't placed with you?

19 A. Yeah, that was one of the three that weren't, yeah.

20 Q. You talk about that at paragraph 58 where you say that
21 if a group are separated, then there should be more
22 information made available about where they have gone as
23 well.

24 A. Yeah. Not -- yeah. Well, nobody told us anything about
25 anything, so, you know, we just -- you just get on and

1 get on with it, don't you? Well yeah, well, you
2 know, once you've grown up a bit, then you start to look
3 around and find out for yourself what happened, where
4 have you been and what have you done and find out all
5 that then.

6 MS INNES: Okay, thank you, 'Bob'. I don't have any more
7 questions for you, and no applications have been made,
8 my Lady.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Could I check whether there are any
10 outstanding applications for questions?

11 'Bob', that completes all the questions we have for
12 you this morning. Just let me thank you very much
13 indeed for having engaged with us, both by providing
14 your written statement, which is evidence before me, and
15 coming along to give oral evidence this morning, which
16 has made so much of it come alive for me in a way it
17 wouldn't otherwise have done. I'm very grateful to you
18 for that.

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you, and I'm now able to let you go and
21 hopefully breathe a sigh of relief that the difficult
22 part of your day is over.

23 A. Okay, thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

1 MS INNES: Ms Rattray is now going to read in a statement,
2 my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

5 'Janet' (read)

6 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
7 who is anonymous and her pseudonym is 'Janet'.
8 'Janet's' statement is at WIT.001.002.0896. My Lady, as
9 explained earlier, 'Janet' is a sibling of the only
10 witnesses who we are hearing from today. The records
11 state that she was boarded out by Dundee Corporation to
12 a placement in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1959.

13 She was then moved to a second placement on [REDACTED]
14 1964 in [REDACTED] Fife.

15 My Lady, 'Janet' died in 2019:

16 "My name is 'Janet'. I was born in 1952. My
17 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

18 I was born in Singapore. My dad was in the army at
19 the time. My sister was born there too. I have no
20 memory of life there. The there were ten of us
21 altogether, but two have passed away. There are four
22 boys and there were six girls in my family. I'm number
23 five. We moved back to Scotland when I was a toddler,
24 probably no more than two years old. We moved about
25 a bit, but mainly Dundee. We lived in Stirling.

1 I remember one time being in Fintry, but mainly Stirling
2 and Dundee.

3 My mother had a child practically every year, apart
4 from the oldest and youngest, who were just over a year
5 between the ones next to them. My mum wasn't a big
6 person and enough was enough with my dad who was
7 an alcoholic. She left one night. I remember it even
8 though I was only young. She said she was going to
9 clean my uncle's house, who was her brother. It was
10 a number of years before we saw her again.

11 I remember living with my mum. We didn't have much
12 money because of my dad's drinking. Mum kept a clean
13 house, though. It was only a one- or two bedroom-house
14 for all of us. She always made a fresh pot of soup
15 every day because there was a lot more nourishment in
16 that. I know that because my older sister told me.

17 Nine of us went into care. The youngest was a baby.
18 I think an aunt brought her up in Stirling. We were
19 left with my dad. He had two aunties to help. I don't
20 remember their names. If it was a couple of months,
21 that was all. I wouldn't say my dad tried to look after
22 us. I'd say the aunts tried. He'd spend his time in
23 the pub. He left before we went into care and was never
24 seen again. Then the aunts left. I don't even remember
25 them. I think it was a neighbour who called the Social

1 Services.

2 We went to what we called the shelter in Dundee for
3 about two weeks. After a short time, the six oldest all
4 went to a foster parent. My sister and I were the
5 longest, at least four years.

6 I was seven when I moved into foster care. I had
7 just turned seven the month before, because we fathomed
8 out it was around [REDACTED] as it was a wintery stormy
9 night. It was really wild weather. It was across the
10 road from the beach and the water was very rough.

11 The woman we went to hadn't fostered children before
12 she got us, so why she got six children, I don't know.
13 It seemed fine when we arrived. I think it was Dundee
14 social work that organised it. We were taken from the
15 shelter. I don't know who took us. Her name was
16 Mrs BGC. We were to call her Auntie BGC. I don't
17 know what her first name was. Her husband was dead.
18 She had two sons living at home and a daughter. The
19 daughter actually moved around the corner when she got
20 married. She was so cruel. Mrs BGC also took in
21 lodgers.

22 The shelter had been good. We enjoyed the shelter.
23 We were taken to [REDACTED] by the social work.
24 They were shown the rooms we'd be sleeping in and it
25 looked really good. We just thought this looks really

1 comfortable. When the social work went away, we were
2 all put into this little maid's room at the back of the
3 house behind the kitchen. There was one double bed in
4 it. The boys were at one end and the girls at the
5 other. All the stuff and rooms that she'd shown the
6 social work weren't for us. They were for the lodgers
7 and her two sons.

8 The house had four bedrooms upstairs, a dining room,
9 sitting room for the lodgers and a bedroom in between
10 that where she slept. There was another sitting room
11 and a small kitchen with the maid's room at the back.

12 Eventually the bed disappeared and the mattress fell
13 on the floor. We slept there. One of my sisters was
14 there for just over a year and then we didn't see her
15 again. She had special needs. I can't say this for
16 definite, but I think she was abused by my dad because
17 she wasn't his daughter. I had a different dad. We
18 didn't know this until later on in life.

19 It was tea time onwards when we got there on the
20 first day. It was winter time, so it was dark. I can't
21 remember specifically what happened on the first night.
22 We just did what we were told and went where we were
23 told. When you're young, you are wary of people you
24 don't know. I don't remember an awful lot about my
25 first full day there.

1 I remember a lot that went on throughout our time
2 there, but day by day I'm not sure. We ended up being
3 slaves to her. The typical day was cleaning and making
4 food. We got up at 6 am. She would unlock the door and
5 let us out. If we needed the toilet during the day, we
6 went outside to the toilet under the house. We weren't
7 allowed to use the toilet in the house. At night it was
8 a bucket in the room as we were locked in. We went to
9 bed about 10 pm onwards and the room door was always
10 locked.

11 We got dressed, then got the table set for the
12 lodgers and helped cook the food. Her two sons were
13 upstairs. She had a long-term lodger, he was nice. He
14 used to tell us stories. I can't remember names. There
15 was a part-time lodger who would stay when he had
16 business in the area. When the Tay Bridge was being
17 built, she took in four lodgers, two in each room. So
18 all the bedrooms were taken and her sons moved
19 downstairs to the bedroom between the dining
20 room/sitting room. So there were six lodgers.

21 Mrs BGC younger son and his girlfriend were nice to
22 us, then they got married. When she wasn't around, he'd
23 let us watch the television. As soon as we knew she was
24 back, we'd scurry back into our room.

25 I don't know where our clothes came from. I imagine

1 it would have been the authorities. When I was in
2 ██████████ we got a note to get clothes from the co-op,
3 so it must have been something similar.

4 We weren't fed well, so when we made the toast, we'd
5 cut a slither off it for us to eat. We then cleared up
6 before school. She sent one of us to the bakers to get
7 rolls, milk and bread before the lodgers were ready for
8 their breakfast. While at the bakers, we would steal
9 a couple of rolls and eat them on the way to school
10 between the five of us. My other sister went to
11 a different school. We stole milk from doorsteps.
12 I can't remember what we had for breakfast.

13 After the lodgers ate, I think we got whatever
14 scraps were left to eat, but I'm not sure at what time.
15 She would doctor food, like biscuits, with mustard or
16 other horrible stuff so that we wouldn't eat them. But
17 we thought: then nobody can eat them.

18 I know we were fed to a certain extent, but I can't
19 recall what the food was like. The food was scarce,
20 hence we'd steal the rolls to survive.

21 We went to primary school. I can't remember if we
22 came home from school at lunchtime. It was about
23 a ten-minute walk. After school, I would walk back with
24 my sister. We took our time because we were always
25 petrified to go home.

1 School was brilliant. We also went to church with
2 the school. I was seven when I went there. I think we
3 had a different teacher each year. They were kind to
4 us. I think in a way the school knew there was
5 something wrong but in those days it wasn't reported.
6 We were happy there and I was good at school, but she
7 would keep us off if she needed to us babysit her
8 daughter's children. In those days I don't think she
9 had to write a note to the school about the absence.

10 We went to church on Sunday. She sent us there but
11 we were happy to go because we were away from her.
12 Being in her space was not nice. It was Church of
13 Scotland, I think. She didn't go with us. She had
14 something to do with the church, whether it was the same
15 one we went to, we don't know. We didn't see her there.

16 My mum visited us a couple of times, maybe a year or
17 18 months after we moved there. This was organised
18 through the Social Services. We went out, had a walk
19 for an hour or two.

20 The social work came out but they spoke to
21 Mrs BGC, not us. I'm not sure how often. Maybe once
22 a year. We weren't aware they were coming. She showed
23 the social work the bedrooms we were meant to be
24 sleeping in, but those were where the lodgers slept.
25 I couldn't tell you who the social worker was.

1 At Christmas time we would go round to her
2 daughter's house and do the cooking for them. We
3 weren't allowed to eat until they were done, then we
4 would get the scraps. We didn't get any presents at
5 Christmas or for our birthday.

6 My mum knew that my sister and I wanted a watch.
7 She got to see us a couple of times a year. She got us
8 both a watch, but Mrs BGC took them from us and we
9 never saw them again. We didn't even get them on our
10 wrists.

11 We would wash in the kitchen. There was a big white
12 sink. My brother wet the bed a bit. He was a year
13 younger than me. He was knocked down by a lorry when he
14 was three and was traumatised. More than a couple of
15 times, my sister and I had to throw him into the sea
16 naked if he wet the bed or Mrs BGC would put him into
17 an ice cold sink of water so he was even more
18 traumatised. I can't remember ever getting a bath. We
19 washed in the kitchen. It wasn't a big kitchen. It's
20 something I can't even remember. I know we washed as we
21 would have to be clean for school, but there are things
22 that just get put aside. It's all the traumatic things
23 I remember.

24 I have no memory of ever seeing a doctor. I was at
25 hospital once. I had a bottle of Coke, a glass bottle.

1 Along with my sister and brother, I tried to break it
2 and cut my hand. I went to hospital to get it stitched.
3 One of her sons took me.

4 We never went to see a dentist. I don't know if we
5 ever brushed our teeth.

6 There was no play time except at school. If she was
7 going out, we would maybe get out because she wouldn't
8 want us in the house. She always kept the pantry
9 locked.

10 It was fine when we were taking the dogs for a walk
11 but it didn't happen very often. We just tried to keep
12 ourselves out of her way. Sometimes we would get out
13 and go for a walk or go down to the beach, but it was
14 few and far between. She had a small garden at the
15 front and a shared garden at the back of the house.

16 She never let us watch television. We had no books
17 or comics. The department sent us a bike once. It was
18 brand new. She sold it to one of the lodgers. We never
19 got the use of it.

20 I think one time we went to some hill to roll Easter
21 eggs. That was the only trip. I can't remember but my
22 sister told me.

23 The weekends were spent cleaning, preparing food and
24 doing bits and bobs. She might be kind enough now and
25 again to let us go over the road to get rid of us.

1 On the odd occasion we got out. There was a girl
2 who stayed in the house around the corner we were
3 friendly with. There were cottages where children from
4 our school stayed. We spoke to them but we never really
5 got out that much. I think some of the neighbours knew
6 what was happening but they wouldn't report it.

7 We were sent on holiday twice for a week by the
8 authorities. I think we were all there. I'm not
9 100 per cent sure. We went to stay with a family in
10 East Weymss, who had kids, and we went to Arbroath and
11 stayed with a family who had kids. It was brilliant.
12 We didn't have to cower in case you got thumped.

13 One of my sisters was there for about a year and
14 a bit. She just left and we never saw her again.
15 I don't know where she went at the time. Years later we
16 met up. We found out she lived in Dover by this time.
17 I don't know where she went from the house.

18 The boys were taken away one at a time or something
19 like that. They were quite quick in leaving and we
20 never saw them again either. Years later, my older
21 sister looked for them and we all met up. For about two
22 years, my sister and I were the only ones there so we
23 had to do all the work.

24 My younger siblings were aged five, four and three.
25 We got taken to see them twice. The social work took

1 us. The first time was to a home past Edinburgh.
2 I can't remember the second one. One of my sisters told
3 us that they had a good life.

4 We never saw the baby again. She died in her early
5 40s. Two of my sisters are dead.

6 When we got home from school, we got changed out of
7 our uniforms then did more work. We made dinner, more
8 housework, cleaned toilets. I don't think she did
9 anything herself. There were two dogs there too. It
10 would be late before we got to bed. Maybe not midnight
11 but quite late by the time we had done everything she
12 made us do. We were her slaves.

13 We all had specific jobs. I had to clean the
14 toilets. Somebody would make the beds, Hoover and clean
15 the kitchen and the dining room. The lodgers' beds were
16 made by us every day. It could have been any time
17 between them going to work and coming home for tea.
18 Even my brother, who was knocked down by a lorry, still
19 had to do what he could. She didn't have a heart.

20 Sometimes we didn't step out of line. We didn't
21 have to do anything and her or her son or daughter would
22 give us a punch or a slap for no reason out of the blue.
23 They knew where to hit you. They wouldn't hit you on
24 the face or any part of the body that was on show. It
25 was always the shoulder or a slap across the back of the

1 head.

2 The son and daughter would just punch or slap you as
3 you walked by them. They were adults. Maybe in their
4 late 20s. I wouldn't know at that age.

5 Mrs BGC battered me for stealing something out of
6 a frying pan. I didn't even do it, it was a chop and
7 I don't like meat. It was my brother that took it, not
8 me, but I wouldn't tell her. I didn't take the blame,
9 she just blamed me. I got really hurt. The punches
10 I got was really painful. I kept telling her I hadn't
11 done it. It depended on what you were getting it for.
12 It was constant, for anything that annoyed her, even if
13 it wasn't anything to do with us, not just for things
14 that we did wrong.

15 She was given pocket money for us but we never got
16 anything. When we moved to our other foster house, we
17 got pocket money. She couldn't take anything else from
18 us except self-confidence, self-respect and dignity. We
19 were spoken to like we were dirt you sweep from the
20 carpet. There was viciousness in her voice.

21 If we were at the shop getting messages, the lodgers
22 would say hello. One bought my sister and I a chocolate
23 bar. My sister put hers in her pocket. I was eating
24 mine and the daughter walked down the street and took it
25 from me. In their eyes, we weren't allowed things like

1 that. We saw the lodgers at meal times and if they were
2 at the shops when we were there.

3 Mrs BGC made us go and pick fruit from the old
4 railway line. People would have overgrown trees. The
5 train came once a day at 1 o'clock so we were careful
6 not to be on the line at that time. She made jam with
7 the fruit and doctored it so that we wouldn't eat it.

8 We were allowed to take the dogs for a walk. There
9 was sand under the sink in the kitchen and the little
10 dog did its business there. We had to take that over to
11 the beach and bury it. I have no happy memory of living
12 in that house.

13 When there was only my sister and I staying there,
14 my sister ran away. I don't know if the boys ever spoke
15 about running away. I found out she was not coming back
16 to the house after school that day. She was going to
17 Dundee, to the authorities. She didn't know how to get
18 there. Neither did I. I told her she wasn't going
19 without me. We walked to Dundee. It was three miles.
20 We were near the start of the bridge and the daughter
21 was on a bus and saw us. She got off and made us walk
22 back. We got a really bad punching for running away.

23 My sister ran away again but went herself and didn't
24 say anything to me. She didn't come home after school.
25 I got punched but I wouldn't say where she was. They

1 didn't believe me so I got hit constantly. A friend let
2 her stay in a shed and gave her sandwiches. She came to
3 school the next day and the authorities were called in
4 and took us away. They came to my class and took me
5 out. We were taken to the shelter in Dundee. The
6 teachers must have contacted the authorities and they
7 eventually found out from us what was going on.

8 When we left, my sister and I went back to the
9 shelter for no more than two weeks, then we moved to
10 [REDACTED] The couple we were fostered to were
11 [REDACTED] and I think [REDACTED] He died a few years
12 after we got there.

13 It was like we had won star prize in a game show
14 going there. The social work took us there. I was
15 about 11 when I went and stayed until I was 19 when
16 I got married. My sister got married at 19 and left,
17 then the next year I got married.

18 We had never seen the [REDACTED] before we went there.
19 What we had found out was that they had fostered a lot
20 of children before us, whereas the other one hadn't
21 fostered anyone before. When we went there first day,
22 we got pocket money from the social work. This was the
23 first time ever. The social work wanted to speak to
24 Mrs [REDACTED] so we were to go out and have a look about
25 and play. We went to the shops and bought sweeties. It

1 was great to have the freedom to be told to just go out
2 and have a bit of fun.

3 Mrs [REDACTED] was born in 1912 and we went there in
4 1963. They had four grown up children. The oldest was
5 staying there and then he went to the Air Force. He
6 then came back to the house until he died.

7 The two daughters were there, then they emigrated to
8 Boston, USA and Canada. The oldest one went to Canada.
9 The youngest son emigrated to Canada too. He's still
10 there.

11 It was a three-bedroom house. My sister and
12 I shared a room. It was a spacious bedroom with proper
13 beds. We were like little scared rats. It took us
14 a couple of weeks to start feeling comfortable.

15 Mrs [REDACTED] was very nice. We had our chores to do but
16 what children didn't.

17 We got up about 7.30 am to 7.45 am, got washed,
18 ready, had breakfast and off to school. We initially
19 went to primary school but I should have been in year 1
20 of high school and my sister in year 2. When we went to
21 high school, sometimes we'd walk home for lunch or we'd
22 go to school dinners. We'd come home after school and
23 do our homework.

24 I went to [REDACTED] Primary School and then Lochore
25 High School. It's now a primary school. We moved there

1 at the beginning of June, so we had roughly four weeks
2 of school before holidays.

3 We walked to the primary school for four weeks.
4 After the summer holidays, I went to first year at high
5 school. It was fine. My sister was in second year.
6 She would fight with all the boys. I would bring her
7 coat home. I did well at school. If we were stuck with
8 homework, we could ask the [REDACTED]. They were there.
9 My sister and I were lucky we were kept together. She's
10 11 months and a day older than me.

11 We learnt that we had nothing to scared of. We went
12 out to play. In the summer we were out until midnight.
13 When we were at school, I think bedtime was about 9 pm
14 but summer time was different. At weekends we'd help
15 with the shopping. We would put cloths on our feet and
16 dust the floor around the sides. There was a carpet in
17 the centre. Usual housework, but not on the scale we'd
18 had.

19 On a Sunday we went to church. My sister and I went
20 together to a church down the road. Mrs [REDACTED] went to
21 a different church.

22 We didn't have showers but there was a bath at the
23 bottom of the stairs and there wasn't a problem having
24 a bath. They grew fruit in the garden and we helped
25 pick that up.

1 One doctor lived up a hill and another stayed up
2 another hill. Their practices were attached to their
3 houses. If we needed to go, we were taken there.
4 Everything was fine. We went to a dentist as well. We
5 had brushes and toothpaste, something we didn't have in

6

7 We had birthdays and Christmases. We got something
8 for our birthday and at Christmas. Not masses, but we
9 got something. They were good to us. We got nothing at

10

11 I think we got to visit three of our younger
12 siblings in the home past Edinburgh when we were in
13 ██████████. I think the social work came occasionally,
14 maybe once a year, to talk about foster care. I can't
15 remember my mum visiting. She did come to my sister's
16 and my wedding.

17 We didn't go away on holiday but during the fair's
18 fortnight we went on bus trips to Kinghorn, St Andrew's
19 and Burntisland. The miners would put buses on.

20 We made friends in ██████████ We watched
21 television, Dr Who and Dixon of Dock Green. When
22 Mrs ██████████ went to bingo, we watched what we wanted to.
23 We bought comics with our pocket money.

24 I can't ever remember getting taken for clothes
25 while I was in ██████████ but Mrs ██████████ took us to

1 the co-op and we got uniforms and summer dresses. She
2 got vouchers for the clothes. We got two shillings and
3 sixpence pocket money every week. The food was good.
4 Good home cooking.

5 While we were there, Mrs [REDACTED] fostered her own
6 nephew. It was quite tragic. He came with only baby
7 clothes but he was coming up for five or six years old.
8 He had been with his dad and step-mum and spent some of
9 his time in a rabbit hutch. The woman was cruel to him.
10 It was a couple of years after we'd got there. I was
11 13. I'm not sure if Mrs [REDACTED] fostered him or just
12 took him on. He was still there when I left.

13 When they told us to do something, we did it, we
14 washed dishes and put dusters on our feet to clean the
15 floor. Just little chores. There was no abuse at the
16 [REDACTED] It was a happy time. If you needed a row,
17 you got a row, but it wasn't a big thing. We were
18 trusted. It was a hundred times over the opposite of
19 [REDACTED] They had fostered children for years,
20 whereas Mrs BGC never had.

21 We were never told by the social work that we were
22 no longer in their care. We stayed with the [REDACTED]
23 after we were 16, but we worked and paid dig money. My
24 sister got married at 19 and left. A year later, I got
25 married and left.

1 I started work in the February when I was 16 as
2 a machinist. I then went to college, initially for six
3 months in a local college for professional cookery.
4 I didn't want to go into silver service so I then went
5 to food tech in Glasgow doing bakery from 1988 to 1990.

6 I have two children, a son and a daughter, and four
7 grandchildren."

8 My Lady, from paragraphs 74 to 78, 'Janet' tells us
9 about her contact with her family. She kept in contact
10 with her siblings and her mother but not her father.
11 'Janet' thinks that they would probably have been
12 a closer family if they hadn't been in care.

13 I'm now moving to paragraph 79 on page 15:

14 "I have never received counselling and I haven't
15 officially reported my abuse.

16 We told my mum about the abuse and she said she
17 would see what she could do. I don't know if she
18 approached the authorities because nothing changed.

19 The second time we visited our younger siblings was
20 at a house where they lived. I can't remember if we
21 were in Fife by then. We never told the social work
22 about what was happening to us. We told our younger
23 siblings about it, but they were younger than us, so
24 what we were telling them they would probably forget.

25 We eventually told the social work what was

1 happening to us when my sister ran away after school and
2 as a result we were taken from school to the shelter in
3 Dundee.

4 It's taken me a long time to be more normal. It's
5 to do with the first foster care. Being with the
6 ██████████ helped me through it. I used to wonder why
7 somebody could treat people like that, but going from
8 there to Mrs ██████████ house made a big difference.

9 The social work should make it easier for people to
10 approach them. People get the wrong impression of
11 social workers. It puts them off. I've never said
12 anything about the social work but others have said: why
13 bother getting in touch with them? When we took our two
14 grandchildren on, they were three and five years old and
15 I went to the social work to see what they could do to
16 help us but they weren't interested. That annoyed me.

17 I'd have liked to have been able to trust someone
18 enough to be able to speak to them. There was never
19 anyone coming to us and asking how we were doing or is
20 this working out for you? They need to have that
21 approach when they deal with children in care in case
22 there are problems.

23 I would say the problem is still going on somewhere
24 and children are petrified. It gets to the stage that
25 if someone asks you about the foster parent you're too

1 scared to say anything, knowing they are going to go
2 away and you're left there. My two foster homes were
3 like chalk and cheese.

4 I phoned Dundee social work office to get a copy of
5 my records but was told that they would have been
6 destroyed anyway, but nonetheless there had been a fire
7 and they were destroyed. I took this at face value but
8 I spoke to my sister and she said that she and two other
9 siblings had got their after I'd requested mine.

10 I was sent a bank book and wondered why it wasn't in
11 my records. I didn't ask for it and knew nothing about
12 it. It came with a letter in 1977 from Tayside Regional
13 Council.

14 I hope the Inquiry achieves enough to save the next
15 person. You can only take it day by day. There's only
16 so many you can save but you need to get the proper
17 story.

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

22 The statement was signed by 'Janet' on
23 27 August 2018.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Rattray.

25 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for this

1 part of the morning. There is another witness who is
2 due I think at 11.45, so perhaps we could take
3 a break --

4 LADY SMITH: I'll rise now and sit again at quarter to after
5 the break. Thank you.

6 (11.15 am)

7 (A short break)

8 (11.45 am)

9 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

10 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness is 'Lauren', again in
11 the care of Dundee Corporation, now Dundee City Council.
12 She was also put into the foster placement at [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1959 and remained there until
14 [REDACTED] 1964, when she and 'Janet', who we've already
15 heard her statement read in, moved to other carers.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 'Lauren' (sworn)

18 LADY SMITH: Now, 'Lauren', as I think has just been
19 mentioned, that red folder has a hard copy of your
20 statement in it, if you find that helpful. We'll also
21 put the parts of your statement that we're taking you to
22 up on screen in front of you, so you could use that as
23 well, if it's of any use to you.

24 I know that giving evidence isn't easy and the whole
25 idea of doing it can seem very stressful in advance.

1 Now, help me prove to you that it doesn't need to be
2 stressful and difficult and do that by letting me know
3 if you have any concerns, any questions, if you want
4 a break at any time, if you want a question repeated or
5 if you don't understand it, it's absolutely all right to
6 say. It's our problem, not yours, to sort that out for
7 you.

8 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
9 she'll take it from there. Is that all right?

10 A. Yes, that's fine, thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Ms Innes.

13 MS INNES: Thank you.

14 Questions from Ms Innes

15 MS INNES: 'Lauren', I understand that you were born,
16 I think, in Singapore in 1951?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that right?

19 We have a copy of your statement on the screen and
20 it's in the folder in front of you. If I can just take
21 you first to the final page of it, please, at
22 paragraph 67. I think we see there that you say that
23 you have no objection to your witness statement being
24 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry and you
25 believe the facts stated in this statement are true.

1 I think you signed the statement on 10 August 2018; is
2 that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. If I can take you back, please, to the start of your
5 statement. At paragraph 2 you tell us that you are the
6 fourth eldest of ten children; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You tell us a little bit about what you remember of your
9 early life. If we can move on, please, to the next
10 page, at paragraph 9, I think ultimately you told us
11 that you lived in Stirling but then you were living in
12 Dundee and there came a point when your mother left you.
13 Is that right?

14 A. Yes, yes.

15 Q. You say at paragraph 9 that you understand that your
16 mother wrote to the social work department explaining
17 that she had left and that your father's three sisters
18 were trying to help the family?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you remember them helping or is that something that
21 you've learned later in life?

22 A. I certainly learned that later in life. You had visions
23 of them being there, but I didn't know who they were.

24 Q. Okay. Then you say that you -- well, initially you
25 think that the three youngest children were taken to

1 a children's shelter. You say:
2 "The other six of us stayed with dad for
3 a while ..."
4 Until you ended up in hospital?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. Then you and your five other brothers and sisters moved
7 to the shelter; is that right?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. You say you were only there for a short time before you
10 went to the BGC family in Can you
11 remember arriving at the house for the first time or the
12 journey to the house?
13 A. Yes, I remember arriving there and speaking to
14 Mrs BGC and her daughter. I don't remember her sons.
15 I remember later on, but when we first went. And then
16 we were shown bedrooms up the stairs where we were to
17 sleep.
18 Q. Was that when the social worker was still there or can
19 you not remember if they were there or not?
20 A. When the social worker was there, she went upstairs with
21 us, yes.
22 Q. What was your initial impression of Mrs BGC can you
23 remember?
24 A. Well, when we first went, she seemed really nice, you
25 know what I mean? Completely -- she just seemed okay to

1 us when I went there.

2 Q. What about her daughter?

3 A. She was -- when we first went, the first couple of

4 weeks, she was all right with us, to start with.

5 Q. Did you actually ever sleep in the upstairs room in that

6 house, can you remember?

7 A. I think we maybe slept up there for a week. A week.

8 And then we were put into like a maid's room at the

9 back.

10 Q. Okay. We'll come back to that just in a moment, I think

11 at the top of the next page, paragraph 11, you tell us

12 there that the daughter didn't stay at the house because

13 she had her own one-bedroom flat nearby?

14 A. Yes, she stayed around the corner.

15 Q. Did she come to the house frequently or not?

16 A. She was always back and forward at her mother's house,

17 yes.

18 Q. You go on to paragraph 12, please, and you talk there

19 about being moved to a room like an old maid's room at

20 the rear of the kitchen?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say:

23 "I called it a room but really it was a big

24 cupboard ..."

25 A. It was like a big cupboard but I think it was a maid's

1 room later on, all it had was one wee window -- a double
2 bed in it and a small window in it.

3 Q. Did it have any other furniture in it?

4 A. A double bed. I think -- I think there was a wee
5 wardrobe in it, but that was it.

6 Q. You say that you were all to sleep in this bed together,
7 the boys at one end and the girls at the other?

8 A. Yes. The three girls at the top and the three boys at
9 the bottom and we were locked in every night.

10 Q. You go on to tell us about that. You say that you would
11 be sent to bed early. What sort of time do you think
12 you were sent to the room?

13 A. Well, when I was remembering afterwards in the
14 statement, we used to have to make -- when she got
15 lodgers in, we had to make their supper and all that
16 first before we went to bed, so it could have been
17 between 9 and 10.

18 Q. Did she always have lodgers in during the time that you
19 lived there, can you remember?

20 A. Yes. It was when they were doing the Tay Bridge. She
21 had the men that was working on the new bridge that was
22 getting built at that time.

23 LADY SMITH: That was the new road bridge that was being
24 built then?

25 A. Yes, the road bridge, yeah, sorry.

1 MS INNES: You say that you were locked in the room
2 overnight.

3 A. Every night, yeah, you were locked in the room.

4 Q. And you say that a pail was left in the room if you
5 needed the toilet?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And otherwise I think you say that you were allowed to
8 use the outside toilet?

9 A. Yes, you just come out the maid's room, a wee bit in the
10 kitchen and down the stairs to the outside toilet.

11 Q. Were there any toilets inside the house?

12 A. Yes, when you went through to the front up the stairs
13 where the bedrooms was, there was a bathroom there.

14 Q. Were you ever allowed to use that bathroom?

15 A. Not for the toilet. Once I remember we were in the
16 bath, like, but usually we were in the big sink in the
17 kitchen to get washed.

18 Q. And who used the bathroom?

19 A. The lodgers.

20 Q. Where did Mrs BGC herself stay? Was she also in the
21 upstairs or --

22 A. No, no. You would come down the kitchen and there was
23 a couple of stairs and there was a room there, so she
24 had a bed settee in there she used to fold in every
25 night.

1 Q. At paragraph 15 you go on to tell us a bit more about
2 the bed and you say that over time the bed got broken?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. You say just a mattress was left?
5 A. We just had a mattress on it, yes, at that time. That
6 was when it was only me and 'Janet' left, and then she
7 got two camp beds that we had to sleep on with coats
8 over us.
9 Q. Can you remember whether you had blankets or a quilt or
10 anything on the bed when you were all in the same bed?
11 A. Yeah, we had a blanket. It was a -- we had a cover that
12 went over us all.
13 Q. But you say that when you had the camp beds, your memory
14 is you just had coats to cover you?
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. You say there was no heating in that room?
17 A. No, no, no.
18 Q. So was it cold during the winter?
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. Then you say at paragraph 16 that your younger brother,
21 I think, had problems with bed-wetting and it happened
22 a lot?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. And how did Mrs BGC deal with that?
25 A. Used to fill the big sink in the kitchen when we had the

1 big tubs at that time with cold water and always put him
2 in there. And then her son FCC and her daughter
3 FJP used to take 'Janet' and I across to the beach
4 and FDB was naked just with a coat on and we had to keep
5 pushing him into the sea on really cold nights. If we
6 didn't, we got a slap or a hit or a punch.

7 Q. You say that your understanding was that this was their
8 way to try to get him to stop wetting the bed?

9 A. Yes, they thought that would do it.

10 Q. Then you say at paragraph 17 that you weren't usually
11 allowed to watch much television, but when Mrs BGC
12 was out, her son LAR, I think, would let you watch the
13 television?

14 A. Yes, we used to sit under the table and watch the
15 television or he'd give us ice cream while we were doing
16 it and then tell us quick his mum would be coming so we
17 would have to go back to the room.

18 Q. Then at paragraph 18 you tell us a little bit about the
19 lodgers who stayed. You mention that one of them
20 I think told you stories and gave you sweets and things?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. At paragraph 19 you say:

23 "any time any of us had to have the doctors come in
24 for a check up or get some treatment, we were taken to
25 one of the upstairs rooms and pretend this was ours."

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Can you remember that happening?

3 A. Yes, I remember that, I remember getting medicine and
4 spitting it up again.

5 Q. You talk about that at paragraph 20 when you were given
6 syrup of figs I think when you were sick. Then what was
7 the daughter's reaction to that?

8 A. I got hit for being sick all over the bed, because that
9 was a lodger's room we were using, so she had to get up
10 and clean all the sheets and that and change the bed.

11 Q. Did she do that or did she make you do that?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. She made you do that?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You then go on to talk about food. What sort of food
16 did you get when you lived with the BGC ? Was it
17 enough or not?

18 A. No, we never -- we never got enough. Never got enough.
19 And when the lodgers used to make their breakfast and
20 that in the morning and if they had anything on the
21 plate you were trying to eat it before you head back to
22 the kitchen.

23 Q. Can you remember where you had your food? Did you have
24 it in the kitchen?

25 A. There was a wee table at the bottom of the stairs in the

1 kitchen and we used to have to sit there and have it.

2 Q. You say that I think you were given toast and porridge
3 in the morning and you say you got slapped for putting
4 salt into that.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Also if you didn't eat it, you were given a slap by
7 Mrs BGC Is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say at tea time there was the main meal but there
10 was never enough to eat?

11 A. No, just got very little.

12 Q. Was she giving the lodgers an evening meal?

13 A. Yes, the lodgers got everything made for them and
14 whatever was left we would get between us.

15 Q. Did Mrs BGC cook the food for the lodgers?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I think it may be mentioned that you and your sister
18 maybe were helping serve them?

19 A. Yes, we had to serve it and clear the dishes and that
20 away and clean up.

21 Q. If we can go on a little, please, to page 5 and under
22 the heading "Schooling", you say at paragraph 25 that
23 first of all when you moved to [REDACTED] you still
24 carried on going to the school that you had been going
25 to in Dundee; is that right?

1 A. Yes, yes, to start with.

2 Q. But then you went to the local primary school?

3 A. When they got a place for us. We needed to get
4 a placement, so that's when we went to there.

5 Q. How did you find the local primary school? How did you
6 get on there?

7 A. I got on fine there. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the
8 school.

9 Q. At paragraph 26 you talk about a time that Mrs BGC
10 was washing some pillow cases and you were getting ready
11 to school and you say she hit you over the head with the
12 wet linen.

13 A. Yes, she hit me maybe four times over the head.

14 Q. Do you know why she did that? Was she saying anything?

15 A. She said I hadn't washed behind my ears, so she just
16 slapped it four times.

17 Q. Then in the same paragraph you talk about what happened
18 after school. You say you'd only be back in the house
19 for five or ten minutes before you'd be setting the
20 table for the lodgers.

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. How were you able to do any homework, can you remember?

23 A. When we were put into the back room, into the room that
24 we had, we had to do our homework there. We didn't do
25 it any other time.

1 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 27 you talk about doing the
2 dishes and things that you've already mentioned, but you
3 say in the afternoon you also had to make the lodgers'
4 beds and clean the toilets.

5 A. When we come home from school at dinner time we had to
6 do all that as well, yes.

7 Q. Was that you and 'Janet' or was that everyone?

8 A. Well, at the end when it was only me and 'Janet' that
9 was left, it was me and 'Janet' that had to do it. We
10 had to do all the work in that.

11 Q. What would happen if you tried to refuse to do any of
12 these chores?

13 A. You daren't refuse or you'd get a punch or slapped or
14 even be hit with a stick, you know what I mean?

15 Q. Who was doing that?

16 A. Well, FJP did it and her son FCC used to do it as
17 well.

18 Q. What about Mrs BGC?

19 A. Or she would slap you back and forward as well.

20 Q. What happened at the weekends? What sort of things did
21 you do at the weekends?

22 A. Basically it was just tidying up her house because some
23 of the lodgers went away home and then you had to
24 basically -- just you were cleaning and -- and if you
25 got out for the park or that for a wee while, you always

1 had to be back quick.

2 Q. Then you talk about visits and inspections. At
3 paragraph 29 you say I think that at the beginning you
4 remember your mother coming to visit you?

5 A. Yes, she'd come about twice, maybe three times, all the
6 time that we were there.

7 Q. So twice or three times in the whole time that you --

8 A. Basically, yeah, basically, not much more.

9 Q. You say she would tell you that she was trying to get
10 a place where you could go back with her and you say
11 that you told her what was happening?

12 A. Yes, and she would just say that she'd try to get
13 a place and get us back together. I don't know if she
14 ever told them or went back to anybody about that, but
15 we used to tell her how we were getting treated.

16 Q. At paragraph 30 you talk about the social work. Can you
17 remember social workers ever coming to the house?

18 A. We would come to -- they didn't do very many visits, but
19 you were never left alone to talk to them. Mrs BGC
20 was always there, so you were too scared to let them
21 know what was happening.

22 Q. You say there that when they came, Mrs BGC would show
23 them the bedroom upstairs, telling them that that was
24 where you would be --

25 A. That's where -- yes. They never ever went through into

1 the back -- through the house, to the end back room.

2 Q. So you never saw a social worker on your own?

3 A. No, never.

4 Q. At paragraph 31 you talk about Christmas and you say

5 that you remember that you were given a watch by your

6 mother?

7 A. Yeah, we were given a watch.

8 Q. What happened to that?

9 A. Well, 'Janet' and me always thought that Mrs BGC had

10 kept it and gave it to somebody. But when we come to

11 the Inquiry, my brother FDB he'd actually stole it and

12 broke it all up, but we didn't know until all the years

13 later.

14 Q. You then say that you can remember at paragraph 32 that

15 the only thing that you could remember about birthdays

16 was that you would get a card from your mother then?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Then at paragraph 33 you talk about some holidays that

19 you went on?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You remember once going to Arbroath?

22 A. I remember going to Arbroath, but I'm not sure where the

23 other one was. Not sure where that was.

24 Q. Did you enjoy these holidays?

25 A. Yes, it was good. It was like freedom. Getting treated

1 like a kid, not like a slave, basically.

2 Q. You say there that the people were very good to you and

3 you say:

4 "We did not tell them anything, just in case it got

5 back to the BGC "

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Going onto the next page, you tell us about some of the

8 abuse that you suffered. In paragraph 34 you talk about

9 the daughter saying that she would batter you on your

10 return from school?

11 A. Yes, that's because I took the morning off after she'd

12 soaked my hair after hitting me with the pillow cases

13 over my head. I wasn't going to school with my hair

14 soaking like that and my clothes. I went back in the

15 afternoon and that's when she says that I would get it

16 when I come home, because I hadn't been at school in the

17 morning.

18 Q. What did she do when you came home?

19 A. I got a beating, I got battered ...

20 Q. Was that with her hands or with a stick or a belt?

21 A. I really don't remember what it was with. Because she

22 would punch and slap me anyway, so ...

23 Q. At paragraph 35 you say that when the incident with the

24 wet pillow cases took place, you and 'Janet' ran away?

25 A. Yeah, we walked all the way to Dundee to tell the social

1 workers and then her daughter FJP seen us on the bus
2 and walked us -- got off and took us all the way back
3 again. We had a few bruises by the time we got home
4 anyway from her.

5 Q. You say:

6 "She battered us on the way back ..."

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. I think you then go on to talk about the washing in the
9 sink that you've mentioned and then you talk about the
10 daughter washing your hair and holding your head under
11 the water.

12 A. Yes. I'd had a bath that day, they took me up for
13 a bath and then when I was getting washed she held my
14 head under the water and I splashed so she hauled me
15 back up, hit me, put me back under.

16 Q. Then at paragraph 37 you say that the daughter wasn't
17 the only one to hit you and you mention the son FCC ?

18 A. FCC

19 Q. What did he do?

20 A. He would -- I would have been hit with a stick in that
21 way by him, and a belt.

22 Q. You say that this happened in his room?

23 A. In FCC's room, yeah. His bedroom was next door to his
24 mum's before she had a big dining room.

25 Q. You go on to talk about how the daughter behaved in

1 relation to your older sister and you say that FJP
2 would also call her names?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Did she do that to you as well?
5 A. Oh, she'd call you names as well, but it was more the
6 punching and hitting that she did.
7 Q. Then at paragraph 39 you talk about soap powder being
8 put on biscuits.
9 A. She used to put biscuits over the house like (unclear)
10 and that and put soap powder on them, so if you picked
11 it up, it would be soap powder all in it. Done that
12 with biscuits, with different things, with soap and the
13 soap powder as well.
14 LADY SMITH: Did you say she would put biscuits over the
15 house?
16 A. She had biscuits lying about the house for us to pick
17 up. If we did, there would always be soap powder or
18 soap or something in it so that you couldn't eat it.
19 MS INNES: Then you say that your sister 'Janet' was made to
20 eat one of the biscuits.
21 A. One of the biscuits the one time, yeah.
22 Q. Do you remember that happening?
23 A. I really don't remember it happening.
24 Q. That's something that you maybe found out later on, you
25 spoke about later on?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. At paragraph 40 you say that it was the son FCC and the
3 daughter that did the beatings?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. "Mrs BGC was cruel but nothing as bad as her two
6 children."

7 A. They two were the worst, yeah.

8 Q. You say that the daughter also used a wooden spoon to
9 hit you?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. Then you talk about the other son who you've already
12 mentioned.

13 If we go on over the page to page 8 and
14 paragraph 42, you say first of all that your older
15 sister was the first to leave the foster home.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But you were never told why or where she went.

18 A. That's right. She just like disappeared out our lives,
19 just went away and never -- she was there in the morning
20 and then at night she was away, just disappeared. We
21 were never told where she went or anything like that.

22 Q. When were you able to contact her again?

23 A. Oh, years down the line. We never seen her for -- we
24 had no idea where she was.

25 Q. Then you say that your brothers left in the same manner.

1 There was no reason, there one day and gone the next?

2 A. Yes, that's how it worked.

3 Q. Again, when were you able to find them again?

4 A. Well, it was certainly years down the line that we all
5 got in contact again. But it was more when we were
6 older.

7 Q. How were you able to find one another again? Did one of
8 you start looking and asking or how did it --

9 A. No, it was when I got married in 1971 and because they
10 were my brothers and sisters, I wanted them to the
11 wedding so I invited them all and we started getting in
12 contact more from then. We did see back and forward
13 FBS but not very often. That's when I was about 18.

14 Q. You say that the last to leave were you and your sister
15 'Janet'?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You were there together for about two years after the
18 others had left?

19 A. I think it was a year to two years, not 100 per cent
20 sure how long.

21 Q. At paragraph 43, you talk about running away on your own
22 and going up a hill and you talk about your pal and her
23 mother and you say you slept in a shed overnight. Why
24 did you run away, can you remember?

25 A. Because FJP had threatened me again because I took

1 a loan of a pen to go to school because we needed a pen
2 for school and I took a loan and she told me -- when
3 I went home in the afternoon for lunch, she said, "When
4 you get home, you take what you get because you took
5 a pen out of this house", so I thought I'm not going
6 home, and I didn't tell 'Janet', I just went right up
7 the hill next to the school and stayed there, well,
8 stayed in the shed all night. And then in the morning,
9 because I felt safe in school, I went back to school and
10 the police had been out all night looking for me. As
11 soon as I went in, they said, "FDA [REDACTED] the
12 headteacher's office", and that's when we didn't go back
13 to the BGC [REDACTED] after we'd been in there and had
14 statements and that taken.

15 Q. So you went to the headteacher's office and the police
16 were there and what happened next?

17 A. They were asking me questions but you were still too
18 scared to tell them what was happening in the house and
19 the social worker was there and I remember a doctor,
20 because I got examined and that, and the bruises was
21 under my skin or something. I don't know at that time.
22 And then they got 'Janet' and then the next minute
23 I know we were along by the esplanade away from our
24 house and the social worker was then asking us questions
25 but we were too terrified to tell them the truth,

1 because we thought if we tell them the truth and we get
2 left there, we know what was going to happen. But she
3 went in and spoke to them and then come back and said we
4 weren't going back. And that's when we went back to the
5 children's home.

6 Q. When you say that she went in and spoke to them, do you
7 mean the social worker went --

8 A. The social worker went into the house and we were left
9 sitting in the car.

10 Q. Right. And spoke to the BGC [REDACTED] and then --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- you never went back into the house?

13 A. No, we never went back to the house.

14 Q. I think you say that you initially went to the
15 children's shelter?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But then at the top of page 9, you then say that you
18 went to another foster care placement, I think, in
19 [REDACTED] Is that right?

20 A. Yes, yes. I'm not too sure how long we were in the care
21 home, and then we went to Mrs [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

22 Q. What were your first impressions of this house when you
23 got there?

24 A. It was fine because the social worker -- we got money,
25 a thing we never got, to go to the shop and buy

1 a sweetie, while they done the talking. By the time we
2 come back, they explained that we were going to be
3 staying here for a little while.

4 Q. You say in paragraph 46 that your understanding is that
5 they had fostered many children before you arrived?

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. At paragraph 47 you say:

8 "We asked what we were to call her and she said
9 whatever we liked."

10 A. She asked -- pardon?

11 Q. "We asked what we were to call her and she said whatever
12 we liked. It could be mum, granny or whatever we
13 wanted."

14 A. Aye. I always said "Mrs [REDACTED]" because you thought you
15 were going to be there for a wee while and she would
16 treat us the same as what Mrs BGC did.

17 Q. How did she treat us?

18 A. She treated us very well.

19 Q. I think you stayed there, I think, until you left care;
20 is that right?

21 A. Yes, until I got married, yes.

22 Q. Until you got married. You say at the beginning of
23 paragraph 47 that you would still sneak some dried bread
24 in and hide it under the pillows?

25 A. Yes, in case we never got fed.

1 Q. Did that turn out to be the case or not?

2 A. No, we were told we didn't need to steal, we just asked
3 and we would get.

4 Q. You say that you and your sister shared a bedroom there?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What was that bedroom like?

7 A. It had everything in it that we needed. It was nice.
8 It was good.

9 Q. Then you say:

10 "It took a little while to settle in, but when we
11 did it was really good there."

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You talk at paragraph 48 about being able to choose your
14 clothes, for example?

15 A. Yes. We got to pick what clothes we wanted to wear and
16 that, yeah. It was like freedom.

17 Q. You say at paragraph 49 that you did some chores but it
18 was different.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. What was different about it?

21 A. We weren't sort of made to do everything. You would
22 maybe just Hoover a carpet or sweep around it or mop
23 a floor. That was ... it wasn't like before, where it
24 was like you had to do everything running after the
25 lodgers and doing all their rooms and taking breakfast

1 and doing everything like that.

2 Q. You say here that you weren't forced to help, you did it
3 because you wanted to.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You then say at paragraph 50, I think, that even after
6 you got married, you carried on going back to see Mrs --

7 A. Yeah, I was there every day, yeah. I looked after her
8 when she was ill, yeah.

9 Q. I think you also helped her son?

10 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] yes.

11 Q. Just in terms of the overall comparison between the two
12 places that you were at in foster care, what were the
13 biggest differences as far as you were concerned with
14 the second one?

15 A. We got -- the achievement was getting freedom and not
16 being hit and pricked or things like that, compared to
17 what we did when we were at [REDACTED] And also we
18 didn't need to steal from the shops to survive for food.
19 We didn't need to do anything like that when I went to
20 [REDACTED] -- when I went to [REDACTED], sorry.

21 Q. Then if we go on from there, please, to page 10,
22 paragraph 53, this is a heading, "Reporting of abuse",
23 and you say that one of your brothers tried to report
24 some of the abuse?

25 A. One of ...?

1 Q. One of your brothers tried to report some of the abuse.

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. Did you know about that at the time or is that something
4 you found out later?

5 A. I found that out later, it was [REDACTED]

6 Q. What had he done in terms of trying to report it?

7 A. Well, he said -- it was like going to social workers.

8 Q. Did anything happen as a result of what he --

9 A. No. They just ignored him. Nobody listened to us.

10 Q. And then at paragraph 54 you say that you're sure that
11 the neighbours knew what was going on.

12 A. Yes. At [REDACTED] the neighbours knew. There was
13 one that had a shop and she knew what was going on, but
14 nobody reported it.

15 Q. How did she know what was going on?

16 A. Just maybe how we were talking or how we were dressed or
17 looked or always hungry.

18 Q. Apart from the time that you've told us about -- that
19 you were in the headteacher's office -- did any of the
20 teachers at school speak to you about what was going on
21 at home?

22 A. No, no. Nobody.

23 Q. Then at paragraph 55 you say that when you went to
24 Mrs [REDACTED] home, you did tell her some of the things
25 that had happened?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you know if she passed that on to the social work
3 department or not?

4 A. It took a while to trust and talk to her, so I --
5 I don't know whether -- I don't think she did. She just
6 lets you talk. She just let you be a kid and say what
7 happened and that was it.

8 Q. Then you mention at the end of paragraph 55 that the
9 police and social work had seen the bruises that you had
10 mentioned.

11 A. They said under -- it was like under my skin. When the
12 doctor examined me, they said it was bruises under my
13 skin.

14 Q. But you don't know whether they took any action in
15 relation to the BGC ?

16 A. No, no. Once we left the BGC , we never heard if
17 they'd done anything or if they got any more kids or
18 anything like that. We just ... that was it finished
19 with.

20 Q. Okay. If we can move on please to page 11 and
21 paragraph 60, you talk there a little bit about your
22 attempts to get your records. Can you tell us about
23 that?

24 A. It was one day when I -- because me and 'Janet' was
25 always the closest, I was through at her house in East

1 Kilbride, and we were talking and she says, "I wonder if
2 they have records to say what happened?" And when
3 'Janet' applied for them, it come back and it said they
4 had no records and that they'd all been -- there'd been
5 a fire in the department. So they never got anything.

6 Q. Do you know if 'Janet' was ever able to get any records
7 or not?

8 A. Then we spoke to my sister, my younger one that wasn't
9 brought up with us, and she applied and she got some --
10 about when her and my brother and sister went to foster
11 care, about that, and then that's -- it had a bit with
12 all the names and dates of birth in it, and that we'd
13 went to Mrs BGC and they'd went to somebody up
14 Dundee way.

15 Q. Was that all that you were able to recover?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Then you talk about some of the lessons that we should
18 learn from your experience and some of your thoughts as
19 to what should happen. At paragraph 62, you say at the
20 end of that paragraph:

21 "There should be an avenue available for neighbours
22 to report things, even if it is anonymous, to the
23 police."

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Just tell us your thoughts in relation to that.

1 A. There's more chance the neighbours knowing what's going
2 on and if they were, as I say, to report it to the
3 police, it could help the kids instead of going through
4 what I've even went through.

5 Q. Then at paragraph 63 you say:

6 "People involved in childcare shouldn't be in it for
7 the money. Any money that is given should be used for
8 the benefit of the children."

9 A. I agree with that, that any money they get, because
10 Mrs BGC would get money for us for Christmas and
11 things and we never got anything spent on us. And
12 birthdays, we never got anything. You know what I mean?

13 Q. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: From what you say there, it sounds as though
15 you were left with the impression that she was in it for
16 the money?

17 A. Yes, that's what we think.

18 LADY SMITH: What made you think that?

19 A. Because we never ever got any pocket money or anything
20 like for sweets. Things like that, you never got. It
21 was all going to her and her daughter. And if we got
22 a sweet, it was stealing at the shops.

23 We would all maybe get different things and hide it
24 outside near a play park under a stone and then we would
25 all go together and ...

1 LADY SMITH: Yes.

2 A. Get a wee treat.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: Then you say that:

5 "When kids are placed in care with a family, they

6 should be treated the same as the natural kids."

7 Why do you say that?

8 A. Well, she has taken the kids in to look after them.

9 There shouldn't be any difference made between -- I know

10 you would get maybe a bit extra, but there should never

11 be any difference. I've been there, my daughter's had

12 stepchildren and treated them exactly the same, they got

13 the same spent on them. Because if you're prepared to

14 take another family on like that, you should treat them

15 how you treat your own. You shouldn't treat them any

16 different.

17 Q. Then at paragraph 64 you talk about people reporting to

18 the authorities, making that easier, as I think you've

19 mentioned, and you say:

20 "Authorities should also carry out spot checks on

21 the foster care premises and the families so it will be

22 easier to find out about abuse."

23 Can you tell us about that?

24 A. Well, personally I think that they shouldn't give them

25 a time for you coming because everything will be

1 prepared for them to see what they want you to see, and
2 we never ever got a chance to speak to anybody
3 ourselves, any social worker, to let them know what was
4 happening.

5 So basically I -- I don't know. I think they should
6 just turn up at somebody's house and actually see what's
7 happening rather than them getting prepared to say,
8 "Right, we will take ... " What they have done with us,
9 take you up the stairs and see the bedrooms up the
10 stairs, but make sure that Mrs BGC or her daughter
11 was always beside us to listen to what we were telling
12 the social workers. We were too terrified to say
13 anything, really, because you know what would have
14 happened.

15 Q. You go on to talk about that. You say in the same
16 paragraph:

17 "They should take kids out for the day and maybe
18 they will relax enough to trust they can tell what is
19 happening to them."

20 A. Yeah. If maybe the social workers took us out and we
21 went for just a wee tea or something and then you're
22 able to speak to them, because they could come across
23 talking to you not realising they're asking you
24 a question and you're answering them without thinking,
25 "Oh, that could get me into trouble".

1 LADY SMITH: If you had been able to speak out to the social
2 workers, what do you think you'd have said to them?

3 A. I'm sure we'd have let them know what was definitely
4 happening. Maybe at that time I wouldn't have, because
5 I was a kid and I was terrified, but if I had the
6 strength to turn around and say to them, "Look, this is
7 what's really going on, you're only seeing what they're
8 wanting you to see".

9 LADY SMITH: What particularly do you think now they needed
10 to know if a child could have found a way of telling
11 them?

12 A. What they needed to know is start with how we were
13 living and the bedroom that the six of us was in to
14 start with and what we were lying on and what we had to
15 do about the house. Because there was always lodgers up
16 the stairs, so she would have to make -- if somebody was
17 coming -- social worker was coming to see us, she would
18 have to make sure that lodger was out so that they would
19 go say, "Oh, this is their bedrooms".

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS INNES: Then at paragraph 65 you go on to say that you
22 think that play therapy should be compulsory in
23 a certain age bracket and you say:

24 "This would provide an environment for them to speak
25 freely. This should be independent from the social work

1 department."

2 You talk about a Who Cares? worker allowing for
3 trust to be built up between the kids and carers.

4 First of all, can I ask you about your thoughts in
5 relation to play therapy?

6 A. Well, if you've got a kid and they're taking their
7 attention off their foster carer and the social carer is
8 asking them in a round about way how they really are,
9 they could turn around and say, "This is what's
10 happening", but not realising they're telling them the
11 truth what is actually happening in that house.

12 Q. You also talk about a Who Cares? worker or somebody
13 that's independent from the social work department. Can
14 you explain your thoughts in relation to this?

15 A. You need a care worker. Could you --

16 Q. So you say that they need a Who Cares? worker --

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. -- and you talk about a worker being independent from
19 the social work department --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- why do you say that?

22 A. Because I think they'd be more relaxed speaking to
23 somebody like that, that's not within care. You can be
24 more relaxed in telling them as well. Because when it's
25 a care work like what I had, you had the care worker but

1 you didn't want to tell them anything in case they went
2 back and told her and then once she left you were back
3 to square one and you would be getting a punch or a hit
4 for even opening your mouth and saying something.

5 Q. You also talk there about the need for trust to be built
6 up.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. I think you mean between a child and --

9 A. The care worker.

10 Q. -- the care worker. I think you mentioned earlier in
11 your evidence that from your own experience, it took you
12 a while to trust the new carer and share your experience
13 with her?

14 A. Definitely. Definitely.

15 Q. Then at paragraph 66 you say:

16 "When kids are being looked after properly, the
17 social work needs to stop concentrating on them and
18 start concentrating on families with kids who are not
19 being looked after. They might be more difficult to
20 care for, but they are the ones needing it more."

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Again, can you just explain your thoughts in relation to
23 this?

24 A. Sometimes you feel that social workers is going to
25 families that's actually doing okay and they're getting

1 well looked after, and then there's maybe a kid a door
2 away that's not getting treated how they should be and
3 they bypass them to go to the ones that's getting looked
4 after.

5 Q. You also say that a child who is not being looked after,
6 you say they might be more difficult to care for?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Can you explain what you mean there?

9 A. They could go off -- because they're not being looked
10 after, they can go off the rails when they get older and
11 get into more trouble because there was nobody there for
12 them to show them the right road, show them the
13 right ... I don't know.

14 Q. You say that those children are the ones who need more
15 input --

16 A. Yes. Yes.

17 MS INNES: Right. Thank you very much for your evidence.

18 I don't have any more questions for you.

19 There are no applications for questions, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Can I check if there are any
21 outstanding applications for questions?

22 'Lauren', that completes the questions we have for
23 you today. Thank you very much for engaging with us
24 both by providing a really helpful written statement and
25 coming along to talk to us today and make your evidence

1 foster homes have been referred to, that's the BGC
2 and the [REDACTED] Also, the BGC [REDACTED] own children's
3 names have been referred to and other siblings of the
4 witnesses who have given evidence. None of these names
5 can be used outside this room because they're all
6 covered by my general restriction order, so please do
7 bear that in mind.

8 Thank you.

9 (12.40 pm)

10 (The luncheon adjournment)

11 (1.50 pm)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, is our next witness ready?

13 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. Our next witness is 'Lena', again
14 in the care of Dundee Corporation, now Dundee City
15 Council. Again the foster care placement that we're
16 discussing commenced on [REDACTED] 1959.

17 We don't know exactly when 'Lena', the next witness,
18 left foster care, left that placement, but it seems
19 likely to have been in the early 1960s, possibly 1960 or
20 1961.

21 LADY SMITH: Right. Again, she went in same time as the
22 other children, the same family?

23 MS INNES: Yes, and she left first.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25

1 'Lena' (sworn)

2 LADY SMITH: Does that chair feel okay for you in that
3 position?

4 A. Yes, it is, thank you.

5 LADY SMITH: You're really good with that microphone,
6 'Lena'. Thank you.

7 A. You're welcome.

8 LADY SMITH: A lot of witnesses forget that there's
9 a microphone there to help them and it's really good if
10 we can hear you through the sound system.

11 You'll see the red folder there. That has your
12 written statement in it if you want to look at that.
13 You'll also see your statement coming up on screen when
14 we're taking you to different parts of it. Again, you
15 might find that helpful. You don't have to use them if
16 you don't want to, if you just want to concentrate on
17 Ms Innes's questions, that's fine too.

18 'Lena', let me say I do know it's not easy giving
19 evidence, and particularly when you're being asked about
20 things in your own life from when you were a child long
21 ago and some things that aren't so easy to talk about.
22 So let me know if there are any difficulties, whether
23 you have any questions or concerns or if you want
24 a break at any time, because I want to do all that I can
25 to make it as comfortable a task as possible, if you'll

1 let me do that.

2 If you have no questions at the moment, I'll hand
3 over to Ms Innes and she'll take it from there. Is that
4 all right?

5 A. Yes, thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: Very well.

7 Ms Innes.

8 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

9 Questions from Ms Innes

10 MS INNES: 'Lena', we understand that you were born in 1947.

11 Is that right?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Your statement, I'm just going to give the reference
14 that we use for it, it's WIT.001.002.9903.

15 If we can go to the final page of it, page 17,
16 I think we see there that you have no objection to your
17 witness statement being published as part of the
18 evidence to the Inquiry and you believe that the facts
19 stated in your witness statement are true. You signed
20 that statement on 23 October 2019; is that right?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. If we can just go back to the start of your statement,
23 please, we understand, 'Lena', that you're the oldest of
24 10 children, and we know that you went into foster care
25 with a family called the BGC in [REDACTED].

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Just before we talk about that, I understand that in
3 your early life, so before you went to the BGC you
4 really looked after your younger brothers and sisters?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

7 A. Well, there was nobody else. My mum was out at the
8 tattie fields. The step -- well, my stepfather, he
9 would be drunk. So I was the oldest so it was my job to
10 look after the children. Like feed them, wash them,
11 bath them, whatever had to be done, put them to bed.
12 Every day. You know, I was only ten years old then.

13 LADY SMITH: You say that's when your mum would be out
14 working, say, in the tattie fields?

15 A. Yes.

16 MS INNES: There came a time that we know that just before
17 you went into foster care with the BGC that you
18 went to the children's shelter in Dundee. If we just
19 look, please, at page 5 of your statement, paragraph 24.
20 You say there that I think six of you were taken to the
21 children's shelter, so the six oldest, we understand,
22 and the four younger children went elsewhere?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You tell us that three of them were fostered to another
25 family?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. And one, the youngest, had been taken in by one of your
3 aunts?

4 A. Well, that's the story, but as far as I'm aware, he sold
5 her to my aunt and uncle. I think it was £5 or
6 something like that. I can't remember how much it was,
7 about a fiver, I think, because he needed money for
8 drink and cigarettes.

9 Q. Okay. After your younger siblings were fostered or in
10 the care of other people, did you see them again when
11 you were a child?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Other than the aunt, did you know where the other three
14 had gone?

15 A. No. Nobody told us anything.

16 Q. If we go on, please, to page 6 of your statement and the
17 top of the page, you tell us there that the six of you,
18 the oldest six, went to Mrs BGC's home in [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED].

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you remember arriving at Mrs BGC's house?

22 A. How we got there?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. By car.

25 Q. Who took you?

1 A. Welfare woman. I can't remember her name. She had
2 a calliper on her leg, I remember that, but what her
3 name was, I don't know.

4 Q. What did you think of the house when you got there?

5 A. Oh, it looked smashing. God, it was a -- God, like we
6 see on TV. A big mansion house. It was lovely. It was
7 all right for the first couple of days and then it all
8 changed.

9 Q. I think you say in your statement that you were shown
10 some lovely rooms upstairs in the house.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you think that you were going to be sleeping in
13 these rooms?

14 A. Yes, we did. They were the rooms we were told we were
15 going into. It never happened.

16 Q. So where did you go?

17 A. Well, downstairs off the kitchen, there was a little
18 maid's room with a double bed in it. And there were
19 three at the top, three at the bottom. Three girls
20 slept at one end, three boys lay at the other end.
21 That's how we lived. Which was a bit -- it wasn't very
22 healthy, but of course being a child you didn't know any
23 difference.

24 Q. Were there covers on the bed or a quilt or anything, can
25 you remember?

1 A. No, no. I think we had one blanket and one sheet,
2 I think.

3 Q. Was there any other furniture in the room or anything?

4 A. No. The room wasn't big enough for anything else. That
5 was it.

6 Q. Okay, it was just the bed and the room --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and that was all that could fit in, really?

9 A. It was a maid's room.

10 Q. What was Mrs BGC like? What was your first
11 impression of her, can you remember?

12 A. She seemed all right, she seemed nice enough, pleasant.
13 You know, as a child would think. But that was it.
14 After two or three days, it all changed.

15 Q. Okay.

16 If I just go on and ask you about some of the other
17 things that you talk about in your statement, you know,
18 to explore how things changed.

19 First of all, can I ask you what the food was like
20 there?

21 A. Oh, without the soap powder or with the soap powder?
22 Sorry.

23 Q. If you explain the issue with the soap powder.

24 A. Well, if there was -- she had visitors living upstairs.
25 If they left any cake, we would get it, but only if they

1 put soap powder on it first. And we had to eat it. If
2 we didn't eat it, we had it the next day for breakfast.

3 Q. Other than that, what food did she give you?

4 A. Or, basic, I think. Mince and tatties. I can only
5 remember mince and potatoes every day as far as I'm
6 concerned.

7 Q. Can you remember feeling hungry when you were there?

8 A. Hungry? We were always hungry. We had to steal to
9 keep -- we stole to stay alive, actually. Which is not
10 good, but as a child you don't know the difference. You
11 just -- you did it because you were hungry. But we made
12 sure we all had some of it. Whoever done it, we made
13 sure the whole six of us had something to eat.

14 LADY SMITH: 'Lena', where did you steal from?

15 A. Pardon?

16 LADY SMITH: Where did you steal from?

17 A. The shops. The shops.

18 LADY SMITH: Shops in [REDACTED]?

19 A. Yes. Saturdays were the best. You got the money to go
20 to the shop to buy the meat, so you get the meat and you
21 walk out the door and you've got the money in your hand.
22 So we always had something between us all.

23 MS INNES: Do you think anybody in [REDACTED] noticed
24 that that was happening and that you were going hungry?

25 A. I don't think so. I don't really know. Nobody ever

1 mentioned anything.

2 Q. The next thing that you talk about in your statement at
3 page 7, paragraph 34, is about washing and bathing. You
4 say:

5 "We never got a bath."

6 A. No.

7 Q. Where did you wash yourselves?

8 A. In the kitchen, in the kitchen sink. Or outside in the
9 tin bath.

10 Q. Was there any privacy?

11 A. No. Not like today --

12 LADY SMITH: Sorry, 'Lena', was there a bathroom in the
13 house that had a bath in it?

14 A. Yes, upstairs. But we weren't allowed up there unless
15 we were in cleaning.

16 LADY SMITH: Was that a bath for the lodger to use?

17 A. Yes.

18 MS INNES: The next thing you talk about in your statement
19 is about your clothes and you say that older clothes
20 were passed down. You say your clothes were always
21 clean but you had to wash and iron them yourselves; is
22 that right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you all do that or was that a task that some of you
25 had to do?

1 A. No, it was my job.

2 Q. It was your job?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you remember what other jobs you had to do when you
5 lived there?

6 A. Clean. Hoover. Bathroom. Whatever had to be done.
7 Making beds for the guests. Whatever else.

8 Q. When you say cleaning and hoovering, was that the whole
9 house where the guests were living?

10 A. Yes, yes, the whole place.

11 LADY SMITH: How many of these guests or lodgers did she
12 take in at any one time?

13 A. Oh, about three or four.

14 LADY SMITH: Three or four?

15 A. Three or four that was there. But there was a man that
16 stayed there all the time. I can't remember his name,
17 but we were allowed to go to his room and he used to
18 tell us stories. So, you know, it was something
19 different for us. But we weren't allowed on our own, we
20 had to go as a family.

21 LADY SMITH: I've heard that there were lodgers there who
22 were men who were working on the building of the Tay
23 Bridge. Do you remember that?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Were all these lodgers men?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS INNES: Did they come and go at the weekends or --

4 A. Different times, yes.

5 Q. Different times, okay.

6 Other than cleaning and hoovering and doing things

7 inside the house, did you have to do any other jobs,

8 like collecting firewood, for example? Is that

9 something that you had to do?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 37 that you

12 remember a Christmas time where there was a party where

13 you were taken to a hotel and you thought that maybe

14 your younger siblings were there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How many times did that happen? Was it just the once?

17 A. That was just the once when we got there and I just

18 said, "Are you [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?" And they went, "How

19 do you know our names?" End of story. They were taken

20 away, never saw them again, until I was about 16.

21 Q. Was it a party with lots of other children there then?

22 A. Yes, yes, it was.

23 Q. You then at paragraph 38 go on to mention your mum

24 coming to see you when you were at [REDACTED]

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How often did she come?

2 A. About maybe once or twice a year.

3 Q. Did you tell her anything that was going on in the house

4 and how you were being looked after?

5 A. Not really, because I don't think she was that

6 interested. She didn't have us so why would she be

7 interested in what was happening to us? She didn't care

8 about us when she was there in a way, so why would

9 she -- now that we didn't live with her again, why would

10 she be interested? You know, nobody believed us anyway,

11 so what was the use of saying anything?

12 Q. Then you speak about another time that you think that

13 you saw your siblings, your younger siblings across the

14 road. You say you don't remember them coming into the

15 house --

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- but you remember seeing them across the street?

18 A. Just by the beach, yes.

19 Q. Did you just recognise them? Is that --

20 A. Yes, I just recognised who they were.

21 Q. Can you remember social workers ever coming to the

22 house?

23 A. Pardon?

24 Q. Can you remember social workers ever coming to the

25 house?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You've mentioned the welfare officer, I think, the lady
3 with the calliper. Was it her that came to the house or
4 somebody else?

5 A. Somebody else as well as her.

6 Q. When she came, did you get to speak to her?

7 A. Not on our own, no.

8 Q. Who was there?

9 A. Mrs BGC and her daughter and her son.

10 Q. Did they look around the house when they visited or not?

11 A. No, just took us upstairs and said, "This is their
12 room", which wasn't, but we tried to tell her and she
13 went, "You'll get that when you get out", so we just
14 keep our mouth shut. But it was better than getting
15 hit. We had enough of that.

16 Q. When you're saying if you did try and say anything, was
17 it Mrs BGC that would say --

18 A. No, her son and her daughter.

19 Q. I see.

20 A. FJP

21 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 41 about running away, so
22 sometimes you say that you --

23 A. Oh, I ran away quite a lot, yes.

24 Q. Why was it that you did that?

25 A. I needed time on my own. Didn't get any time, didn't

1 get anything. Whatever I did, I got slapped or a good
2 hiding or got my haircut looking stupid as I was, and
3 was told I was stupid, so, you know, I just went away.
4 But I always went to school the next day.

5 Q. Did the police ever come looking for you when you ran
6 away?

7 A. Yes, yes, they did.

8 Q. What did they say when they found you?

9 A. They just told my aunt that I went to not to take me in
10 again, to phone them and let them know I was here. And
11 she had to do it.

12 Q. Did they ask you anything about what was going on at the
13 **BGC** ?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You said that you mentioned that you ran away to
16 an aunt's house, I think.

17 A. Sorry?

18 Q. I think you were saying that you ran away to an aunt's
19 house?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you tell your aunt what was happening?

22 A. Yes, that's why she put me up.

23 Q. Okay. And did she try to tell the police or the social
24 work what was going on, do you know?

25 A. I don't think so.

1 Q. Then you talk about the social worker sometimes if you'd
2 run away, social worker might come and come to the
3 school?

4 A. Yes, yes.

5 Q. What did the social worker say to you?

6 A. Not a lot, "Why did you run away?"

7 Q. Did you feel able to tell her?

8 A. Yeah, I told her why. That I were fed up with getting
9 slapped and kicked and whatever else they were going to
10 do to us.

11 Q. What did she do about that?

12 A. Nothing. Nothing was ever done.

13 Q. I think you say that you were picked up or the social
14 worker just took you back to Mrs BGC 's?

15 A. Yes. Oh, they were nice as pie while they were there.
16 As soon as they left I was called all sorts of names,
17 I was called. I didn't inside what they meant. I do
18 understand now, though, what she called me.

19 Q. Was that Mrs BGC calling you names?

20 A. Yes, it was.

21 Q. You say in your statement that looking back, you find it
22 strange that you ran away because, you say, you were the
23 ones being bullied --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- so why should you be the ones that were running away?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that still what you think about that?

3 A. Yes, I do, actually. What can a child do? You know,
4 you can't stand up -- not like kids today. You wouldn't
5 get away with half of the things that they did to us in
6 this day and age. Not that I would think so.

7 Q. Then you go on in the next page of your statement at
8 page 9 to talk about some of the abuse that you suffered
9 at the BGC. You say that you can think of no good
10 memories of the time that you were at the BGC.

11 A. No.

12 Q. You say that you were basically their slaves.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You talk about some of the jobs that you had to do that
15 you've mentioned. You say Saturdays and Sundays were
16 the worst.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Why was that?

19 A. Well, we weren't allowed out very often. So when we got
20 the chance to go, we went. And that was it.

21 Q. Did you have to do chores and jobs at the weekends --

22 A. Oh yes, yes. They had to be done before you did
23 anything else.

24 Q. Then I think you tell us in your statement about the
25 soap powder, which you've told us about already.

1 At paragraph 49, you talk about the daughter being
2 "particularly nasty to us", and you say that she
3 regularly kicked you.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that right? Did she also hit you as well?

6 A. Yes, of course.

7 Q. You say that she also cut your hair.

8 A. Oh yeah.

9 Q. Why did she do that?

10 A. Because I had curly hair. She told me I was ugly, so
11 she made sure everybody knew I was ugly by the way she
12 cut my hair.

13 Q. Then you say over the page that she -- I think she also
14 called you names, as did her mother.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So both of them called you names and said things about
17 you; is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Then at paragraph 51, you also talk about Mrs BGC's
20 son FCC. Did he hit you as well?

21 A. Occasionally.

22 Q. Did he hit you with his hands or with an implement?

23 A. Hand.

24 Q. You also mention Mrs BGC's other son, LAR. What
25 was he like?

1 A. I always found him pleasant enough. I don't think he
2 gave us much -- it was the older son **FCC** that was the
3 worst.

4 Q. Then you talk about a job that you had delivering rolls
5 in the morning?

6 A. Oh yeah.

7 Q. What can you tell us about that?

8 A. Well, I wanted a bike and I got this job, every morning
9 without fail I'd be round there. I could eat as much as
10 I wanted. And if we run out, she would just drive back
11 to get more rolls and I'd be still delivering when she
12 got back to me.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And Mrs **BGC** took my money off me. I was supposed to
15 be getting a bike and never did get the bike and never
16 did get my money back. So she took the money that I was
17 making to buy a bike and kept the lot. I think I worked
18 there for about two years.

19 Q. Was that the whole time that you were at the **BGC** ?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You were maybe there for a couple of years, were you?

22 A. A couple of years after that, I think, yeah.

23 Q. At paragraph 54 you say:

24 "Mrs **BGC** ... was just a dreadful human being that
25 should never have been allowed to foster children."

1 A. No, she shouldn't have been.

2 Q. You say that she never gave you or any of your siblings
3 any support or guidance in life.

4 A. No.

5 Q. And there was never any love or affection shown to you.

6 A. No.

7 Q. I think you've mentioned that you tried to tell the
8 social worker about what was going on.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you tell the police about anything that was
11 happening? Maybe go down to paragraph 57, please.

12 A. Just asked us why we kept on running away, said, "Don't
13 like it here", but nobody's -- that's where we have to
14 live and that's it.

15 Q. You say at paragraph 57 that you tried to tell a teacher
16 at school, Mrs Wilson, and when you tried to speak to
17 her, she told you off, saying you shouldn't be saying
18 things like that.

19 A. That's correct, yes, she did.

20 Q. Then you tell us how you came to leave foster care with
21 the BGC and you say that you ran away to your
22 aunt's?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Is this the same aunt that you'd run away to before?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. This time you didn't go back to the BGC [REDACTED]; is that
2 right?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Where did you go next?

5 A. Went to another foster parents.

6 Q. You say that you don't recall much about your time there
7 or the name of these people, but you do recall that it
8 was nice and they were always nice to you?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say:

11 "I certainly felt better there."

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. After you left the BGC [REDACTED] were you able to keep in
14 touch with your brothers and sisters that had stayed
15 there?

16 A. No.

17 Q. No?

18 A. No, not at all. We weren't allowed -- or it didn't
19 happen.

20 Q. When did you make contact with them again?

21 A. My sister FDA [REDACTED]'s wedding when we all got -- was the
22 first time we'd ever been together after all these
23 years.

24 Q. So when she got married --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. -- you were together again. Did that include the
2 younger brothers and sisters?

3 A. No, I don't think did, actually. Not that I can
4 remember that, but I don't think they were there.

5 Q. And did you meet them later on then?

6 A. Well, what happened was I got a knock on my door one day
7 and it was Social Services saying to me would I take my
8 sister in? Of course. So I had my sister [REDACTED] for
9 a while, and then I got another knock on the door asking
10 me to take my other sister in, so I did. I had two
11 sisters then. And then I had another call asking me to
12 take my younger brother in. Of course I did. I had
13 four children of my own and these other three children
14 were adults and working. So I had like seven children.
15 You know, I was only 22/23 at the time. Goodness! You
16 know, and it was hard work because they didn't know me,
17 I didn't know them anymore. So it was teaching again
18 and that was the way it was.

19 Q. Because you told us at the beginning of your evidence,
20 'Lena', that before you went into care, you were really
21 looking after all of the younger brothers and sisters.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then during your time in care, you were separated
24 from all of them.

25 A. Yes, it was quite hard actually.

1 Q. That had an impact on you, I think?

2 A. Yes, it certainly did.

3 LADY SMITH: I was just thinking back. The sister's wedding
4 you refer to would have been in 1971, I think.

5 A. I think so.

6 LADY SMITH: So you would then have been about 24. That's
7 many years since --

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: -- you had seen some of your brothers and
10 sisters.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Because you'd gone into the foster home when
13 you were about 12.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS INNES: If we can go on, please, to the top of -- just
17 bear with me a moment -- page 13. You say there that
18 you've tried to block out some of the memories of your
19 time in care.

20 At paragraph 67 you say that one of the reasons that
21 you came forward to the Inquiry was to at last talk to
22 somebody about your early life.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You say:

25 " ... in the hope that I can then go home and think

1 that, at last, someone has listened to me and believed
2 me."

3 A. (Witness nodded)

4 Q. Is that the reason that you came to give your statement
5 to the Inquiry?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If I can ask you to go on to page 16, please, and you
8 say at paragraph 85 at the top of the page that you hope
9 that by coming forward you can help even just one child:

10 "It would be nice for children today to live as
11 children, to enjoy their childhood. They should get the
12 chance, if anything goes wrong, to be able to speak to
13 somebody as a child and not have to wait until they are
14 adults."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think that's one of the things that you want us to
17 learn from your experience.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Am I right in thinking that you didn't really feel that
20 anybody was listening to you when you were a child?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Who do you think would be able to help a child say
23 what's really going on?

24 A. Well, I thought the foster care people were there to
25 help us, but they weren't. Not as far as I'm concerned

1 as a child. We were put from one -- whatever you want
2 to call it to somewhere better but even worse treated.
3 How can that be helping children? I mean, I needed help
4 when I had my kids and I daren't put my kids through
5 what I went through, so I struggled for years. Yes,
6 I was a good mum, but I was also a very bad strict mum,
7 very strict. But I didn't know any better. Nobody
8 taught me anything. I had to teach myself. If I was
9 right, I was right. If I was wrong, I was wrong.

10 My daughter actually thanked me for the way she is
11 today. Not at the time, though.

12 Q. No.

13 A. But I did tell her if she wanted to go to welfare, to
14 phone them up and tell them to come and get her, but she
15 never did.

16 Q. When you're mentioning the foster care people there,
17 I think you mean the welfare officer --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- or the social work department should be offering
20 support to children?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is there anything that we should learn from your
23 experience in terms of being separated from your
24 siblings?

25 A. I would think more contact or even to listen to a -- if

1 a child runs away, there's a reason. There is
2 definitely a reason for a child to run away from
3 a lovely home. There's got to be more to it than just
4 running away. So maybe that way they could maybe look
5 into something different.

6 Whatever, I don't know. I'm not that brainy, so ...

7 Q. The other thing that you mention is that there should
8 perhaps be more supervision by social workers?

9 A. Yes. Because, you know, they lied, they showed these
10 people these bedrooms which were wonderful. They
11 weren't our rooms. But Social Services thought they
12 were. But we weren't allowed to speak. You just
13 weren't allowed. It's simple as that. And if you did,
14 you got a good slap at the end of the night.

15 MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'Lena'. I don't have any
16 more questions for you and there are no applications for
17 questions, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
19 questions?

20 'Lena', that completes all the questions we have for
21 you this afternoon. Can I just thank you for engaging
22 with the Inquiry in the way you have done, giving us
23 your written statement, which is so clear and helpful,
24 and then coming today to tell us more than is written
25 down in your statement, and make what you have to say

1 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady. The next witness is 'Tam',
2 he was again in the care of Dundee Corporation now
3 Dundee City Council, and in the foster care placement in
4 [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] 1959 I think until the
5 [REDACTED] of 1962.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 'Tam' (sworn)

8 LADY SMITH: 'Tam', I might need you to sit a little bit
9 further forward because you see we need to hear you
10 through the microphone system.

11 A. Okey-doke. Is that letter better?

12 LADY SMITH: That's a really good position, yes, thank you.

13 The red folder has a hard copy of your statement in
14 it, you may want it look at that as we go through your
15 evidence, but you will also see it coming up on the
16 screen, you might find that helpful as well. It's up to
17 you what you use and when and maybe not at all if you
18 don't want to.

19 'Tam', I know that giving evidence at all isn't
20 easy, and I know that particularly when one's having to
21 give evidence about your own life, particularly when you
22 were a child and things were difficult, it's even
23 harder. So, please, can we begin by you realising that
24 I do understand that.

25 If you want a break at any time, let me know. If

1 you're concerned about anything that's happening or
2 being said, let me know. Please speak up.

3 I know you're probably going to tell me that you
4 weren't able to speak up when you were a child, but you
5 can do that here, all right?

6 A. Okey-doke.

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

9 A. Okay.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Questions from Ms Innes

12 MS INNES: 'Tam', we understand that you were born in 1953.
13 Is that right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. We can see your statement on the screen and the
16 reference that we have for it is WIT.001.002.1828. If
17 we can go to the final page of this statement, please,
18 page 18, I think we see there at paragraph 87 that it
19 says:

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

22 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
23 true."

24 I think you signed the statement on 15 October 2018.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that right?

2 A. That's correct, yes.

3 Q. Can I just go back to the start of your statement,
4 please, and you tell us that you are, I think, the sixth
5 of ten children.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. We know that six of you went into foster care in
8 [REDACTED] and I think you were the youngest --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- child to go. Okay. You tell us a bit about your
11 early life. At paragraph 9 of your statement on page 2,
12 you say the first you knew about it, you were in a new
13 home with strangers with your brothers and sisters. You
14 think it must have been the Local Authority who took you
15 into care but you can't remember.

16 A. That's true, yeah.

17 Q. So we know that you went into care in [REDACTED] at
18 the [REDACTED] of 1959, so I think you were maybe about six at
19 the time?

20 A. Six years old at the time, yeah.

21 Q. Can you remember sort of your first impressions of the
22 house in [REDACTED] or what it was going to be like?

23 A. Well, on first impressions at my age, I thought it was
24 beautiful, brilliant, right across from the beach,
25 lovely, couldn't ask for anything, you know? But as

1 I say, things changed shortly after.

2 Q. What was the house like, can you remember, when you saw
3 it?

4 A. It was sort of like two storeys, stairs to go upstairs
5 to the bedrooms and that, and then had you a front room
6 or a living room or parlour, whatever they used to call
7 them in them days, then had you a kitchen and then you
8 had a darker room, which was like a cellar, and you had
9 a backyard.

10 Q. Okay. You tell us that you went to live with a woman
11 called Mrs BGC and can you remember if you had any
12 sort of initial impressions of her?

13 A. Initially on first impressions she seemed okay, you
14 know.

15 Q. At paragraph 11 of your statement that we can see, you
16 say that you remember being taken upstairs by
17 a Mrs BGC who showed you lovely plush rooms.

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. Did she give you the impression that that's where you
20 were going to be sleeping?

21 A. Well, that's the impressions we got when we first moved
22 there. She said, "This is going to be your rooms", you
23 know.

24 Q. And then what happened?

25 A. Well, it all changed. We were in what I called the

1 cellar, head and tails in bed with your brothers and
2 sisters in a cold room, no windows, you know, door
3 locked at night basically.

4 Q. So you've described it as a cellar, I think, maybe
5 because it was dark and cold.

6 A. No windows, yes.

7 Q. Okay. Did you say that you were locked in the room at
8 night as well?

9 A. Well, the door was closed and nobody dared get up to try
10 and open it, if you know what I mean.

11 Q. Why didn't you dare get up and try it?

12 A. Because I think everybody was frightened to get up in
13 the dark and what the consequences might be if we opened
14 the door and got caught.

15 Q. I think you say, as you just said, that you were all in
16 the same bed top and tailing, and you used to fight
17 amongst you to get into the middle to keep warm.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Did you have any covers on the bed, can you remember?

20 A. The old itchy blanket, army-type thing, and our coats
21 and whatever we could get over us to keep warm.

22 Q. You say that the room was big enough for the double bed
23 and that was all?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You tell us at paragraph 14 that the bedrooms upstairs

1 were rented out to lodgers?

2 A. Yeah, people that were working, painting the bridge or
3 whatever they were doing, you know, but, as I say, when
4 the authorities came round to check, apparently that's
5 where our rooms were.

6 Q. If we go over the page, you say at paragraph 15 that
7 when you would wake up in the morning, one of your
8 brothers or sisters would be gone from the bed.

9 "I wouldn't know where they'd gone, they had just
10 disappeared. We didn't know where they had gone, nobody
11 told us anything. I think [I think you're referring
12 there to one of your brothers, ██████] might have been the
13 first to leave."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Are you telling us here about waking up and your
16 brothers and sisters or some of them --

17 A. Had disappeared.

18 Q. -- leaving and never coming back?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You say when they went, you didn't know where they'd
21 gone?

22 A. No, we weren't informed of anything at the time.

23 Q. Did you ever see them again during your childhood?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. You say that you don't know what order they left in?

1 A. No, no. I know I was still there with my sister FDA
2 and FCZ so I was about the third last to go.

3 Q. At paragraph 16 you talk about the bed being wet in the
4 morning and you getting the blame whether it was you or
5 not; is that right?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You say that your sisters would put a coat on you and
8 take you across the road to the sea.

9 A. That's correct, yeah.

10 Q. What was happening?

11 A. They were actually instructed by Mrs BGC or her
12 daughter, FJP "He wet the bed, take him over there,
13 put him in the sea, get him to sit down to wash himself
14 before you bring him in".

15 Q. Did that happen at all times of the year?

16 A. Yes. Any season. You know. And if the tide was out,
17 it was a tub outside and the cold water in the backyard.

18 Q. At paragraph 17 you say that you used to have to put the
19 bedsheets in the water. So would you have to wash them
20 yourself?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say that you think your sisters used to help you
23 wring the sheet out?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You say that you can't remember being up the stairs in

1 the house again?

2 A. No. The only time that I think I was up there, there
3 was a person that used to tell stories. We called to
4 call him Billy Bunter and he used to tell wonderful
5 stories and we'd all sit there listening to the stories,
6 but that was the only time.

7 Q. At paragraph 19, you say that you got up and you got
8 washed at the kitchen sink or in a bowl.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Or using a bowl, perhaps?

11 A. Yeah, cold water.

12 Q. Was there ever any warm water in the house?

13 A. Not to my knowledge.

14 Q. Was there a bathroom in the house?

15 A. There probably was, but we used to have to use a pail in
16 the cellar during the night.

17 Q. Was there an outside toilet as well?

18 A. I think there was an outside toilet.

19 Q. Over the top of the next page, you say that you went to
20 bed early after you'd had your meal.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How early would you go to bed, can you remember?

23 A. Probably about 6/6.30.

24 Q. Did you just have to stay in the room for the rest of
25 the night?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You talk about watching the television in the living
3 room sitting in a row.

4 A. Yeah, cross legged, no talking.

5 Q. You say that if anyone made a sound, Mrs BGC made
6 them sit facing the plugs on the wall away from the
7 television.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. In the next paragraph you talk about I think FJP or
10 FCC, Mrs BGC's children, dishing out punishment?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You say Mrs BGC would tell them to sort you out?

13 A. Yeah. She would -- if something had gone wrong or
14 something like that, she would tell the son or the
15 daughter, "Look, go and sort them out".

16 Q. What did "sorting you out" involve?

17 A. Clip around your earhole or, you know, anything that
18 they choose to do.

19 Q. If we move on to food at the bottom of the page, where
20 did you get your food?

21 A. Well, it was dished up and then we used to have to take
22 it to our room.

23 Q. I think you say here that you ate your meal quietly in
24 the kitchen.

25 A. Yes, it was right next to the cellar.

1 Q. Okay. Did you ever sit down, can you remember, with
2 Mrs BGC or her family at all for a meal?

3 A. No, no.

4 Q. You say there was a dining room but it was only for
5 guests and when you did sit in there, you had to sit
6 cross legged on the floor?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Can you remember why you might have been going into the
9 dining room?

10 A. To watch a TV programme or something like that.

11 Q. Did you have enough to eat when you were there, can you
12 remember?

13 A. Well, I can't really remember, but I think we survived,
14 basically.

15 Q. I think in the next part you talk about schooling and
16 you say at paragraph 27 that you got a decent meal at
17 school?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. "I think that was what we were surviving on."
20 You say?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you used to sometimes go to the biscuit factory and
23 ask for biscuits --

24 A. Yes, get broken biscuits.

25 Q. At the bottom of this page you talk about chores. Can

1 you remember having to do any chores apart from washing
2 the bedsheets that you've mentioned?

3 A. Oh, probably scrubbing the floors or, you know, peeling
4 potatoes or things like that. You know, could be
5 anything.

6 Q. You say at the top of page 7, paragraph 31:
7 "The house wasn't clean in our section but the rest
8 of it was clean."

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You say:
11 "I think, looking back, my sisters were doing the
12 cleaning in the rest of the house."

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. Is that something that you've realised later on?

15 A. Yeah. Vaguely remember them when they get home from
16 school and that, they would -- or at the weekends be
17 away from me. They would be in a different part of the
18 house from me and I assumed that they were doing all the
19 cleaning up and what have you.

20 Q. Then you talk again about the room that you've described
21 that you were living in and you say:
22 "Thinking back our section wasn't fit for an animal
23 to live in."

24 A. That's underestimating.

25 Q. You talked about it being cold and damp and you say you

1 think most of the light came from the kitchen.

2 A. Mm-hmm, when the door was open.

3 Q. So there was no light in the room itself?

4 A. No, no light and no window.

5 Q. Then you talk about clothing. I think you say that your
6 clothes were passed down between you.

7 A. Yeah, passed down the family, like, you know.

8 Q. If we can move on from there, please, to page 8 and
9 paragraph 35, can you remember your mother ever coming
10 to visit?

11 A. No.

12 Q. No? Okay. We've heard some evidence from your sisters
13 that they can remember your mum coming once or twice,
14 but you can't remember that?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. Can you remember anybody from the social work department
17 coming to visit?

18 A. I remember seeing some people, but I didn't -- I wasn't
19 told who they were or what have you. Its was just to me
20 a total stranger.

21 Q. Okay. Can you remember what you did when these people
22 were visiting?

23 A. Well, we had to be polite and clean and tidy, get the
24 Sunday suits on to make sure, and then, as I say, as
25 soon as they had gone, get your clothes off and get the

1 old stuff back on.

2 Q. You say here in your statement that you thought that
3 some of the visitors were people looking to foster
4 a child and you say that's because one of you would
5 disappear a week or two later.

6 A. Yeah, that was a case in some cases where you would see
7 couples together, rather than a lady on their own or
8 a man on his own, you know, you get couples coming in
9 and I thought, you know, there's something going on
10 here.

11 Q. That's what you thought, maybe a couple would be
12 visiting and then one of your siblings would disappear?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Again if we can move on, please, to page 9 and
15 paragraph 40, you say that you don't have any good
16 memories of being at the BGC .

17 A. No.

18 Q. You say:

19 "My relationship with Mrs BGC was just part of
20 life. At the time I accepted it. We were grateful to
21 have a roof over our heads but we didn't want to be
22 there."

23 How did Mrs BGC behave towards you, can you
24 remember?

25 A. Well, it was a case of if you didn't go by her rules,

1 you were punished. It wasn't, you know, a place where
2 I thought children should be and the way they were being
3 treated to being, you know? And I thought it was all
4 wrong at the time.

5 Q. When you say that they would punish you, how would she
6 punish you?

7 A. Well, she'd give you dirty chores to do or she'd give
8 you a slap or a clip around the ear or stop your pocket
9 money or things like that.

10 Q. I think you've already told us that sometimes she would
11 tell her children to punish you --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- or sort you out, in her words?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay. I think at the end of that page at paragraph 45
16 you say in your statement:

17 "... sometimes for no apparent reason ... she would
18 instruct [her children] to [do that]."

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Did that happen frequently?

21 A. Well, to me it happened more often than it should have.

22 Q. If you go back up to paragraph 41, you talk there about
23 Mrs BGC making cakes with soap powder. Can you
24 explain what happened there?

25 A. I think she'd baked some cakes and one disappeared and

1 to find out who had taken the cake, she made some with
2 soap powder and the person that ate it would be sick,
3 and then she would find out the person that had stole
4 the other cake, which to me was a bit weird.

5 Q. Then you say at paragraph 42:

6 "You couldn't let yourself go and enjoy being
7 a child."

8 A. No, not really. You had to be strong-headed and just
9 take it as it comes.

10 Q. Okay. At paragraph 44, you say that you can remember
11 an occasion when FCC I think, hit one of your brothers
12 with a baseball bat.

13 A. Yeah, I think that was FBV he hit with a baseball
14 bat.

15 Q. Can you remember that happening? Did you see it?

16 A. Well, I remember my brother not feeling too good and
17 I says, "What happened?" and he says, "He's hit me with
18 a baseball bat". He didn't tell me why he had hit him
19 with a baseball bat, he just said he hit him with
20 a baseball bat.

21 Q. Then if we go on to the top of the next page, page 10,
22 at paragraph 46 you say that you would also see things
23 happening to the others.

24 "We would get it if one of us had talked the wrong
25 way, it was always for something and nothing. It was

1 just an excuse for her to keep us in toe."
2 Is that right?
3 A. Mm-hmm.
4 Q. Okay. I think you say there it was really mainly her
5 son and her daughter that did the physical punishments?
6 A. That did the physical damage, yeah.
7 Q. At paragraph 47 you say that you don't think it was
8 right for all six of you to be in the cellar room, and
9 you say:
10 "She had us there to get money."
11 Was that your impression --
12 A. That's my impression, she were just there for the money
13 and nothing else.
14 LADY SMITH: What made you think that?
15 A. Well, it was the way we were basically treated like --
16 you know, we were supposed to be in rooms upstairs, but
17 when the officials came around to see how we were
18 getting on, she would make us go upstairs to say, "This
19 is **FDB**'s room, this is so-and-so and's room, this is
20 ..." Whoever's room it was. As soon as they had gone,
21 "All right, back downstairs".
22 LADY SMITH: I've been told that those rooms were actually
23 being let out to lodgers.
24 A. Let out to workers, yeah.
25 LADY SMITH: Workers on the Tay Bridge?

1 A. On the Tay Bridge, yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS INNES: Then you say:

4 "No one ever reported them to the police. I think

5 they were all too frightened to tell anyone."

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. At paragraph 48, you talk about Mrs BGC having taken

8 two watches from your sisters.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You say that she'd put them in a cupboard.

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. Can you explain what happened with the watches?

13 A. Well, I found them, because I watched where she put

14 them, and I took them, smashed them up and buried them

15 in the sand so that she couldn't sell them or give them

16 away as presents to anybody else.

17 Q. Then you say that at paragraph 49 that when she found

18 out that they were missing, she said that if nobody

19 owned up, then you would all suffer.

20 A. All suffer, yeah.

21 Q. Then I think you said that it was you; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What did she do?

24 A. Oh, she made me go across and dig them back out the

25 sand.

1 Q. You say:
2 "I can't really remember what happened but I think
3 she slapped or punched me."
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. At the end of this section you say that you have tried
6 to forget about that part of your life and you never
7 talk about it.
8 A. That's true, yeah.
9 Q. Over the top of the next page you talk about running
10 away at paragraph 51. Did you sometimes run away from
11 the BGC ?
12 A. We would get away as often as we could, just to get away
13 from the chaos and the torment.
14 Q. Were you ever away for long enough that the police were
15 looking for you or the social work?
16 A. I can't really remember if that was in that situation.
17 Q. You say sometimes that you think Mrs BGC's son or
18 daughter would come and find you and you say they would
19 slap you on the way home?
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. Then I think you say that you were at the BGC for
22 about two to two and a half years is your recollection.
23 A. Mm-hmm.
24 Q. You don't really remember leaving there. I think you
25 say you went to an Approved School --

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 Q. -- but you're not very clear what happened --

3 A. I don't know how I ended up there. It's just that I was
4 put through the system rather than being fostered out
5 again.

6 Q. If we could move on, please, to page 17 and
7 paragraph 81, you say there:

8 "I think my time in care has had a positive effect
9 on me."

10 Why do you say that?

11 A. Well, I had to grow up and look after myself basically.
12 Especially with my disability, I just didn't want
13 anybody to take advantage of me. So ...

14 Q. You say at paragraph 82 that you try to take the
15 positives out of your experience and want to make sure
16 that it doesn't happen to anybody else.

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. You then go on to talk about your relationship with your
19 siblings. So after you left the BGC when were you
20 able to find your brothers and sisters again?

21 A. It was, oh, quite a few years later at me -- I got
22 an invitation to go to my sister's wedding.

23 Q. I think we've heard that was in 1971.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Was that the six of you that had been at the BGC is

1 that the first time that you saw all of them again?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Then the younger siblings, were you able to meet them

4 again?

5 A. I think I met one of them and I've met the other ones

6 since, but one I never did meet.

7 Q. Was that after 1971?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Do you know roughly when it was?

10 A. For what?

11 Q. When you were able to meet your younger siblings again?

12 A. Well, it was only recently that I was told that one

13 lived close to my sister.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And he ended up coming into a pub and bought me a drink

16 and I went -- and then he said who he was and I thought,

17 "Yeah, carry on".

18 Q. If we move on to the final page of your statement at

19 paragraph 86, you say:

20 "If anybody takes on a child as a foster child, they

21 should treat the child like it's their own child. They

22 shouldn't treat the child any differently."

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. That is something that you think that we should learn

25 from your own experiences?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You also say:

3 "I think it's important to always be open and honest

4 with the child."

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. About what sort of things?

7 A. Well, when they're old enough and able to understand,

8 you explain to them:

9 "Look, your real mum and dad have either passed away

10 or they have split up and they couldn't take care of you

11 for whatever reasons. That's why we're looking after

12 you. But when you become a certain age, you're more

13 than welcome to visit or else you can write a letter and

14 I can pass it through the system so that they can get

15 it."

16 Q. I think you say here that you always wanted to know

17 about your brothers and sisters but you weren't told,

18 you weren't told where they went?

19 A. We were told nothing.

20 Q. You say:

21 "They should try to answer with honest

22 explanations."

23 A. Yes.

24 MS INNES: Thank you, 'Tam'. I don't have any more

25 questions for you.

1 MS INNES: My Lady, we have another statement I think that
2 we can read in --

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MS INNES: -- at this stage. It's not somebody who was in
5 the same placement, so Ms Rattray will deal with that
6 and again if I might briefly be excused to speak to the
7 witnesses before they leave.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes, of course. Not in the same placement, but
9 a sibling of some of the people we've heard from, is
10 that the read-in we have?

11 MS INNES: No, it's a different one.

12 LADY SMITH: I'm ahead of myself. Thank you very much,
13 Ms Innes.

14 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

15 'Isobel' (read)

16 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. This is a statement of
17 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has
18 chosen the pseudonym 'Isobel'. Her statement is at
19 WIT.001.001.588.

20 While attempts to recover 'Isobel's' records were
21 unsuccessful, 'Isobel' knows from her younger sister's
22 records that she was boarded out by Aberdeen City
23 Council to a placement in Fraserburgh from [REDACTED] 1961
24 to [REDACTED] 1961:

25 "My name is 'Isobel'. I was born in 1951.

1 I was born in Aberdeen. My parents both died when
2 they were in their early 60s. I found out seven years
3 ago that the person I knew as my father was my uncle and
4 his brother was my biological father. There were five
5 children altogether. My older sisters were born in 1943
6 and 1946. My brother was 18 months older than me and
7 was born in 1949. Then there was me and my younger
8 sister, who was born in 1953.

9 We lived in Aberdeen in a tenement building. There
10 were six tenants in the building and we lived on the
11 middle floor. Mother went out drinking and dad was
12 a trawler fisherman. Dad was away at sea for ten days
13 at a time, depending on what they caught. You knew when
14 dad was due home because my mum started cleaning. When
15 he came home, there was always a big argument. My
16 mother stirred things and my father got arrested for
17 wife assault and petty theft. The police were involved
18 practically every time my father came home and dad would
19 get 30 to 60 days' imprisonment. Dad treated my brother
20 badly because he wanted to make a man of him. My
21 brother was my mother's favourite because she always
22 wanted a son.

23 We weren't clean and got reports from school about
24 that. We had lice and I remember my mother looking at
25 lice in our hair and cracking it between her nails.

1 I think social work got involved because we were going
2 to school dirty. My mother didn't take advice about
3 looking after us children. We were in and out of care
4 for short periods of time in our early life until,
5 finally, we were taken into care through the court.

6 I have been able to find out the days I was in care
7 from my younger sister's records. I've read in the
8 records that my mother and father were in a mental
9 hospital for short periods of time. My mother was in
10 three or four times up to 1957. I know my father was in
11 too. I went to visit him at the hospital when I was
12 about 15 and he looked old and drawn. The reason for us
13 going in and out of care was that either of one of them
14 were in the psychiatric hospital and so we were taken
15 into care for a short time. We were committed into care
16 for good in 1961."

17 From paragraphs 6 to 36, 'Isobel' tells us of her
18 experiences from 1955 to 1961 when she lived mainly with
19 her parents but spent shorter periods, weeks or
20 sometimes months, in different care settings. Pitfodel
21 Nursery, Aberdeenshire, The Children's Shelter.
22 Aberdeen, Linn Moor Children's Home, Aberdeenshire and
23 Craigielea Assessment Centre, Aberdeen.

24 Moving now to paragraph 37 on page 8:

25 "The staff at Craigielea Assessment Centre were

1 packing a wee case for my sister and me. We asked why
2 and the staff said we were going on a holiday. I had
3 never been on a holiday, so we got excited. The staff
4 were very nice when we left. There were hugs all around
5 and tears. The staff said we would be back and not to
6 worry. The holiday was foster care.

7 In the records, it says in May 1961:

8 'Avert from foster care. No results from Church of
9 Scotland or Barnardo's. Visited the children several
10 times because of Craigielea alterations and arrangements
11 were made for a holiday for the sisters'.

12 And on 6 July 1961:

13 'In foster care. Arrangements were confirmed for
14 the children to visit parents for their sister to join
15 the sisters on holiday.'

16 I was ten years old when we went to Mr and
17 Mrs **EEO-EEP**'s in 1961. We were there for a couple of
18 months around the summer. The house was a small
19 fisherman's cottage. The beach was at the back door.
20 My sister and I had a bedroom and Mr and Mrs **EEO-EEP** had
21 a bedroom. There was a small kitchen, a sitting room
22 and a vestibule. They had a small garden with fish nets
23 in it.

24 Mr **EEP** went to sea. He hardly spoke a word.

25 Mrs **EEO** had long grey hair that she put up in a bun

1 in the morning. She was very strict and I didn't like
2 her at all. I don't remember their first names or what
3 we called them. Mrs EEO was about 60 or 70 years old
4 and was very old-fashioned in her ways. I didn't see
5 any other family of theirs at the house. We were fed
6 and kept clean, but there wasn't a happy atmosphere.
7 Mrs EEO was very strict about bedtime and church
8 time. We hm freedom at Craigielea and this was
9 a totally different environment.

10 Ms Luke was our social worker whilst we were in
11 foster care. She took us in the car to Fraserburgh.
12 She was nice. We had never met Mr and Mrs EEO-EEP They
13 were nice while Ms Luke was there. After Ms Luke left
14 and we were shown our room, my sister and I unpacked.
15 Then we were lost and didn't know what to do next. We
16 had tea and then we had to go to bed.

17 My sister and I went to bed at 7 pm or 7.30 pm
18 except on a Sunday when we had to go to church in the
19 evening. We shared a double bed. The bed was comfy and
20 it was a nice, clean and tidy room. We were able to get
21 washed.

22 There was a town crier, which we had never seen.
23 When my sister and I heard the shouting, we looked out
24 of the window. What a row we got for looking out of the
25 window. We were kept in and not allowed to play on the

1 beach. You weren't allowed to look out of the window.

2 My sister and I were well fed. Mrs EEO was
3 a home baker so the food was good. Mrs EEO didn't
4 like you being in the way while she cooked and she kept
5 you well away from her kitchen. We didn't have any
6 chores to do and Mrs EEO did everything herself.

7 We didn't go to school while we were in foster care.
8 The beach was your playground and we were out playing
9 nearly every day. When you went out to play, you had to
10 come back not a minute later than when you were told.
11 There were puzzles in the house but that was all. There
12 were two children from Nazareth House in Aberdeen. They
13 were fostered out to a family in the village. We became
14 friends. Sometimes Mrs EEO took us down to the
15 harbour to see the boat coming in when Mr EEP was
16 coming back from sea.

17 The EEO-EEP were very churchy people. We said our
18 prayers every night and said grace at the table. Sunday
19 was for church. I don't know what religion it was, but
20 we went to church in the morning, afternoon and evening
21 on a Sunday. Mr EEP never went to sea on a Sunday
22 and you couldn't put out washing on a Sunday. It was
23 strange and my sister and I couldn't understand it.

24 My sister and I kept asking for our sisters and
25 brother. Social work let one of my sisters come and

1 stay with the EEO-EEP for two weeks. She was about 12
2 or 13 years old. She came with her social worker. The
3 three of us slept in one big bed and spent time at the
4 beach.

5 In the homes you had your Sunday clothes and when
6 you got home from church you had to change into your
7 play clothes. On the first Sunday we were there, my
8 sister and I did that but Mr EEP was sitting in our
9 bedroom reading his Bible. The bedroom was small. He
10 sat in a corner on a chair. Mr EEP didn't do
11 anything or say a word. My sister and I took turns
12 about going into a little cupboard and changing our
13 clothes. One of us stayed outside the cupboard.

14 We were uptight about this and we told Mrs EEO.
15 She said Mr EEP was reading his Bible and doing no
16 harm and so it carried on. We got a raging from
17 Mrs EEO because you don't come out of your Sunday
18 clothes on a Sunday. We learned the hard way that
19 Sunday is for church and rest, not play.

20 I couldn't tell the time. Mr EEP sat me down and
21 went round the clock the whole evening. Every time
22 I got it wrong, he would get angrier. He shouted at me.
23 It was terrifying. I was up that night until I got it
24 right.

25 When my other sister came to stay at the EEO-EEP

1 we told her what was going on. We told her about
2 Mr EEP sitting in the room when we got changed and
3 the things we didn't understand, like going to church
4 three times a day and not being allowed to go out and
5 play on a Sunday. Mr EEP never sat in the room when
6 my other sister was there. She promised to tell
7 someone. Not long after that, we were removed from the
8 EEO-EEP. I think my other sister said something to her
9 social worker. We didn't all have the same social
10 worker.

11 Ms Luke came to the EEO-EEP. Ms Luke asked
12 Mrs EEO if my sister and I wanted to stay. I shook
13 my head and Ms Luke saw me do that. I didn't want to
14 stay there and Ms Luke took us away. It felt great that
15 we were leaving the EEO-EEP.

16 We returned to Craigielea for a short time before
17 going to Primrosehill. I was excited to see everybody
18 again. We left Craigielea to go to Primrosehill.

19 From paragraphs 54 to 119, 'Isobel' speaks of her
20 experiences at the Aberdeen Home for Widowers' Children,
21 Primrosehill, Aberdeen. When she was 15, she went to
22 Uplands College, Bridge of Allan.

23 Moving to paragraph 120, page 26:

24 "At college I learned how to clean and cook. It was
25 a domestic course with 12 girls on it at a time.

1 I didn't want to cook stew and tatties. I wanted to do
2 things with cakes and confectionery. After a year at
3 college, you had to do a year residential work. The
4 other girls got jobs in hotels and I got stuck in
5 a house with kids. I had no choice in my job. Before
6 I went to work in the house, I was taken back to
7 Aberdeen and put in a girls' hostel."

8 Now to paragraph 122:

9 "I was taken to a house in a posh area, in the West
10 End of Aberdeen by the authorities. Mr [REDACTED] was
11 a surgeon. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] had twins who were nine
12 months old, a boy of seven years and a boy of nine
13 years. I was 16 years old. I was paid £7, 7 shillings
14 and sixpence, minus board. I was given a room above
15 a garage in an annex, where there was a bed, a clothes
16 shelf and a side table. I hated the job. I had no
17 friends and I didn't know my way about. I didn't know
18 anything about looking after children.

19 I worked from 6.30 am until late. My job was to
20 look after the children, clean the house and cook all
21 the meals. Mr [REDACTED] came in at odd times. I had to get
22 the boys ready for school and get the twins up, washed
23 and dressed. A breakfast tray had to be taken up every
24 morning for Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]

25 I had two half days off a week, on Tuesday and

1 Thursday. On Tuesday and Thursday night I had to go to
2 night classes in Aberdeen. There were eight people in
3 the class, there was no one of my age. They were mostly
4 married and learn to cook. One night I was going to the
5 class and I saw a street which I recognised the name of.
6 I got off the bus and knocked at a door. I asked for my
7 mother, who I hadn't seen for years. A woman answered
8 and sent me to another street. I found my mother that
9 day. I thought my mother was ill and I decided to leave
10 the [REDACTED] and look after her. Unbeknown to me, it was
11 drink. I was still 16 years old."

12 Now to paragraph 127 on page 28:

13 "I didn't stay at my mum's for very long. My mum
14 was drunk all the time. There was no food and
15 everything was dirty in the house. I got reported to
16 the authorities for staying with my mum. So I went to
17 stay at dad's.

18 My dad kept a three-roomed council house in case any
19 of us kids came back to stay with him. I stayed with
20 dad until my mum reported me to the authorities for
21 being there. I had to go and see a social worker.

22 By then I had met the man who became my husband and
23 we went to meet a social worker. I was still 16 years
24 old. The social worker said I was under a court order
25 until I was 18 years old and I had to go back to the

1 girls' hostel. I got upset. My boyfriend said, "What
2 if we got married?" The social worker gave us three
3 weeks to get married or I had to go back to the hostel.
4 We got married to save me going back to the hostel. The
5 arrangement was that we would get divorced in three
6 months. We've been married for 53 years.

7 I was lucky I met my husband. He saved me. There
8 was no aftercare from the social work department. We
9 started married life with one pot and two cups. We have
10 two children and three grandchildren. I got a job as
11 an auxiliary and went on to do my nursing qualification
12 when the kids were small. When I thought I couldn't go
13 on studying, my husband encouraged me. I learned to
14 drive at the same time. I did general nursing and then
15 theatre work. I retired when I was 58 years old. Then
16 I worked as a council warden in a sheltered housing.
17 I had a heart attack when I was 61 years old and
18 I retired after that.

19 My youngest sister was in London for about a year.
20 I asked social work if she could come and stay with my
21 husband and I and she did. I hadn't seen her for
22 a couple of years by then. She did okay.

23 It's disgusting that no one took the time to explain
24 to me that I was being taken into care when I was 10
25 years old. No one said where we were going or that it

1 was for our own good.

2 When I left care at Primrosehill, I didn't know
3 where anything was. I knew the way to church, school
4 and the beach and that was it. My father stayed less
5 than a mile away from Primrosehill and I didn't know.
6 I knew the address but I didn't know where it was.
7 I found out where the house was after I left
8 Primrosehill and met my husband. He took me to the
9 house and I remembered it.

10 I was at my lowest when I was in the [REDACTED] house,
11 I had no friends, I had no clubs to join and I didn't
12 know where I was. We were not prepared for the outside
13 world. There was no help. Nobody told me where the
14 church or the library was. I had come from a home with
15 18 children and college with 15 girls. Loneliness can
16 kill you. I used to cry because I was so lonely.

17 It takes me a long time to trust. I was
18 overprotective with my children. You don't learn to mix
19 well with people when you are in care. In different
20 circumstances, I wouldn't have got married young and in
21 a hurry. My husband and I wouldn't have been as hard up
22 as we were. We had nothing and had to climb from the
23 bottom rung. I wanted to learn confectionery and cakes
24 but I didn't have a say in it. For a time I wanted to
25 be a missionary. When I met my husband I stopped

1 believing because he doesn't believe in God.

2 After my older sister's wedding I never saw her
3 until years after I left care. She and my younger
4 sister are both dead. I have no contact with my other
5 sister and brother. We didn't have a bond when we were
6 young. If we'd been kept together, we would have had
7 a tighter bond. I didn't see them for years. When we
8 met later, we didn't gel. It wasn't like having
9 a sister or a brother. They were just somebody you
10 knew.

11 Ms Luke the social worker told me to put everything
12 in a book. Years later, I did that. I thought about it
13 for a long time and did some research. It took me
14 a long time to put it together, from 1966 until 2006.
15 I wanted to know why we ended up in care, what the
16 different rules were for Craigielea, foster care and
17 Primrosehill and why they were so different when they
18 were all places of care for children. Secondary Institutions - t

19 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

20 Secondary Institutions - to be p

21 I have called the book 'Children of the System'.
22 The book is A4 size and is contained in a folder. There
23 are 63 pages plus photographs. The book is all about my
24 life. I got my younger sister's records to back up the
25 truth. I have no intentions of publishing it. It's for

1 my children.

2 I have given a statement to the National
3 Confidential Forum and I was given a transcript of what
4 I said."

5 Moving now to paragraph 146 on page 31:

6 "I tried to get my records from the social work
7 department in the early 1990s. I wrote three letters to
8 the social work department in Aberdeen and telephoned
9 them and didn't get an answer. Then I got a letter
10 saying the records were destroyed after 30 years. The
11 records I have are my younger sister's records. I'm
12 included in the records because I was with her in care
13 and you can see my name in them. I got the records from
14 her when she died.

15 I maybe would have had counselling in earlier years
16 but I didn't. As you grow older, you're able to bring
17 it to the forefront. I have my husband and he's a good
18 listener.

19 Social workers should listen to the kids. They
20 should have regular one-to-one meetings where they ask
21 how the kids are getting on and what the kids want to
22 do. The children's futures shouldn't be dictated to
23 them by the authorities. That's wrong. The meetings
24 should take place without a mum, dad or carer there.

25 Children's carers should spend time listening to the

1 children's reading and helping with their homework.
2 Children should be encouraged in the things they enjoy,
3 like playing sport for a team. Contact should be kept
4 up with siblings, cousins and aunties. Every child
5 should have the choice to keep contact up.

6 Children should be told where they are going, why
7 and what is going to happen next. People who have been
8 in care should be able to see their records to see all
9 that. As you get older, the question of how did you get
10 into a home is always in the back of your mind.

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

15 The witness signed her statement on
16 17 December 2020.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the read-in and also
19 concludes the evidence for today, and we resume tomorrow
20 at 10 am with further oral witnesses and read-ins.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

22 I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, but
23 before I do that, just a reminder there were some names
24 mentioned this afternoon of those involved in foster
25 care, again the BGC and Mrs BGC's children and

1 another couple, the EEO-EEP . They're all covered by my
2 general restriction order and can't be mentioned outside
3 the hearing room.

4 Thank you.

5 (3.32 pm)

6 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
7 Wednesday, 8 June 2022)

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| 1 | 'Bob' (sworn) | 1 |
| 2 | Questions from Ms Innes | 2 |
| 3 | 'Janet' (read) | 28 |
| 4 | 'Lauren' (sworn) | 49 |
| 5 | Questions from Ms Innes | 50 |
| 6 | 'Lena' (sworn) | 86 |
| 7 | Questions from Ms Innes | 87 |
| 8 | 'Tam' (sworn) | 111 |
| 9 | Questions from Ms Innes | 112 |
| 10 | 'Isobel' (read) | 133 |
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