

1 Thursday, 9 June 2022

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our evidential  
4 hearings in the foster care case study.

5 Now, we're ready, I think, to go ahead with the  
6 Thursday schedule. Is that right, Ms Innes?

7 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. The first witness today is using  
8 the pseudonym 'May'. She was in the care of Banffshire  
9 County Council and as I said, I think yesterday, that is  
10 a predecessor of both Moray Council and Aberdeenshire  
11 Council.

12 'May's' parents lived near Banff, which is now part  
13 of Aberdeenshire, but she was boarded out with carers in  
14 what is now Moray. However, we recovered some records  
15 from Aberdeenshire, so that would suggest that they are  
16 the relevant responsible authority, and of course at  
17 that time the carers would have simply been appointed by  
18 Banffshire and given the retention periods no foster  
19 carer records would remain, so I think that the  
20 responsible authority would link back to where 'May' was  
21 at home before she was taken into care, and that's in  
22 what is now Aberdeenshire.

23 'May' was taken into care in 1951. She was born in  
24 1951, so she was taken into care as a baby and she was  
25 boarded out on [REDACTED] 1952 and she remained in that

1 placement for the rest of her time in care.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 'May' (sworn)

4 LADY SMITH: A couple of things before you start your  
5 evidence, 'May'. The first one is that microphone, we  
6 do need you to speak into the microphone, if you can try  
7 to remember to do that.

8 A. (Witness nodded)

9 LADY SMITH: The second one is, you're there already, that  
10 red folder has a copy of your statement in it, the one  
11 you signed. You'll also see your statement coming up on  
12 screen when we look at particular parts of it.

13 A. I'm not hearing you --

14 LADY SMITH: You'll see your statement coming up on screen,  
15 it's on the desk in front of you.

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: I hope that might be helpful to you as well.

18 But, 'May', quite separately, can I assure you at  
19 the outset that I know that what we're asking you to do  
20 here isn't easy and some people find it particularly  
21 difficult at times. I do appreciate that.

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: What I want to do is everything I can to make  
24 it as comfortable for you as possible. So if, for  
25 example, you want a break, that's absolutely fine,

1           whether leaving the room or just pausing while you're  
2           sitting there. If you have any questions, no question  
3           is a stupid one if it's one that's in your head that  
4           you'd like answered, please speak up. I know that as  
5           a child it may have been difficult for you to speak up,  
6           but it's different here and we want to know anything  
7           that's troubling you or concerning you.

8   A.   Yes.

9   LADY SMITH:   So do let me know that.

10           Otherwise, I'll hand over to Ms Innes if you're  
11           ready and she'll take it from there. Is that all right?

12   A.   Yeah.

13   LADY SMITH:   Thank you.

14           Ms Innes.

15   MS INNES:   Thank you, my Lady.

16           Questions from Ms Innes

17   MS INNES:   Now, 'May', I understand that you were born in  
18           1951; is that right?

19   A.   Yes.

20   Q.   You have a copy of your statement there in front of you.  
21           If I can ask you, please, to look at the final page of  
22           that statement, it's coming up on the screen there, and  
23           we see at paragraph 88 that it says:

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

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

3 I think you signed that statement on  
4 15 February 2017; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can I take you back to the start of your statement,  
7 please, at paragraph 4. You tell us there that you were  
8 one of ten children.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Is that right? I think you're the second youngest of  
11 the ten; is that right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You say that the oldest child wasn't brought up in care  
14 and the youngest wasn't in care.

15 A. No.

16 Q. So the remaining eight, I think, were taken into care;  
17 is that right?

18 A. My younger brother wasn't born when we went into care.

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. When he was born, he was left with my parents.

21 Q. Okay. So you were the youngest child who was taken into  
22 care?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I think your oldest sibling wasn't taken into care  
25 either because you say --



1 A. No, she was grown up.

2 Q. Okay. If we go on to the next page, please, at  
3 paragraph 6, as you say at the -- well, at the at  
4 present top of the page we see that you were placed in  
5 care when you were nine months old so obviously you  
6 don't remember your early life with your parents, but  
7 I think you've been told some information about them.  
8 Were you told that by some of your brothers and sisters?

9 A. Yes, my older brothers and sisters told me a bit about  
10 what it was like with them.

11 Q. I think we see you say that you were told that your  
12 parents were living together in a two-bedroomed cottage.  
13 There was no running water or electricity. I think you  
14 were told that your parents were unable to look after  
15 you and that's why you were taken into care.

16 A. They weren't looking after us as well as they should  
17 have been, no.

18 Q. Okay. Then you go on to say at paragraph 7 that you  
19 were told I think again that a big black car came to  
20 take you away to a big house in Buckie, and you think  
21 that was a children's home in Buckie that you were taken  
22 to?

23 A. Yes, one of my sisters said we were taken there to be  
24 cleaned up.

25 Q. Right, okay.

1 A. Because we were very dirty and we didn't have proper  
2 clothes. We were there for a wee while before we were  
3 placed with foster parents.

4 Q. Then you go on at paragraph 8 to say that you were then  
5 placed with foster parents.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And I think you and one of your sisters went to a foster  
8 placement together; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And your other brothers and sisters, where did they go?

11 A. They went to live in a village which was just about  
12 a mile away from the one we were in.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. The same area, but just a separate village.

15 Q. Okay. And were they all together in the same --

16 A. Yes, they lived in a big house with a foster mum and  
17 dad.

18 Q. Okay.

19 You talk about moving to foster parents and if we  
20 just go over the page, please, and I weekend if you can  
21 just tell us a little bit about the EKV-SPO, who you  
22 went to live with. What was Mr [REDACTED] like, can you  
23 remember?

24 A. He wasn't a well man. He was quite disabled. He was  
25 bent over all the time, he couldn't stand up straight.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. He sometimes would be in bed for a long time and there  
3 was occasions when he was up and in the chair sitting at  
4 the fire. He could move from there to sit at the table.  
5 And there was a couple of times I remember he was off to  
6 hospital, Stracathro Hospital, to get things done to his  
7 legs. I don't know what. But I remember him not being  
8 there because he was away in the hospital.

9 But I mean he was always kind to us, you know, and  
10 he used to stick up for us as well.

11 Q. We'll talk a bit more obviously about Mrs EKV, but  
12 what was she like? Was she just working in the home and  
13 looking after her husband?

14 A. Yes. It would have been hard work because there was no  
15 running water.

16 Q. Right.

17 A. We actually carried pails of water from a tap down the  
18 village. We all had to do that, and fill this big  
19 container, and the toilet was outside as well. And we  
20 lived there until I was 11. It was the year I was 11 we  
21 moved out of there, just after my foster dad died.

22 Q. If we go down to paragraph 13, you talk there a bit  
23 about the house itself and you say that it was a but and  
24 ben type house.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So that was the first house that you lived in?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you just give us a description of what it was like?

4 A. Well, when you went in the door there was a small porch,  
5 turned right, that was the living room where you sat and  
6 ate. There was a table there, you know, where we had  
7 our meals and that. Cooker was in there as well. All  
8 the dish washing was done in a basin on the table.

9 Q. Right.

10 A. And from that room it was straight into the next  
11 bedroom. From that bedroom into the next bedroom. The  
12 rooms were in a row.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. You had to go through them all to get to the end one.  
15 There were four rooms.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. It was like two houses at one time but they'd put a door  
18 through to make two into one house, you know.

19 Q. I think you say there that it was set slightly back from  
20 the others so --

21 A. Yes, it was down a lane.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. Sort of at the back of the village. There were no next  
24 door neighbour, not close neighbour.

25 Q. Okay. Who else, apart from Mr and Mrs EKV-SPO, and then

1           there was you and your sister, was there anybody else  
2           living in the house when you were there?

3   A.   Yes, I had a foster brother.  He was just a little older  
4           than me, but he didn't come until he was eight.  And  
5           then she got a little boy as a baby, a new baby.  And  
6           there was also her husband's sister's daughter.

7   Q.   Okay.

8   A.   She couldn't look after her, so her brother -- my foster  
9           dad, obviously, was her brother -- they took the  
10          daughter, his sister's daughter, and brought her up.

11  Q.   Okay.  Was she living in the house for the whole time  
12          that you lived there?

13  A.   Pardon?

14  Q.   Was she living in the house the whole time that you were  
15          there?

16  A.   Yes.  She was older than me, maybe about 15 years -- no  
17          10 maybe.  I'm guessing.  You know, it's hard to  
18          remember.  But I always remember her being my big sister  
19          and she was nice as well.  She used to back us up too,  
20          yeah.

21  Q.   Then you said that your foster dad died and at  
22          paragraph 15, which is at the bottom of page 3 going on  
23          to page 4, you -- and you've already said that you moved  
24          to a council house in the village at that time?

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. Presumably you and your sister moved and Mrs EKU to  
2 the new house?  
3 A. Mm.  
4 Q. Did the niece move as well?  
5 A. Pardon?  
6 Q. Did her niece go to the new house as well?  
7 A. Yes, yes, we all moved to the three-bedroom -- it was  
8 a three-bedroomed house.  
9 Q. Were your foster brothers there as well in the  
10 new house?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 LADY SMITH: So again that was five children in total,  
13 'May', was it?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
16 MS INNES: Can you just tell us a little bit about the  
17 council house? How many bedrooms did it have?  
18 A. Three bedrooms.  
19 Q. Who did you share a room with?  
20 A. I shared a room with my sister, [REDACTED].  
21 Q. And --  
22 A. And -- well, they were both called '[REDACTED]', actually.  
23 There was big [REDACTED] and little [REDACTED].  
24 Q. Okay.  
25 A. And big [REDACTED] slept in a single bed and my sister and

1 I shared a double bed.

2 Q. Right?

3 A. And the boys slept in one of the rooms.

4 Q. So "big [REDACTED]" is the niece, is Mrs EKV [REDACTED] niece?

5 A. Yes, yes.

6 Q. Then your own sister was also called [REDACTED]?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Just going back to the first cottage, did you and your

9 sister share a bed and a room in that cottage too?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did Mrs EKV [REDACTED] niece have her own room then or was she

12 in the same room with you?

13 A. I'm trying to think. Actually, my foster brother was in

14 the same room as us, but she was sort of left school and

15 moved away. She only came home for days off.

16 Q. I see.

17 A. And he would be in the room that she slept in, and if

18 she was -- if she was away, he would be in her room.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. You know, it was just shifting around when she was off,

21 you know, when she was back for her days off and things.

22 Q. Okay. Right.

23 A. And the baby, of course, he was still with mum and dad,

24 still, you know, in their room in a cot. He was there

25 for quite a long time, actually, in the cot.

1 Q. He came as a baby, and then did he stay for the whole  
2 time that you were there or --  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. -- did he leave? He was there the whole time, okay.  
5 If we can move on, please, to paragraph 18 and  
6 you've mentioned there already that when you stayed at  
7 the croft you would have to go to the village tap every  
8 Monday to get water that was needed for washing and  
9 cooking for the rest of the week.  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. What about water for drinking? Where did that come  
12 from?  
13 A. That came from there as well.  
14 Q. Okay. Did you have to collect that as well?  
15 A. Yes, we filled a big container with buckets, you know,  
16 and filled a big container.  
17 Q. You say there that you did it every Monday. Was it just  
18 once a week that you did it?  
19 A. Well, it depended. I mean, it depended on how much she  
20 got through. If she needed more, I would go and get  
21 more. But it would last quite a few days. You know,  
22 she just took out what she needed with a jug, you know,  
23 for cooking and tea and whatever, you know, and washing  
24 us, obviously, yes.  
25 Q. Can you remember how old you were when you started doing



1           that?

2   A.   Probably about seven/eight.

3   Q.   Did Mrs EKU do that as well? Did she help you go

4           down --

5   A.   She didn't do that, no. No.

6   Q.   Then you say at paragraph 19 that you would get up most

7           mornings at 7 o'clock and do some things to help about

8           the house.

9   A.   Yes.

10  Q.   You say you didn't mind doing that?

11  A.   No, I didn't mind, no.

12  Q.   You talk about filling hot water bottles in winter.

13  A.   Yes, but only when we were older. Didn't do that when

14           I was small. It wasn't until I was old enough to be

15           safe with a hot kettle, you know what I mean. Didn't

16           have to do that when we were young.

17  Q.   Can you remember doing that at the croft or was that

18           something that you did --

19  A.   No, that was when I was in the council house.

20  Q.   Okay.

21  A.   There was a generator for electricity in the old place,

22           so the water was usually boiled on the fire. There was

23           only electric for running a cooker. There was a cooker,

24           but most of the water boiling was heated on the fire for

25           washing the kids and stuff like --

1 LADY SMITH: That was in the cottage, 'May'?

2 A. Yes, in the old -- yes.

3 LADY SMITH: So there was an electric cooker?

4 A. Yes, there was a generator which operated that.

5 LADY SMITH: Did the generator also give you some lighting?

6 A. Yes.

7 MS INNES: What about heat in the bedrooms and the --

8 A. No, there was no heating.

9 Q. No.

10 A. A coal fire in the living room, which most people had at

11 that time.

12 Q. How did you keep warm in the bedroom then?

13 A. Well, there were no heaters in any -- most people in the

14 village didn't have that.

15 Q. Okay. Then if we go on to the next page, please, at the

16 top of the page you talk about other jobs that you had

17 to do when you were at the council house, so things like

18 taking the bins out, peeling the tatties and cleaning

19 the fire?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Those were things that you did when you were a bit

22 older?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then you say at paragraph 21 that you had school lunches

25 during the week and then you'd often go and play with

1 friends in the village. You were only allowed back into  
2 the house when your foster mother said that you could  
3 come back in?  
4 A. Yeah, we couldn't open the door and walk in.  
5 Q. Why not?  
6 A. We just -- we weren't allowed.  
7 Q. Okay.  
8 A. We had no reason to go in because the toilet was  
9 outside. And even down in the council house we couldn't  
10 just open the door and go in.  
11 Q. Right.  
12 A. You had to knock and she would open the door and,  
13 "I want the toilet", and you would get in for the  
14 toilet, and then get out again.  
15 Q. Right.  
16 A. You weren't allowed to just walk in.  
17 Q. Then you say I think again at the end of paragraph 22  
18 you had to play outside until you were invited into the  
19 house at night-time.  
20 A. Yes, she'd call us in.  
21 Q. And that's when you were allowed to go in?  
22 A. Yes. In for your meals and to get washed, ready for  
23 bed.  
24 Q. Okay. That would happen in all weathers, you say?  
25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. You say at paragraph 23 that you used to get into  
2 trouble for sitting on the doorstep listening to the  
3 radio that was playing in the house.  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. Was that at the cottage or in the council house?  
6 A. That was up in the old house.  
7 Q. Okay.  
8 A. Yeah.  
9 Q. Why would you get into trouble for doing that?  
10 A. I don't know. I mean, if she happened to come out the  
11 door when I was sitting there listening to the radio,  
12 she would give me a slap and say, "Go and play, what are  
13 you sitting there for?" You know, just things like that,  
14 just ...  
15 Q. Okay. You then go on at paragraph 24 to talk about  
16 visits to the other foster mother who was looking after  
17 your siblings.  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. You say that was on a Wednesday and a Friday, she would  
20 alternate visits?  
21 A. Yes, that's right.  
22 Q. I wanted to understand what you mean. Did she go up  
23 every Wednesday and Friday?  
24 A. No.  
25 Q. Or did they come --

1 A. We went to see the foster mother of my brothers and  
2 sisters on a Wednesday, after school we had to go down  
3 there, and on a Friday their foster mum came to visit us  
4 on a Friday evening --

5 Q. Right.

6 A. -- just for a couple of hours.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. So there was contact. We weren't allowed to go down  
9 there on our own. It was only when we'd go to visit on  
10 a Wednesday and when my brothers and sisters came along  
11 with her. Apart from school, that's the only contact  
12 I had with my brothers and sisters. During the summer  
13 holidays and things, you would only see them twice  
14 a week. They weren't allowed to come to our village, we  
15 weren't allowed to go to their village. It was only if  
16 they were with us sort of thing.

17 Q. Okay. So even during the summer holidays, would it  
18 still just be for a couple of hours?

19 A. Yes, it was the same routine in the holidays.

20 Q. You say that you would listen at the door and you would  
21 hear the foster parents talking.

22 A. Yeah, they were always talking about us.

23 Q. You say you never hear well of yourself?

24 A. No, no.

25 Q. Was that the case when you listened in to what the

1 foster parents were saying to one another?

2 A. Well, a lot of the things they were talking about, it  
3 wasn't true, you know? I mean, we found ourselves  
4 trying to do things to please her, hoping that life  
5 would be better. But it never was.

6 Q. At paragraph 25, you say that you think that the only  
7 reason she was involved in foster care was because she  
8 was getting paid to have you and it was worth her while.  
9 Why do you think that?

10 A. Because she never showed any sympathy -- you know, if  
11 you hurt yourself or anything. No cuddles. She would  
12 take a cloth and give it a clean, "Oh, that's only  
13 a scratch. Away you go and play". Sometimes a cut  
14 would get infected because it was never cleaned or put  
15 ointment on and things, you know.

16 Q. I think there was -- it's not in your statement, but  
17 I think there was maybe a time that you had a boil?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. Can you tell us about that?

20 A. I had a bottle, it was on -- it was a boil more at the  
21 side of my bottom and I was sitting like this at the  
22 table and she asked why, "Sit up properly, why are you  
23 sitting like that?" I says, "I'm sore". "Let me see."  
24 So I let her see then and she had to take me down to  
25 the doctor and the doctor lanced it but I mean it was

1 sore for a long time and I couldn't tell her because you  
2 never get any sympathy and I thought she wouldn't bother  
3 doing anything but she obviously did because when she  
4 saw it, it was quite bad. I think things like that can  
5 spread, you know the poison can spread, so I think she  
6 maybe got a scare and thought she would have to do  
7 something. So that's what happened.

8 Q. So I think you're saying it had been sore for a while  
9 before and you knew that you had it.

10 A. Yes. I never said anything, no.

11 Q. I think you said you never said anything because you  
12 didn't think she would bother or --

13 A. I hoped it would go away, it might be okay, you know.

14 Q. But you didn't feel it was something that you could tell  
15 her?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Over the top of the next page at "Visits", you  
18 talk about a man from Social Services called Mr FPS  
19 coming to see you.

20 A. Yes, that's right.

21 Q. What can you remember about him coming to visit?

22 A. Well, she knew he was coming because we were told,  
23 "Mr FPS coming today, keep yourself clean", but  
24 I mean we were called into the house and he'd be sitting  
25 there and we'd be sitting there and he would ask, "How

1       are you getting on at school?" and things like that.  
2       But it was just a case of sitting there and saying,  
3       "Yes" and, "No", and, "Yes" and, "No". You know,  
4       it's ... I could never understand it.  
5   Q.   Okay.  
6   A.   Why didn't he take us somewhere to talk to us on our  
7       own?  
8   Q.   So he didn't do that?  
9   A.   Especially as I got older. I think I would have told  
10       him things, you know. I think I would have. If I'd had  
11       the chance. And I also felt at school that teachers  
12       should have noticed there was something wrong, because  
13       my foster mum was really bad for walking past you and  
14       just slap for no reason. And in class when the teacher  
15       was walking around the class, which they used to do,  
16       when you were doing an essay or something, I mean  
17       I would be like this. You know, it was just a habit  
18       because I was so used to this slap if she went past me.  
19  Q.   But you don't -- the teacher didn't seem to notice  
20       anything or say anything?  
21  A.   No, but I remember doing it in class.  
22  Q.   You've talked there about Mr **FPS**, and then at  
23       paragraph 27 you talk about seeing your brothers and  
24       sisters, as you've explained. You remember going on the  
25       bus to visit them and you remember the foster mother



1 smiling at you for the benefit of other passengers on  
2 the bus, you say?

3 A. Yes. When my brothers and sisters were older, like, you  
4 know, they were teenagers well on in -- you know, they  
5 were quite grown up. In fact, my two brothers started  
6 work locally and we would go and see them, you know,  
7 separate, away from the house where they were brought  
8 up. And she would -- when there were other people  
9 there, she would smile at us and ... you know, just talk  
10 nice to us and everything. Only because other people  
11 were there. So she --

12 Another thing she did was other ladies in the  
13 village used to chat to us. You know, we'd be playing  
14 with the other kids in the village and they'd come out  
15 and ask you things about her, my foster mum. "Why are  
16 you not allowed in the house?" I says, "Well, so she can  
17 get her cleaning done". You know, I don't know what it  
18 was but we always felt we had to cover for her. You  
19 know, we never used to say stuff about her. Because we  
20 were worried we would be put to the home. And that was  
21 painted as not a good place to be.

22 Q. Who --

23 LADY SMITH: Yes, who painted the home --

24 A. The home would have been probably better.

25 LADY SMITH: Who was giving the impression the home would be

1 worse?

2 A. My foster mum used to say, "If you don't behave, you'll

3 go to the home".

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 A. "And you won't have it so easy there!"

6 MS INNES: Then if we go on to the next section in your

7 statement, you talk about wetting the bed and you say

8 you weren't allowed to go to the toilet.

9 A. Well, the toilet was outside. We weren't allowed to go

10 out there at night.

11 Q. Did she leave anything in the room for you to use during

12 the night?

13 A. No, no, no. She used a bucket in her room, but we

14 weren't allowed to -- no. You just had to wait till

15 morning, and if you -- if you wet the bed, well, you

16 just got walloped with the hairbrush. It was a big

17 handled hairbrush. She used to beat your bum with that.

18 Q. You say that stopped when you moved to the council

19 house?

20 A. The thrashings stopped, yeah.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. Because then people would have heard. Well, I think

23 that's what it was. But you still got slapped and

24 things like that but she didn't use the stick very

25 often.

1 Q. We'll come back to that a little bit more in a moment,  
2 but if we just -- the council house, was it in a terrace  
3 of other houses?  
4 A. Yes, it was four in a row.  
5 Q. So there were people right next to you?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Neighbours?  
8 A. (Witness nodded)  
9 Q. Okay. Then in your statement you go on to talk about  
10 being at school, and you've mentioned that already,  
11 I think. Did you have some difficulty with the other  
12 children at school?  
13 A. Well, we got called "boarded-out tinkies".  
14 Q. Were your brothers and sisters at the same schools as  
15 you?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. At the top of the next page, you talk there about the  
18 names that you were called and you say that you had free  
19 school meals and you had a different colour lunch  
20 ticket?  
21 A. Yes, there was a different colour for those who had free  
22 meals from the ones who were paying, which I could never  
23 understand that.  
24 Q. That used to make you stand out, you say?  
25 A. Well, it would give them another opportunity to bully

1           you:

2           "My mum and dad have to pay. How come you get

3           everything free?"

4           You know, it's kids being kids. But it just wasn't

5           very nice, you know.

6   Q. You say at the end of the paragraph there that you had

7           good friends at school.

8   A. Pardon?

9   Q. You say at the end of the paragraph, that first

10          paragraph that we see there, that you had good friends

11          at school?

12   A. Yes, I did.

13   Q. Okay.

14   A. I had a few really good friends.

15   Q. Did you tell them what was going on at home?

16   A. Not everything. They used to wonder why we couldn't go

17          into the house. But I never used to say too much

18          because I was scared that maybe it would cause a big row

19          and I might go to the home, you know? It was always my

20          fear, having to go to the home.

21   Q. At paragraph 32 you talk about being keen on art.

22   A. Yeah.

23   Q. I think that was something that you were good at at

24          school. It was something that you potentially wanted to

25          do; is that right?

1 A. Yes, I really enjoyed it.

2 Q. What was the foster mother's attitude to that?

3 A. I was wasting good paper.

4 Q. If we go on to the section about food, at paragraph 33

5 you talk about sometimes going into the kitchen and

6 stealing a biscuit from the tin?

7 A. Yes, if we knew she was hanging up washing.

8 Q. What would her reaction be if she found out?

9 A. Well, I think she did notice once and we got lined up,

10 we were called in and lined up and -- I did own up once.

11 Q. What was the result of doing that?

12 A. Well, I stole a biscuit for everybody. I wasn't perfect

13 all the time, you know, because we weren't really

14 allowed biscuits.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. So I think one day she -- I don't know, maybe I --

17 because I took a few she noticed, you know? So I got

18 the stick and put to bed with no tea.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. That was -- you know, you were off to bed till the next

21 morning. That was your punishment.

22 Q. At paragraph 34 you talk about sometimes when your

23 foster mother had friends up from Glasgow and you

24 weren't allowed in the house when they were there, so

25 you weren't fed until they left.

1 A. Yeah, they'd sit around the table chatting for ages. It  
2 wasn't until they'd finished and gone, you know, that  
3 we'd come in and get ours. Because there was no room at  
4 the table for everybody. We had to wait a long time,  
5 you know.

6 Q. If we move on to the next page, please, where you're  
7 talking about Christmas and birthdays and suchlike. At  
8 paragraph 37 you say birthdays weren't celebrated?

9 A. No, we got nothing for a birthday.

10 Q. And they were marked by her tugging your hair for the  
11 number of years that you had reached?

12 A. Yeah, yeah.

13 Q. The next section on this page is headed "Pocket money".

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you get some pocket money?

16 A. Only if we did jobs like taking in the kindling, the  
17 sticks for the fire, the coal for the fire. If you did  
18 jobs, you got a threepenny on a Saturday. We didn't get  
19 threepenny every Saturday. We had to weed the garden as  
20 well. And if we spent a lot of time doing that, we'd  
21 get a threepenny for that, but we never got more than  
22 a threepenny.

23 Q. You say that you later learned from one of the other  
24 children that were in care that you should have been  
25 getting a shilling a week which was provided by Social

1 Services --

2 A. Yes, yes.

3 Q. -- as pocket money, I think?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Then in terms of healthcare and washing and suchlike, at

6 paragraph 41 you say at the old croft you would get

7 a wash at the basin?

8 A. Yes, a basin on the table.

9 Q. You'd have an occasional bath?

10 A. Yeah, the baths weren't very often. About once every

11 two weeks, maybe? And that was done in front of the

12 fire.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. The metal baths with a handle at each end. And for hair

15 washing it was put on two chairs and we all got our hair

16 washed in the water in the basin on the chairs.

17 Q. You say that then changed when you went to the council

18 house because you had a bathroom inside?

19 A. Yes, because there was a bathroom there.

20 Q. Over the next page on page 9, you talk about running

21 away at paragraph 43 and you say you never contemplated

22 running away because you had nowhere to go.

23 A. Well, we wouldn't know where to go. I mean, if I'd

24 known then what I knew after I grow up, my mum and dad

25 weren't that many miles away, really. There was a back

1 road we could have taken. We could have been there  
2 probably in a couple of hours, but we didn't know.  
3 I mean, we were -- very seldom were we away from home.  
4 The nearest town was four miles and we only went there  
5 when we went with her. We went there to the beach once  
6 in the summer holidays and there was a show at another  
7 town, we used to go to that once a year.

8 We didn't really go away from home. We were always  
9 in the village, so you didn't know where places were.  
10 You know, not many people had a car then either. The  
11 odd farmer maybe would have a car, but that's all.

12 Q. In terms of your parents, did you have any contact with  
13 them at all throughout your childhood?

14 A. No, no.

15 Q. In the next section under "Religion" you talk about  
16 going to the local Church of Scotland.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Then at paragraph 45 you remember going to the  
19 minister's house and I think you were met by the  
20 minister's sister?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you describe having:

23 " ... everything got on top of me and I burst into  
24 tears."

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. Are you able to tell us about that?

2 A. Yes. I had been round all the farms and everything, it  
3 was "guess the doll's name", which you raised money for  
4 the church, and I used to do that every year. I don't  
5 know, I think I was just tired after walking -- I mean,  
6 I must have walked for miles, because I went round both  
7 villages and round all the farms in the area. So I was  
8 just tired and fed up. I don't know, I just started to  
9 cry.

10 Q. Okay. And what --

11 A. She says, "Oh, you silly girl". She didn't say, "What's  
12 wrong?" or ask me -- you know what I mean? I don't know  
13 what was wrong with people. If I had a kid doing that,  
14 I'd want to know what was up. You know, it was strange.

15 Q. Yes, and you say that you think that if she had shown  
16 you any sympathy, you might have told her?

17 A. Yes. Yes, I really liked the minister and his sister.  
18 There was him, his sister and their mum lived in the  
19 manse. They were both -- the minister and his sister,  
20 they were both single, so she wouldn't have much  
21 understanding of children. So maybe that was why.  
22 I don't know.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. But she just said, "You silly girl", and I thought:  
25 well, what's the point, you know?

1 Q. Okay. You then go on in the next section to talk about  
2 the abuse that you suffered. At paragraph 46 you say  
3 that you didn't need to do much to get a thrashing.  
4 A. No.  
5 Q. And that your foster mother used to use a cherry tree  
6 branch?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Can you explain that, please?  
9 A. It was a swishy, you know, bendy, quite bendy, not  
10 easily broken.  
11 Q. Right.  
12 A. You know what I mean? It was bendable.  
13 Q. Mm-hmm.  
14 A. It wouldn't be easy to break. So it was quite swishy.  
15 Very stingy. You know, if you got a smack with that,  
16 you felt it. It was very stingy.  
17 Q. You say that she kept it behind the cooker?  
18 A. Yes, it was just slotted down behind the cooker. You  
19 could see it, you know, when you were sitting in the  
20 room you could see the top of it, you know. I mean,  
21 that's what she used.  
22 Q. Then you talk about some instances where she would  
23 thrash you. Would she hit you once with this stick or  
24 more than once?  
25 A. Oh no, it was more than once.

1 Q. Would you be bruised or injured?

2 A. Well, there would be blue weals on your hips, you know,  
3 like blue streaks.

4 Q. Okay. If we go over the next page, please, at  
5 paragraph 48 you say that you think the first time that  
6 you were thrashed, you would have been at school?

7 A. Well, as far back as I can remember. I can't remember  
8 before school that much. Not in detail, anyway, no.

9 Q. Then you say on looking back the welfare services should  
10 never have put you at the house as she was having to  
11 spend a lot of time looking after her husband.

12 A. Well, he wasn't a well man and I don't think they should  
13 have placed us there because -- because of the situation  
14 with facilities and -- you know. I mean, a lot of  
15 people didn't have running water and that, but you  
16 wouldn't place two girls there, then place a boy and  
17 a baby later on. She already had enough. You know,  
18 looking back on it. I don't know why, why did they  
19 place more kids there? I mean it was pretty crowded as  
20 it was. You know? But we were kids. We didn't  
21 understand. You know, we -- we were pleased to have  
22 a new brother and a new baby as well, you know? We  
23 enjoyed that because we used to help look after him,  
24 take him for walks and things.

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. So we enjoyed that.

2 Q. Then you say at paragraph 49 that you think that the  
3 thrashings happened at least once a week?

4 A. Yes, because I was always fighting with my sister. We  
5 didn't get on.

6 Q. And a thrashing would be her reaction to that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You can't remember I think what it says there is the  
9 niece, so big [REDACTED], never got a thrashing?

10 A. No, no.

11 Q. You can't remember that, okay.

12 Then if we go down to paragraph 51, as you've  
13 already said, I think, when you moved to the council  
14 house you had neighbours and the thrashings stopped at  
15 that point.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. She didn't have the cherry tree stick with her any more?

18 A. She still had it.

19 Q. But did she use it?

20 A. It's only once I can remember her using it in the new  
21 house was where one night my sister and I were talking  
22 in bed and she came through with the stick and she  
23 lifted it, she says, "I've told you to be quiet", and  
24 I pulled the blankets up over my head and she said, "Be  
25 quiet, you've been told", and then I heard the door

1 closed. I heard the door closed and I pulled the  
2 blankets down and she struck me, struck me on the eye,  
3 I had a black eye, really black eye.

4 And then next morning she says, "You'd better not  
5 tell the teacher I did that", she says, "It was  
6 an accident". Obviously it was because I took the  
7 covers off, but she shouldn't be hitting us with a stick  
8 anyway. I was at secondary school then. And my English  
9 teacher, Ms Richie, said, "What happened to your eye,  
10 'May'?" I said, "Oh, my brother threw a stick and it  
11 struck me in the eye, he didn't mean to do it".

12 I wanted to tell her but I was told not, because it  
13 was an accident.

14 Q. Okay. If we go down to paragraph 53, you talk there  
15 about a time when I think a picture fell off the wall?

16 A. Oh yeah, that was in the old house.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you tell us about that?

20 A. Well, in winter time -- I mean there were no  
21 streetlights in the village. Everything was pitch  
22 black. And I just heard this loud clattering noise.  
23 I didn't know what it was, and I thought am I dreaming,  
24 you know? And then I started to feel all wet.  
25 I couldn't understand why I was so wet.

1           And my sister, I woke her up because I was crying  
2           and I says, "I'm all wet", so she got up and put the  
3           light on and everything was soaking with blood.

4   Q.   Right.

5   A.   Didn't know where the blood was coming from, but the  
6           picture was on the floor, and broken glass. So she had  
7           to go get her -- she was in the next room, so she was  
8           not happy. "What the hell?" You know. So we went  
9           through to the living room where the table is and she  
10          got a basin of water, I was told to sit on the chair at  
11          the table and she had a cloth and some soapy water and  
12          wiped me all to see where this blood was coming from and  
13          it was the corner of my eye.

14   Q.   Right?

15   A.   It was gushing, you know. It did stop, but it was --  
16          everything was covered in blood. My pyjamas, the bed.  
17          She was not amused because obviously that would have  
18          been a lot of work because it was washing by hand then,  
19          you know. So she says, "It's a pity it didn't KO you."  
20          That was another term for "knock you out" or "kill you".  
21          It was just a saying that she used to say.

22                Again, no sympathy. Oh, she said I was up  
23                interfering with the picture, "What were you doing up  
24                interfering with the picture?" It was pitch black.  
25                I think maybe -- they still hung pictures with string

1       and I think maybe the string had been rotten or  
2       something, I don't know why it fell down, but lucky for  
3       me it got the corner of my eye. I must have been lying  
4       on my side, so lucky it didn't go -- damage my eye.  
5       The mark's still there. I can still see the mark.

6   Q. If we just go back a little, please, on page 10 to  
7       paragraphs 51 and 52, you talk there about when you were  
8       at the council house the thrashings had stopped but you  
9       say the psychological abuse continued.

10  A. Yes.

11  Q. What do you mean by that? What sort of things would she  
12       do or say?

13  A. Well, she would say things about my mother and father.  
14       You know, how our mother didn't keep us clean. Which  
15       she didn't. She didn't have facilities, for a start.  
16       You know?

17  Q. Okay, and if we move on a little bit, please, in the  
18       next page -- I think at paragraph 55 you talk about the  
19       picture that she painted of the local children's home.

20  A. Yes.

21  Q. She would tell you things like there would be no  
22       biscuits or lemonade at the home and if you didn't  
23       behave, that's where you would end up. I assume that's  
24       when you would have been quite small --

25  A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- that she would have said that, okay.

2 Then at paragraph 57 you talk about the incident

3 when she hit you with the stick and you got a black eye.

4 A. Oh yeah.

5 Q. Okay. If you go over the page, please, at paragraph 58

6 you talk about not being allowed in the house and you

7 also say there was a wash house attached to the end?

8 A. Yes, there was a corrugated iron shed where we had to go

9 and sit if it was bucketing down rain or something.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I mean, there were times when we'd be in the house. On

12 an odd occasion she would be in a good mood and she

13 would say, "Come in and you can play snap", and she

14 would get the cards and we could play snap, but it was

15 very rarely.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Only if she was in -- you know, she would have to be in

18 a good mood.

19 Q. You talk about her moods at paragraph 60. You say you

20 had to judge the mood she was in every day.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. If she was in a bad mood, you had to keep out of her

23 way.

24 A. Yeah, it was best just not to go near her. That way you

25 avoided getting a slap for no reason.



1 Q. I don't know whether you want to talk about this, 'May',  
2 or not, but I think there was perhaps some other abuse  
3 that you suffered when you lived there when visitors  
4 came to stay.

5 A. Oh, yeah. Her sister and her husband. But that was  
6 happening in the old house.

7 Q. Mm-hmm.

8 A. Her sister's husband used to come through, sit on the  
9 bed -- because they had to come through our room to get  
10 to their room because my foster sister was left school,  
11 away from home by this time, so they stayed in there  
12 when they visited. And there were a bed settee in the  
13 sitting room as well where my foster brothers slept when  
14 the visitors were there.

15 He used to come and sit on the bed and he would have  
16 biscuits in his pocket and he used to put his hand under  
17 the blankets and touch us, my sister and I both.

18 Q. Did you ever feel able to tell anybody that that was  
19 happening?

20 A. No. No, no.

21 Q. From what you've said, I don't think you would have felt  
22 able to tell the foster mother about that?

23 A. No, no. It was her brother-in-law. But I mean they  
24 were only up for a week in the summer.

25 Q. But was it every summer that they came for a week?

1 A. Yes, yes.

2 Q. Okay. Then if we go on to the next section, "Reporting  
3 abuse", you talk there about Mr [REDACTED], what you've  
4 already said in your evidence, that if you had been on  
5 your own with him, you might have been able to say.

6 At paragraph 62 you talk about another social worker  
7 coming, a Mr Croal?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Can you tell us about that?

10 A. I think he had an inkling things weren't good. He was  
11 quite young. Would have been maybe in his 30s. And  
12 I think he -- just by the way he was, you know, I think  
13 he knew I wasn't being treated good, you know?

14 Q. You say that he spoke to you on your own, I think, when  
15 she was making tea and he talked to you about going to  
16 art school.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But you said no because you knew that your foster mother  
19 would set about you for saying that?

20 A. Well, she said -- when I told her what I'd like to do,  
21 she said, "You? Art school? Who do you think you are?  
22 You'll go out and work like everybody else". So I was  
23 scared to speak up and say what I really wanted, you  
24 know? But that's what I wanted to do, and I ended up  
25 going into hotel work where I could live in. It's not

1        what I wanted, but ... and that's the only job I've ever  
2        did for the rest of the time.

3    Q.   I think you say later in your statement that perhaps  
4        later in life you were able to do some art, but not as  
5        a job, obviously, from what you've said.

6    A.   No, no, no, no.   I couldn't -- I always continued doing  
7        it as a hobby.   In my spare time, yeah.   I could buy art  
8        pads and I could do it without being told I'm wasting  
9        paper, you know?

10   Q.   If we go on to page 13, please, and at the top of the  
11        page, paragraph 64, you say that you told your friends  
12        at school what was happening to you?

13   A.   Yes.   A girl I worked with, we shared a room in the  
14        hotel where I worked, the first hotel I worked in when  
15        I left school.

16   Q.   Okay.   So that was after you'd moved to work in the  
17        hotel?

18   A.   Yes, yes.

19   Q.   Okay.   You say you were 15 at the time and the girl was  
20        much older?

21   A.   Yes, she was much older than me.

22   Q.   But there was nothing she could do?

23   A.   No.

24   Q.   Why do you say that?

25   A.   Because I was only going to my foster mum's on day off.

1           You know?

2   Q.   You talk, if we go down to paragraph 66, I think you  
3       talk there about getting a job when you left foster care  
4       and you say you stayed there during the working week and  
5       on your days off you had no choice but to go back to the  
6       foster --

7   A.   Yes, I had nowhere else to go.

8           And she said, "You don't need to come back here  
9       now". Which again made you feel rubbish. I mean, where  
10      else can I go? And you had to pay 10 shillings for your  
11      day off. You know, it's the only place I knew.  
12      I didn't particularly go back to see her, I just went to  
13      see all my friends. You know, I had friends in the  
14      village and I enjoyed seeing my friends on my day --  
15      I only got one day off a week. And it was long hours in  
16      the hotel, you know. So I looked forward to my day off.

17   LADY SMITH: 'May', you said you had to pay 10 shillings for  
18      your day off.

19   A.   Yes.

20   LADY SMITH: Tell me about that.

21   A.   I earned £3 a week, but I got my food in the hotel and  
22      I had a room, obviously. But she asked for 10 shillings  
23      for --

24   LADY SMITH: Your foster mother did?

25   A.   Yes, for your food for your day off.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS INNES: If we go on a little, please, to paragraph 71 on  
3 page 14 you talk there about going to see your birth  
4 parents when you were about 16.

5 A. Yes, one of my brothers, he had a car and he took us to  
6 meet them.

7 Q. Were you able to re-establish any kind of relationship  
8 with your parents at that point?

9 A. Not really. My mum didn't know what to say and she sort  
10 of just disappeared into this little kitchen bit.  
11 I think she -- because she didn't know we were coming.  
12 My brother went to see them quite often, I mean he was  
13 older and he was going quite regular, I think, to see my  
14 mum and dad because he remembered them from when he went  
15 into care, from, you know, before that. I mean, she'd  
16 not seen me since I was a baby. He should have let her  
17 know we were coming, I think. So she was -- I think she  
18 just got such a shock. She just disappeared into this  
19 little kitchen bit, you know.

20 My dad sat and chatted a wee bit, and saying that it  
21 wasn't our fault, you know, we just didn't have the  
22 money and it was -- he was working but he kept bees and  
23 he did shoe repairs for extra money. They did their  
24 best. But they just couldn't look after us properly.  
25 And he said -- he just kept saying it wasn't our fault.

1           I didn't know what to think, to be honest. I think  
2           they should have maybe helped them rather than take us  
3           away.

4   Q. You say there that your father died not long after, but  
5           you used to call back and visit your mother?

6   A. Yes, I did.

7   Q. And you --

8   A. She did start to talk and that, you know. It took a wee  
9           while.

10   Q. Okay.

11           Then at paragraph 74 you say your siblings are  
12           scattered all over the place --

13   A. Yeah.

14   Q. -- and you don't see much of them.

15   A. Yes. I was really close to my sister who died.

16   Q. Right.

17   A. She had a brain tumour and they couldn't operate,  
18           because of where it was they couldn't operate.

19   Q. If you go on to the top of the next page, paragraph 75,  
20           you say:

21           "Foster care ruined my life."

22   A. Yes.

23   Q. Can you explain why you say that?

24   A. Well, I've never ... I've never had confidence. And my  
25           kids have had to suffer because of it. Sorry.

1 Q. It's okay.

2 A. Do you know, I went through periods of not being able to  
3 cope. Just because of my depression and things.

4 Q. Yes, you tell us about that in your statement.

5 A. Pardon?

6 Q. You tell us about those things that happened in your  
7 statement so I'm not going to go into the detail of  
8 that. I think you talk, if we go down the page to  
9 paragraph 78, you say there that you read a book called  
10 'Say Nothing' by a person called Josephine Duthie?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You said it was good to read that book, I think?

13 A. Because a lot of it was similar to what happened to us.

14 Q. Okay.

15 LADY SMITH: You may already know this, 'May', but I have  
16 heard all about what happened to the Duthie family.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: I do understand what you're talking about.  
19 Thank you.

20 MS INNES: Okay, I'm nearly finished, 'May', if you're okay  
21 to go on?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If you'd like a break, that's fine too.

24 A. No, it's okay.

25 Q. Okay? If we can just go to your final section, "Other

1 information", you talk there about lessons that we  
2 should learn from your experience. So at paragraph 84,  
3 you say there that you think that there are a number of  
4 things that people can learn as a result of your  
5 experiences and you go on to talk about:

6 "It is important for teachers, neighbours and  
7 members of the church to be more aware of the symptoms  
8 of abuse. They should have spotted things like lack of  
9 eye contact and low self-esteem. The cowering when  
10 people passed you."

11 I think you've explained some of those things as you  
12 have gone through your evidence, that there were  
13 opportunities for people to notice things or give you  
14 the space to speak about what was going on.

15 A. Yes, I think people should have noticed, because of the  
16 way we were. You know, it's not normal for a child to  
17 sit and say, "Yes", "No", not get involved in chatting.  
18 We never did that. We were too scared to say stuff, you  
19 know?

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. It's not normal for a kid to sit and say yes, no, yes,  
22 no. Well, I don't think it is. I wouldn't -- if I saw  
23 a kid doing that, I would think there's something not  
24 right there, you know? And I'm not a social worker or  
25 a teacher. I just know I would know. And they should



1           have known there was something. That's how I feel.  
2           They should have known.  
3   Q.   Then at paragraph 85 you say that you think that people  
4           who foster now are better trained and are checked out.  
5   A.   Yes. Well, I think they are.  
6   Q.   You talk about, as you've already mentioned, your foster  
7           mother looking after her invalid husband.  
8   A.   Yes.  
9   Q.   And I think that you --  
10   A.   She wasn't good to him either.  
11   Q.   Yes. You talk about there --  
12   A.   She would have been under a lot of stress, you know. It  
13           was a lot to cope with, but that wasn't our fault. You  
14           know, why take it out on kids? It's not their fault.  
15   Q.   I think you say elsewhere in your statement that  
16           although you recognise that she had that other pressure,  
17           you're not making excuses for her.  
18   A.   No, I'm not. But kids shouldn't have to suffer because  
19           it's too much for her. You know? Why -- why should  
20           kids have to be worried through their school days?  
21           I was always worried about something. You know, I was  
22           always, "Oh God, what's going to happen?" You know?  
23           I'm still like that yet.  
24   MS INNES: Okay, 'May', that's all the questions that I'd  
25           like to ask you today.

1 A. Yes.

2 MS INNES: And there's no applications for questions,  
3 my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 Could I just check whether there are any outstanding  
6 applications for questions.

7 'May', that does complete -- 'May' --

8 A. Pardon?

9 LADY SMITH: That does complete all the questions we have  
10 for you. I don't have any more questions either.

11 I just want to let you know how grateful I am for you  
12 having engaged with us, both by giving a clear written  
13 statement to us about your 15 years in care --

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: -- and coming here today to talk about it in  
16 the way you have done. As I said at the outset, I know  
17 it's not easy, I can see it's not easy, and I do  
18 understand that you tell me that it's still difficult  
19 not to worry every day. At least one thing you don't  
20 have to worry about now is coming here to give evidence.

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: I hope that's a tiny help.

23 The other thing I hope is a help is to know the  
24 value you have added to the work that we are doing here.

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Please do understand that.

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: What you've given us is important and I am very

4 grateful for it.

5 A. Yes.

6 LADY SMITH: I hope the rest of the day is restful for you

7 and you can just give yourself a bit of TLC.

8 A. Yes. I'm just going home today.

9 LADY SMITH: Good. You take care, and thank you very much.

10 A. Okay.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

13 MS INNES: My Lady, Ms Rattray has a read-in that can be

14 done now.

15 LADY SMITH: Good. We'll do that now, thank you.

16 MS INNES: Sorry, I should have asked if I can be excused to

17 speak to the witness.

18 LADY SMITH: Of course. Yes, please do.

19 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

20 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

21 Adam McCallum (read)

22 MS RATTRAY: This is a statement of an applicant,

23 Adam McCallum, who waived anonymity. We heard oral

24 evidence from Adam during the case study into Quarriers,

25 Abelour and Barnardo's and for that reason I will read

1       only the parts of his statement that relate to foster  
2       care.

3       Adam was boarded out by Dundee Corporation to  
4       a placement in Dundee from 21 December 1959 to  
5       22 February 1961. My Lady, Adam died in 2020.

6       "My name is Adam Drummond McCallum. I was born in  
7       1950. My contact details are known to the Inquiry."

8       I'm now moving to paragraph 17 on page 3.

9       "I was then shipped out to a working class couple.  
10      I don't think they were even able to have kids. It was  
11      in Scotland somewhere but I don't know where.  
12      I wouldn't settle there and was doing anything to annoy  
13      them. I would go out and come back in the early hours  
14      of the morning and start kicking the door. I was there  
15      for a month before I left because they couldn't cope  
16      with me. They were nice people and it wasn't their  
17      fault, it was definitely mine. I made their life  
18      difficult so they called the Social Services who came  
19      and took me away.

20      I was then sent to stay with a different foster  
21      carer when I was nine years old.

22      I was sent to live with another foster carer in 1959  
23      when I was nine years old. I stayed there until I was  
24      12.

25      The foster carer had two sons and a daughter who

1        were adults. The two sons were in their late teens or  
2        early 20s and lived in the house. I don't remember  
3        their names. The daughter was in her 20s and lived down  
4        the road with her family.

5            It was a beautiful big house that was used as a bed  
6        and breakfast. There were lots of rooms upstairs and  
7        bathrooms. The foster carer rented her rooms out in the  
8        bed and breakfast to paying guests.

9            There was a big room downstairs at the back of the  
10       house with a sink in it, which was like a kitchen.  
11       There was a coal cellar attached to the back of the  
12       kitchen that went into the backyard. I slept in the  
13       coal cellar. It wasn't used for coal any more, it was  
14       just a room with a mattress on the floor and jackets.

15           I slept on one mattress that was on the floor and  
16       used coats and jackets as covers. There were no  
17       blankets. There was a toilet downstairs that I could  
18       use if I needed to go at night. There was no sink, just  
19       a toilet.

20           I was only allowed to go in the kitchen and the coal  
21       cellar. I wasn't allowed to go anywhere else in the  
22       house. The foster carer's own sons had their own  
23       bedrooms in the house.

24           In the mornings I would get up and I would splash  
25       cold water on my face from the sink in the kitchen if

1 I wanted to. I didn't bother most of the time because  
2 the water was too cold. I then got dressed in the coal  
3 cellar or in the kitchen. I was then ready for school.  
4 I went to primary school in Dundee. It was three miles  
5 away and I got the bus there. I also walked sometimes.

6 I got given whatever food was left from the bed and  
7 breakfast, which I ate in the kitchen. There was enough  
8 to keep me going. I got slapped about with a ladle if  
9 I didn't eat it.

10 I washed in the sink in the kitchen. I wasn't  
11 allowed baths.

12 I learned how I was supposed to behave in the first  
13 year by getting slapped about. I was given a sledge and  
14 sent to collect wood in the winter. I wasn't allowed to  
15 play with the sledge. I didn't help out with other  
16 chores in the house because the people in the bed and  
17 breakfast were not to know I existed.

18 At the weekends, I would just play on the beach for  
19 as long as I could and try to stay out of the way.  
20 I was treated very poorly there. It was the worst place  
21 I was ever in and I have been in some bad places.

22 I got to see a dentist every now and then. You  
23 didn't go to the doctor for colds and things back then.  
24 You would only go if you were seriously ill. I might  
25 have gone to the doctors, but I don't remember. I never

1       really got ill.

2           I got presents for my birthday from the Social  
3       Services man sometimes. He would give me a toy or card.  
4       The foster carer would take them off me the next day.  
5       She did the same thing on Christmas Day.

6           Christmas was just a normal day for me. I would go  
7       to church and then to the beach where the Salvation Army  
8       put something on. They would give me a bun and some  
9       cocoa. They would also sing some carols. I knew the  
10      songs but I just went for the bun and cocoa.

11          The Social Services did give me pocket money but the  
12      foster carer took it. She would give me pocket money in  
13      the back room and tell me to put it in the cup on the  
14      windowsill. Then I would go away and when I came back,  
15      the money was gone. She did that every week.

16          Social Services also gave the foster carer money for  
17      my clothes for the year, but I think she just bought  
18      clothes from the charity shops.

19          I never got any trips or holidays.

20          The Social Services people came to visit about twice  
21      a year. It was always the same woman who came. She  
22      would phone the foster carer and tell her when she was  
23      coming.

24          I would be made to dress up in my Sunday best for  
25      when the Social Services woman came. I would sit in the

1       living room during the visit. It was the only time  
2       I was in the living room.

3             The foster carer and the social worker would be in  
4       the living room and I would be sitting on the floor.  
5       Nobody ever asked me if I was okay or asked where I was  
6       sleeping. They would speak to the foster carer and ask  
7       her, and that was it. The foster carer would take them  
8       upstairs to show them the rooms that she rented out.  
9       She told them that that was where I slept. The rest of  
10      the house was never checked.

11            I did all kinds of things while at the foster  
12      carer's to get attention. I robbed, shouted and swore  
13      at people. I did this to get people to listen. I tried  
14      to get the attention of the Social Services people who  
15      had put me there, but nobody listened. They must have  
16      known something was going on with the way I was acting.

17            I hoped that if I was bad then I would get moved.  
18      I wanted to be moved to anywhere, even back to the  
19      secure unit. It couldn't be any worse than being there.  
20      It was terrible. You could only understand it if you  
21      were there.

22            I used to see one old man who was a permanent  
23      resident in the bed and breakfast. He used to come down  
24      and read books to me. That was a privilege. He also  
25      took me out to the cinema once or twice. There must



1       have been more to him than that. He was a single man  
2       living in a bed and breakfast on his own with no female  
3       friends. He never did anything untoward to me. He was  
4       a kind man and was the only one in the house who was  
5       decent to me. I liked him. He knew what was going on  
6       but he couldn't do anything. He would have to be dead  
7       now.

8           The foster carer would beat me up for anything. It  
9       would be for things like coming in with your dirty shoes  
10      on, not going to bed on time or leaving a bit of your  
11      pudding. She used any excuse to give me a hiding  
12      regularly. She would hit me on the head with a ladle.  
13      She would sometimes use her hand and hit me on the head  
14      or the body.

15          The foster carer's sons were the same. If they  
16      passed you, they would give you a slap on the head.  
17      They would also come into the back of the house where  
18      I was and slap me around. They hit me. They had no  
19      reason to be there but they were just bullies like the  
20      foster carer. I was just a kid and couldn't fight back.

21          The foster carer's daughter wasn't there most of the  
22      time but she saw some of it. She could be unkind too  
23      because her mother told her to be. She just did what  
24      her mother told her. If her mother told her to give me  
25      a clout, then she would. She wasn't there a lot,

1       though. She wanted to keep away from the place.

2       I don't think she wanted to be associated with any of  
3       it.

4           I didn't talk to anybody at school about it. That  
5       was just what life was like and I grew up knowing that.

6           I had to sleep in the cellar. It wasn't nice to  
7       sleep in the cellar, especially during the winter. It  
8       was freezing during the winter. I would just have to  
9       use the coats or whatever else was in the cellar to keep  
10      myself warm.

11          The Social Services came and picked me up one day  
12      when I was 12 years old and that was it. Nobody told me  
13      why or where I was going. They talked amongst  
14      themselves but I just sat in the back of the car.  
15      I didn't ask any questions because you know not to ask  
16      these people any questions. I was happy to be going  
17      away from the foster carer.

18          I was taken to Abelour Children's Home just outside  
19      Elgin.

20          If it wasn't for the other foster children, the  
21      foster carer would still be fostering. After I left her  
22      house, other foster children went to the Social Services  
23      office and told them not to let the foster carer know  
24      when they were coming. One social worker listened and  
25      turned up at 11 o'clock at night and found them in the

1 coal cellar. The kids were removed after that.

2 I think the foster carer was taken to court but

3 didn't go to jail."

4 Moving to paragraph 137 on page 21:

5 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

6 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

7 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

8 true."

9 The statement was signed by Adam on 19 June 2018.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I think that concludes the business

12 for this part of the morning. The next oral witness

13 being due at 11.45.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 Just before I rise, to remind those who are here

16 some names were used by the first witness, 'May', the

17 name of her foster mother, Mrs EKV, and some of the

18 names of the children, including the, were used

19 as well. They're all covered by my general restriction

20 order and can't be repeated outside this room.

21 I'll rise now and sit again at 11.45.

22 (11.24 am)

23 (A short break)

24 (11.45 am)

25 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, can we move to the next witness?

1 MS INNES: We can, my Lady. The next witness is 'Jane'.  
2 She was in the care of the Corporation of the City of  
3 Aberdeen, now Aberdeen City Council, and she was boarded  
4 out in [REDACTED] 1960 and she remained there for the rest  
5 of her childhood.  
6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
7 'Jane' (affirmed)  
8 LADY SMITH: I see your attention's been drawn to the  
9 microphone already, 'Jane'. It's important that you  
10 speak through the sound system. The microphone needs to  
11 pick you up.  
12 A. Yes.  
13 LADY SMITH: There's a red folder on the table in front of  
14 you. That has a hard copy of your signed statement in  
15 it, and we'll also bring the parts of your statement  
16 that we'll be looking at as we go through your evidence  
17 up on the screen in front of you on the desk there, so  
18 I hope that's also helpful.  
19 Could I just say before we begin your evidence,  
20 'Jane', that I do understand this isn't an easy thing to  
21 do, and I appreciate the challenge in asking you to  
22 think back to childhood and talk about life then and all  
23 its difficulties and the emotions that we're asking you  
24 to revisit.  
25 If at any time you have any questions or concerns,

1       please let me know. I want to do anything I can to make  
2       it more comfortable for you. If you want a break,  
3       that's absolutely fine, or if you have anything else  
4       that you want to ask, do speak up.

5   A.   (Witness nodded)

6   LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and  
7       she'll take it from there. Is that all right?

8   A.   Yes, that's lovely.

9   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10  MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

11                               Questions from Ms Innes

12  MS INNES: We understand that you were born in 1951; is that  
13       right?

14  A.   Yes.

15  Q.   If we can go, please, to the final page of your  
16       statement, page 16, paragraph 90, I think we see there  
17       that it says:

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

22       You signed it, I think, on 22 February 2018.

23  A.   Yes.

24  Q.   Is that right?

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. Okay. If we can go back to the start of your statement,  
2 please, you tell us there a little bit about your life  
3 before you went into care. You explain that you are one  
4 of eight children; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You mention there you have five sisters and two  
7 brothers.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You explain that your little brother died when he was  
10 a baby, I think?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. Okay. So you then had one brother and then there were  
13 the girls. You also referred to an older half-brother?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. He was your father's son, is that right?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. You talk a little bit about your early life from page 1  
18 into page 2, and I think you tell us that your parents  
19 drank?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. And you didn't have very much as children.

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. You talk about some of what happened during that time  
24 and at paragraph 8 on page 2 you say the police were  
25 often round and would pick your folks up in the black

1 Maria. The girls would be taken away by the social work  
2 department and put into a residential school in  
3 Peterculter.  
4 A. That's right, yes.  
5 Q. You say that your brother never came with you?  
6 A. No.  
7 Q. You say you don't know where he went and you've never  
8 met him since?  
9 A. No. My brother was taken into care before I was born.  
10 He was taken into care, I believe, just after he was  
11 born.  
12 Q. Right, okay. You never met him during your childhood?  
13 A. Never met him. Never.  
14 Q. Or since?  
15 A. Never.  
16 Q. You talk about being -- I think you think that you were  
17 maybe in and out of the home a few times?  
18 A. Yes, that's right.  
19 Q. If we move on to the next page, please, page 3, and  
20 paragraph 11, you say that you were at Linn Moor  
21 Residential School and after about a year you were  
22 shipped away, you say, to foster care in Gardenstown?  
23 A. That's right.  
24 Q. That was in 1960?  
25 A. Yes, that's right.

1 Q. Can you remember being told that you were going to  
2 Gardenstown or that you were going to be fostered?  
3 A. No, we was told we was going on holiday.  
4 Q. Who went to Gardenstown?  
5 A. All of my sisters, except my youngest sister [REDACTED].  
6 Q. If we go down to paragraph 12, you say that you were  
7 just taken out of the home by a man from the social  
8 work?  
9 A. It was a man and a lady.  
10 Q. Okay. And you say you used to call the man "the homey  
11 man"?  
12 A. The homey man, that's right.  
13 Q. Was he somebody that you'd seen at the home?  
14 A. No.  
15 Q. So was he somebody that came later, when you were in the  
16 foster home, did he come to visit?  
17 A. He come to visit once a year.  
18 Q. Right, okay.  
19 Can you remember, so you were taken away on holiday  
20 to Gardenstown and what were your first impressions?  
21 A. My first impressions were really good, because we went  
22 into the living room and there was a table, the table  
23 was laden with food, and everything was so nice and we  
24 just thought it was great.  
25 Q. The people that you met there, I think they were called



1       the FLW-FLX ?

2   A. That's right.

3   Q. What were your initial impressions of them, can you

4       remember?

5   A. The initial impressions was that they were nice to us to

6       start with. FLW we eventually had to call dad, he was

7       always okay, he was always sort of nice to us, but

8       after -- after we'd settled in there a few weeks, that's

9       when we had to start doing everything.

10   Q. Okay, we'll come to that in a moment. So you describe,

11       I think, that this was a farmhouse that you went to.

12   A. That's right, yes.

13   Q. You say at paragraph 14 that we can see on the screen

14       that it wasn't a big farmhouse?

15   A. No.

16   Q. You think that there were maybe two or three bedrooms

17       upstairs?

18   A. There was two -- three bedrooms, I think, upstairs.

19       Yes, there were three.

20   Q. Were there any bedrooms downstairs in the house?

21   A. There was one big bedroom at the back and there was --

22       my mum and dad's bedroom was a little room off the

23       living room and then there was the train carriage, that

24       was my bedroom.

25   Q. Okay.

1 A. And my sister's bedroom.

2 Q. You describe that you stayed in an old railway carriage.

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. Did they have more than one railway carriage at the

5 farm?

6 A. They had the one that I slept in, but they also had

7 other ones for the chickens and that. And that was just

8 across the yard.

9 Q. Did you ever sleep in the house at all when you lived

10 there?

11 A. No, I always slept in the railway carriage.

12 Q. When you arrived at the house, can you remember if you

13 were immediately taken to the railway carriage or if you

14 had the impression that you were going to be sleeping in

15 the house itself?

16 A. Well, when we went to the house, I imagined we was going

17 to be sleeping in the bedrooms.

18 Q. Okay. So you and one of your sisters slept in the

19 railway carriage?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And where did your --

22 A. My other sisters slept in the bedroom, just next to us.

23 There was a divider, a hole -- a bit made so you went

24 from their -- from the bedroom my sisters slept in to

25 our -- stepped and you were into the railway carriage

1           and that was me and my sister's bedroom.

2   Q.   Okay, so this carriage was sort of hard up against the

3           house, was it?

4   A.   Yeah, yeah.

5   Q.   Presumably from what you've said, their bedroom's

6           downstairs then?

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   Did anybody sleep in the upstairs rooms?

9   A.   Only her daughter and her husband when she came to

10          visit.

11   Q.   So the foster parents had children of their own then?

12   A.   They had one daughter.

13   Q.   Okay. Was she grown up and married and away from home?

14   A.   Yes.

15   LADY SMITH: 'Jane', can I just take you back to this

16          arrangement that involved the railway carriage being

17          able to be accessed from the house? Are you telling me

18          there was a hole in the wall of the house that connected

19          to the railway carriage?

20   A.   Yeah, the part of the wall had been knocked down and

21          made into like -- there wasn't a door, it was just made

22          into like --

23   LADY SMITH: Just an opening?

24   A.   Yeah, just a frame so you could get in and out.

25   LADY SMITH: So two of you were in the railway carriage?

1 A. That's right.

2 LADY SMITH: And your other two sisters were in the room  
3 that it connected with?

4 A. My other four sisters were in the room it connected to.

5 LADY SMITH: The other four sisters?

6 A. Yeah, four. There were six of us.

7 LADY SMITH: Six of you went? Sorry, I got the numbers  
8 wrong earlier of who went with you, so six of you  
9 altogether went there?

10 A. There was five of us to start with, and then my youngest  
11 sister came later, because she was in -- she was only  
12 three. She was in the children's -- the baby home.

13 LADY SMITH: You would have been about eight --

14 A. I was nine, eight/nine.

15 LADY SMITH: You would be eight/nine years old when you  
16 went?

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 MS INNES: This gap that you say was in the wall, was that  
20 going straight into the room that your sisters were  
21 sleeping in?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So the room wasn't enclosed from the open air, as it  
24 were? If there was no door there?

25 A. No, there was no door, but it had been made so it was --

1       it was made so it was like a room.

2   Q.   Okay.

3   A.   But in a railway carriage.

4   Q.   Right.  So you go on from there to say that the first

5       couple of weeks was fine, as you say at paragraph 16,

6       and you say:

7        "It was only when nobody came to take us back that

8       I realised we were staying and we were just there to

9       work."

10  A.   That's right.

11  Q.   You mentioned a moment ago that you started doing work

12       on the farm.

13  A.   Yes.

14  Q.   And you say, "I know years ago everyone would have

15       chores to do ..." but the work that you were doing was

16       farm work?

17  A.   The work we was doing was actual physical manual work.

18  Q.   That adults would have done, I think you said.

19  A.   That's right.

20  Q.   If we can go on, please, at the bottom part of this page

21       you talk about the different things that you would do at

22       different times of the year.  So in the winter, what

23       sort of things did you have to do?

24  A.   In the winter, we had to get up 6.30 in the morning and

25       go and clean the beasts out, the cows that were in the

1 shed, in the byre and in the barn, and we had to milk  
2 the cows, we had to feed the cows, we had to clean them  
3 and bed them down before we went to school, and then we  
4 had to clean the living room and polish the floors, set  
5 the fire, get -- set the fire and make the breakfast for  
6 me mum and dad getting up.

7 Q. First of all you mentioned some cows there. Can you  
8 remember roughly how many cows did they have?

9 A. There would have been probably -- maybe six -- there  
10 would be 12 in the byre and then there would have been  
11 six in the stable, and then there was another bit just  
12 off the stable where she used to have loose -- just  
13 young ones that was in there for the -- you know, for  
14 the winter.

15 Q. Okay. These various jobs that you had to do, did all of  
16 your sisters have to do them or were you allocated  
17 different tasks?

18 A. We were -- I was -- we was all allocated different  
19 tasks, like we would do -- my eldest sister would milk  
20 the cow and we would clean the byre out and I would  
21 clean the stables out, and then we'd have to go and  
22 thrash the neeps in the winter time to feed them, get  
23 the straw to bed them down and give them hay and fresh  
24 water. Then we would have to go across the yard and  
25 into the house and do the housework in the living room

1       and that, the rugs and everything before we got to  
2       school.

3   Q.   Okay. Your younger sisters, did they do more of the  
4       work inside or did they also help with the outside work  
5       in the winter?

6   A.   [REDACTED] -- my youngest sister, she didn't have to do  
7       any work because she was too young. My other sister, my  
8       second youngest sister, she didn't have to do so much  
9       work, heavy work. She just had to do the lighter -- you  
10      know, help with lighter things.

11  Q.   So that's the winter time when the animals are in the  
12      byre, as you said. What about in the spring time?

13  A.   In the spring time it was lambing the sheep and planting  
14      the tatties and shawing the neeps, all the things that  
15      you would do in the spring time. Just always the  
16      sweeping the yard, the outside yard, same doing the  
17      housework, doing it all before you went to school.

18  Q.   Okay.

19  A.   And then do it all again when you come home.

20  LADY SMITH: Did you ever have to get up during the night to  
21      help with the lambing?

22  A.   No, we didn't -- we didn't get up during the night to  
23      help with the lambing. We had to help during the day,  
24      if there was any lambing we had to go and help the sheep  
25      to lamb.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 A. And help the cow to calve as well.

3 MS INNES: Roughly, again, how many sheep did your foster

4 parents keep on the farm?

5 A. They didn't have a lot of sheep. Probably maybe 20 or

6 30 sheep, they didn't have a big lot of sheep.

7 Q. Would your foster father be out doing the lambing and

8 calving?

9 A. Well, we would help dad, because sometimes the cows had

10 a difficulty in calving so we had to go and put rope

11 around them and help dad to pull them out and, you know,

12 see they were all right and then hand milk them.

13 Q. Did your foster mother ever go out to help your foster

14 father do that sort of thing?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did he ever have any other help at those -- you know, at

17 spring time, for example?

18 A. No, he only had us.

19 Q. You talk about spring time and the various jobs that you

20 would have to do then. What about in the summer? Were

21 there different jobs that had to be done in the summer?

22 A. In the summer time it was harvesting, we had to help

23 stook all the grain, gather the tatties, put the

24 sheaves, we called them in that days, on the bogie and

25 take them home and dad used to be in the middle and we



1       used to have to help him to make the rucks, the big  
2       rucks that you made in that days. Just what you would  
3       do with the neeps and everything else.

4   Q. The bogie is a cart?

5   A. Yeah, yeah, that's what -- yeah.

6   Q. In terms of the harvesting, did that have to be -- was  
7       your foster father -- I'm going to get the terminology  
8       wrong -- cutting the corn or the hay and then you were  
9       stacking it?

10  A. Yeah, we did the hay to start with and then we'd have to  
11       go and turn all the hay on the fields by hand and then  
12       take it home and make it into rucks and put them into  
13       big -- you used to have to put them in big sheet things  
14       and then carry them on your back and take them home to  
15       hay. And then when you did the harvest it was -- dad  
16       used to drive a tractor and mum would be on the binder,  
17       but we had to go behind him and stook everything up and  
18       then we used to have to come back and then when they  
19       would drive we had to put them on the bogie and then  
20       take them home and dad used to make them into rucks  
21       while we -- we used to stow them off in that day so they  
22       made the rucks, so we had to do that.

23  Q. You talk about doing the fields and your legs would be  
24       cut and bleeding from the corn.

25  A. Yes, from the spikes on the corn, all your legs would be

1       all sore and you would have all scabby bits on your legs  
2       with the spikes hitting your legs.

3   Q.   Okay.  You also say there about doing the fire and  
4       cleaning the rugs in the morning and you say that your  
5       foster father would get up when you came back and you'd  
6       got his breakfast ready?

7   A.   Yeah.

8   Q.   Can you not remember him being out in the fields or  
9       helping milk the cows or anything early in the morning?

10  A.   No, no, he didn't do that.  My eldest sister milked the  
11       cows and then I used to help milk the cows and they were  
12       never up in the morning.  They used to get up when it  
13       was -- we used to call him, we used to shout and say,  
14       "Dad, your breakfast's ready".

15  Q.   Right.  Then you talk about birds -- hens that were  
16       kept?

17  A.   Yeah.

18  Q.   At paragraph 20.  You say the hens stayed in the old  
19       railway carriages, so two other railway carriages?

20  A.   Yes.

21  Q.   What did you have to do with them?

22  A.   We used to have to feed them and then when they were  
23       young chickens, we used to have to go out at night and  
24       we used to have to teach them to roost, so you'd be in  
25       the dark, so you had to pick the chicken up and put it

1       on the roost so it would learn to roost. And then you'd  
2       have to -- later on in the summer, you used to have to  
3       clean the chickens out but there used to be about two or  
4       three -- she used to leave them in there all winter, so  
5       you'd have two or three feet of chicken muck to clear  
6       out and put in the midden.

7             She used to have these capon chickens as well that  
8       she used to keep up on top of the stables and we used to  
9       have to look after them, we used to have to kill them  
10      and pluck them and get them all ready, you know, for  
11      Christmas when she was selling all them.

12   Q.   Okay.

13   A.   We used to have to pluck and clean them and everything.

14   Q.   I wonder if I might just move on a little in your  
15      statement, please, just staying with the various jobs  
16      that you were doing, if we can go on, please, to page 9  
17      and paragraph 44 and some of the material that's there.  
18      You talk about when there was snow on the ground, you  
19      used to have to dig the road out?

20   A.   Yeah, we used to have to dig the whole length of the  
21      road so that we could get down with the tractor and get  
22      them the eggs and the butter that we'd made and that  
23      down to the end of the road so the van would pick them  
24      up.

25   Q.   Would I be right in thinking that the farmhouse would

1           be -- there would be a track or a road --

2   A.   Yeah.

3   Q.   -- between the farmhouse and the main road, if you like?

4   A.   Yeah.

5   Q.   So you would have to dig that?

6   A.   We used to dig that out, yeah.

7   Q.   Did the foster parents help with that?

8   A.   No.

9   Q.   Then you talk about gathering in the turnips to feed the

10       cattle in the winter.

11   A.   Yeah. That used to be quite rough, because it used to

12       be so cold and frosty and you used to be absolutely

13       freezing because all the neeps and that -- in that day

14       we had a lot of frost and the neeps used to be frozen to

15       the ground so we used to have to use a neeps scythe to

16       slice them and cut the tops off and put them on the

17       bogie.

18   LADY SMITH: Were you given any gloves to wear?

19   A.   No, we never had gloves.

20   LADY SMITH: What did you wear on your feet?

21   A.   We used to have welly boots and our feet used to be with

22       socks freezing, but we used to have to just get on and

23       do it.

24   LADY SMITH: What about other clothes to keep you warm.

25   A.   We had dungarees, boys' dungarees and boys' underwear

1           and just a jacket -- a coat.

2   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3   MS INNES: Did you have to dig these turnips out of the

4           ground or was that done with a tractor?

5   A. No, no, no, it was all done by hand, we had to do it all

6           by hand, it was nothing -- no machine to do it, just us.

7   Q. So you were digging them out of the ground, cutting the

8           top off and putting them on --

9   A. Chucking them on the bogie, so we could take them home

10          and thrash them for the cows.

11   Q. You described that you had to thrash them, so presumably

12          to break them up so that the cows could --

13   A. Well, she had a neep hasher, so you'd put the neeps into

14          a thing and it would go around and it would slice the

15          neeps and come out the bottom so ready to feed the

16          animals in the -- inside.

17   Q. Then at paragraph 45 you -- you mentioned potatoes

18          already, they all had to be planted by hand?

19   A. Yes, we planted them by hand.

20   Q. Did they also have to be lifted?

21   A. We had to lift them by hand as well.

22   Q. Did you have any help when it came to lifting the

23          potatoes?

24   A. No.

25   Q. Did other people come from the local community to help

1           or work?

2   A.   No, no, no.

3   Q.   You say that there were whole fields of them?

4   A.   We was never allowed anybody up to help, just us.   And

5           we used to have to put them into -- like you'd get them

6           and put them into a big thing in the middle at the end

7           of the park, you know, like a big heap of tatties and

8           then you cover them all up with straw and hay and then

9           you put sand on the top to keep them for the winter.

10  Q.   Again just to get a sense of the size of the farm, do

11           you know roughly how many fields there were?

12  A.   Oh ... there were quite -- well, they were quite big --

13           to us, maybe not nowadays, but to us there were quite

14           big fields.

15  Q.   Yes.

16  A.   There was one, two, four, maybe five or six fields, I'm

17           not quite sure, because they were all on a brae and went

18           right up to the top and over the brae, to go down to

19           Gamrie

20  Q.   So "Gamrie" is another word for Gardenstown?

21  A.   Yeah.

22  Q.   I think people locally would call it Gamrie rather than

23           Gardenstown; is that right?

24  A.   Yes.

25  Q.   And Gamrie is on a very steep brae --

1 A. Very steep hill, yes.

2 Q. -- down to the sea and was the farm at the top of the  
3 hill?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. As it were?

6 A. The farm was -- there was a manse at the bottom of the  
7 road and Gamrie was down there and our farm was like up  
8 here and Gamrie was down here. So all our -- the one  
9 field -- there were two fields that were down to Gamrie,  
10 there were two big fields down at Gamrie that went down  
11 there, and the rest of them were all up the brae and  
12 went right around there where the manse was.

13 Q. Some of them were perhaps on a relatively steep slope?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. If I can just go back to some other aspects that you  
16 covered in your statement. Can we look, please, at  
17 page 5. You talk there about food. You say that the  
18 foster mother did make your food but it was terrible.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You say if you didn't eat your dinner, you were given it  
21 for your breakfast?

22 A. Yes. I used to -- the one thing I never -- I used to  
23 hate was when she used to -- when the cow had a calf, on  
24 that day, she used to make what you call new milk and  
25 you used to make it and bake it in the oven. I still

1       remember that to this day and it was absolutely  
2       terrible. And I couldn't eat it. And I could not eat  
3       it no matter for love or money, but it was put down in  
4       the morning and if I didn't eat it, it was put down at  
5       tea time until eventually if you were that hungry, you  
6       had to eat something. But I still remember that to this  
7       day.

8   Q. Then you say at paragraph 22 that sometimes you were  
9       given mouldy old baps to eat?

10  A. Yeah, we were quite often given mouldy old baps. They  
11       were put into what we called saps and you put them in  
12       a pan and you put in with milk and sugar and that's what  
13       you have for your tea.

14  Q. You then say at paragraph 23 that when you went to bed  
15       at night, you could smell them cooking for themselves?

16  A. Oh yeah, yes. We used to lie in bed. We could hear --  
17       smell the chips in the fryer and everything going, and  
18       oh, going after we went to bed because we used to go to  
19       bed reasonably early, about 7.30/8 o'clock we'd have to  
20       go to bed.

21  Q. You say I think that the foster mother had every  
22       up-to-date gadget you could imagine?

23  A. You name it, she had it. She also had her pantry,  
24       a cupboard in the living room just behind where she sat  
25       and that's where she used to keep everything, all of the



1       good food and the biscuits and everything was locked  
2       away so we could never get anything. Everything was  
3       locked in that cupboard.

4   Q.  When you had your tea at night, did you have that in the  
5       kitchen?

6   A.  Yeah, we had it in -- dad had made a table in the little  
7       kitchen where it had two leaves on it and legs so you  
8       just put the legs down that were underneath and then you  
9       just pulled the legs up and we had our tea in the  
10      kitchen.

11  Q.  Did you sit down at the table?

12  A.  We had little stools, aye.

13  Q.  Did you ever eat with your foster parents?

14  A.  Dad used to have his breakfast with us. He used to come  
15      through and we'd set his little bit and he'd have his  
16      boiled egg (unclear) with us, yeah.

17  Q.  Other than that, can you remember ever having dinner  
18      with your foster parents?

19  A.  Only at Christmas, we'd have a Christmas dinner.

20  Q.  Okay.

21  A.  Or if the homey man come, we'd have -- we would sit down  
22      in the living room with him then.

23  Q.  Then you talk about schooling. Can you tell us how you  
24      got on at school?

25  A.  Not very good. We was all -- at school we was always

1        classed as different. School was really hard, actually,  
2        when you think on it, and we used to be -- people --  
3        children never used to -- weren't allowed to -- supposed  
4        to play with us or touch us or anything or -- we used to  
5        be called all the names, maggots and flechs [REDACTED]  
6        and all sorts at school.

7    LADY SMITH: What was the name after maggots?

8    A. We used to be called [REDACTED] as well, because our name was  
9        "FDO", so we were always called [REDACTED].

10   MS INNES: I think the word before that was flechs.

11   A. Flechs and maggots. I mean the children -- if somebody  
12        had to sit on a chair they used to wipe the chair away  
13        and they used to if you touch them they'd say, "Don't  
14        touch me, don't touch me".

15   LADY SMITH: So "flechs" would be flies?

16   A. Flechs would be fleas, and we never had fleas.

17   MS INNES: Despite that, I think you say at the start of  
18        that paragraph:

19        "The best time was when we were at school."

20   A. Well, I liked to go to school because I didn't have to  
21        go and physically work on the farm all day. Or, say, if  
22        it was -- if you wasn't working, then we wasn't allowed  
23        in the house. We was all -- we would -- the door would  
24        be locked and we'd be shut out to either go in the barn  
25        and be in there until we was called in. We was never

1       allowed to sit in the house.

2   LADY SMITH: 'Jane', did your foster parents ever thank any  
3       of you for all the work you were doing?

4   A. No. No. We was always told that we should be lucky  
5       that we've got somewhere to stay. That the authorities,  
6       like, was keeping us. It wasn't ... so that's what we  
7       was told, we should be lucky that we've got a roof over  
8       our heads.

9   MS INNES: How did you find that the teachers treated you at  
10      school?

11   A. Some were okay. The cooking teacher I -- the cooking  
12      teacher when we -- I used to love doing domestic  
13      science, I used to like that. But I can remember one  
14      teacher, I can't remember her name, but I wasn't very  
15      good at spelling because I never used to wear my glasses  
16      because I used to be called "four eyes" and "goggolina"  
17      so I used to have the National Health pink glasses so  
18      I used to break them so I'd be like everybody else. And  
19      because I couldn't see the board and that very well, and  
20      of course one word has always stuck in my mind, it was  
21      "Mississippi" and I was asked to spell Mississippi and  
22      I couldn't spell it and she took me up in front of the  
23      class and made me stand there until I could absolutely  
24      write and spell it off by my head. I can spell it to  
25      this day now.

1           But things like that, it's -- some teacher was okay  
2           and some weren't.

3   Q.   If we go over the page in your statement, you have  
4           a section headed "clothing" and you've mentioned a bit  
5           of this already, that you had to wear old boys' clothes  
6           at home.

7   A.   Yeah, we wore -- we wore vests -- the old wincey vests  
8           that they used to wear, the men, with the buttons up the  
9           front and boys' pants with -- that had the flies in  
10          them. We used to wear dungarees and shirts, boys'  
11          shirts. And tackety boots.

12   Q.   Yes, you talk at paragraph 29 about that, that your  
13          foster father would put tacks around the toes of any of  
14          your shoes?

15   A.   We had tacks on the toes and the heels of our shoes to  
16          make them last longer, but it's not what everybody --  
17          you was always made to feel different because nobody  
18          else had them, just us.

19   LADY SMITH: That would make a noise whenever you walked on  
20          a hard surface, I suppose.

21   A.   Yes, they did, yeah.

22   MS INNES: You say at paragraph 30 when you went to church  
23          you wore a dress and a hat, but as soon as you got home  
24          you would have to change again?

25   A.   Yes, we used to have a Sunday frock and a Sunday hat and

1 we used to have to change when we come home and go back  
2 to work. But she used to drop us off just along the  
3 road and we used -- well, to us it was a fair bit, it  
4 was probably about two or three miles we had to walk  
5 home. She used to stop the minibus and, "Right off you  
6 go, you can walk home", and when you're young, I mean  
7 two or three miles is a long, long way.

8 Q. At paragraph 31 you talk about washing and bathing. Was  
9 there a bathroom in the house?

10 A. There was -- there wasn't a bathroom when we first went  
11 there, but mum got a new bathroom in, but we weren't  
12 allowed to use it. We had to go in the washroom  
13 outside. Us all used to bath in the same water, and mum  
14 would come out and she'd put washing powder in the bath  
15 and then she'd use carbolic soap and she'd sometimes --  
16 she felt like if she thought you was dirty and that,  
17 she'd just get a brush and scrub your neck and  
18 everything for you and then sluice you with cold water.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And that's even when you was in your teens.

21 Q. When you were teenager, okay.

22 You then talk in the next section about pocket money  
23 and you say that sometimes you got pocket money but not  
24 much, maybe sixpence or threepence?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You say if any of us had done anything wrong that week,  
2 your foster mother would take it back?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you say you would always be doing --

5 A. I think I was one of the rebels in the family and I used  
6 to speak up and tell her, you know, I didn't like her  
7 and I hated her. I was always -- my money was taken  
8 away from me.

9 Q. Then at paragraph 33 you say that you would be sent to  
10 gather potatoes from other farms?

11 A. Yeah. We had -- you used to get your tattie holidays  
12 and in the tattie holidays we used to go and help round  
13 the other farms and gather the tatties and get  
14 10 shillings a day, but we always handed that to mum  
15 when we got home --

16 Q. Did you ever see anything of it?

17 A. No.

18 Q. If we go over the page again, please, at paragraph 34  
19 you're talking there about any contact with your family  
20 and you say that you never had any contact with your  
21 parents.

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you ever say that you wanted to see your --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- mother, I think?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What was the foster mother's response to that?

3 A. She just told us that -- she told us that our mum didn't

4 want to see us.

5 Q. You say that the last time that you saw your mother was

6 when you were taken into care and you've never seen her

7 since?

8 A. No. She came to the Linn Moor home once, I remember

9 her, I can see her -- she actually came with my

10 half-brother, [REDACTED], and I can actually see them

11 walking down the road to the Linn Moor home now, that

12 was the last time I seen my mum.

13 Q. What about your dad? Did you ever see him again?

14 A. No, no.

15 Q. You then talk a little bit about your relationship with

16 your foster parents and you describe your foster mother

17 as being a cruel woman?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Why do you say that?

20 A. Well, you didn't think at the time, but when you think

21 over the years, she was cruel because she'd never give

22 you any love. She'd never praise you for what you've

23 done. Just like the way she used to feed you and -- she

24 used to play us sisters against one another, so you'd

25 have always one -- you'd always have one that, like,

1       tried to fight with the other or tried -- if one was  
2       trying to be good, she would always play us against one  
3       another. Or she'd done something wrong or she'd done  
4       something wrong or she's the favourite, you know. But  
5       she was cruel just by the way she treated us.

6           I mean, she used to try and make FLW give you --  
7       smack your bottom. FLW, he was a very quite man, FLW,  
8       and he just had to do as he was told. But she was  
9       definitely the matriarch the -- we were never -- we used  
10      to be shut out the house. The doors were locked. We  
11      weren't even allowed in the house. It used to be  
12      raining and snowing and we used to go and sit outside in  
13      the barn and try and entertain ourselves until we were  
14      allowed in and sit there freezing cold.

15           Even if you was out working and your feet got soaked  
16      and your socks would be soaking wet, there was nothing  
17      you could do, because that's the way it was. Especially  
18      when if -- well, she was cruel when she -- as I say, she  
19      used to put you on the midden and had you to stand there  
20      without any shoes or socks on and put a sack over your  
21      head and you had to stand there until she told you you  
22      had to come over and cry lost(?) before you could get  
23      off the midden. If that isn't degrading, what is it?

24           Like having to go to the toilet. I mean, you had to  
25      go to the midden at night-time to go to the toilet



1       before you went to bed. Like when you come to maturity  
2       and you had your period, you were given one sanitary  
3       towel for a whole day and we used to have to go and rip  
4       up bits of cloth or bits of this and paper and try to  
5       use that, because she wouldn't give you nothing else.

6   Q. We'll come back a little bit more to some more of your  
7       experience with her in a moment.

8       You go on to talk about visits on this page, at  
9       paragraph 37, and your recollection is that the homey  
10      man, the social worker, used to come around once  
11      a year --

12   A. Yeah.

13   Q. -- when you were there. Did you know in advance that he  
14      was coming?

15   A. No.

16   Q. When he was there, did you get to speak to him?

17   A. No.

18   Q. Who was he speaking to?

19   A. Well, he'd just be speaking to mum. I mean, I never  
20      ever spoke to him all the time he came around.

21   LADY SMITH: Did your foster mum know in advance that he was  
22      coming?

23   A. Yes.

24   LADY SMITH: How did you know that?

25   A. Because she used to say that somebody was coming,

1           a visitor was coming, and she'd have the table laid out  
2           for food and cakes for him coming.

3   LADY SMITH: Thank you. Did you have to change your clothes  
4           when a visitor was coming?

5   A. I never seen him.

6   LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

7   MS INNES: I think you tell us in your statement that you've  
8           seen some of your records or records that your sister  
9           recovered.

10   A. Yeah.

11   Q. Is that right? I think you've maybe seen some records  
12          of visits that were made to the house and I wonder if  
13          I can take you to an example so we can see the sorts of  
14          things that were said.

15                If we can go to ABN-000000524, page 7, so it will  
16          come up on the screen.

17   A. Oh, aye.

18   Q. Some bits of this, I should say, have been blanked out  
19          by the Inquiry to protect your anonymity, some bits were  
20          blanked out before we received it, so it's a combination  
21          of two sets of redactions.

22                If we look at 5 December 1963, we see a note there:

23                "I found the foster parents at home when I called.  
24          The foster mother is a very jolly soul and thinks the  
25          world of her six 'quines'. She is full of life and was

1       very elated at the gift she had just received from her  
2       husband for Christmas. A most lovely silver tea and  
3       coffee set. The foster father is quieter in his nature,  
4       which is perhaps just as well as his wife talks enough  
5       for two. She has one of the most electrified houses  
6       I have seen. Every possible gadget."

7           I think what we see there about the gadgets is  
8       consistent with what you said --

9   A. Yes.

10  Q. -- about her having gadgets for frying food and  
11       suchlike; is that right?

12  A. That's right, yeah.

13  Q. Do you recognise this description of your foster mother  
14       as being a "jolly soul" and "thinking the world" of you  
15       and your sisters?

16  A. No.

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

18           "All the girls are in excellent health and came home  
19       from school together. They were rather quiet in front  
20       of a stranger but soon opened up. The foster mother sat  
21       them down to a large tea which I shared and it rapidly  
22       disappeared. Then it was change into play clothes and  
23       into their own play room. When I left they were all  
24       hard at work on their homework."

25           Is that --

1 A. I don't know what play room is because there was no play  
2 room in the house. We were -- we all had to go and do  
3 our jobs on the farm. We didn't have a play room. The  
4 only play room we would have had would have been outside  
5 in the stables.

6 Q. Do you recognise this description of there being a large  
7 tea put on when the --

8 A. There was a large tea when we first went there, but  
9 I don't remember any other time of seeing -- I don't --  
10 mainly if anybody came, we was always out doing farm  
11 work, was outside doing the chores.

12 I mean she used to have her visitors come up, but we  
13 was never allowed in.

14 Q. Okay. If we scroll down a little to 24 June 1964 and  
15 there's reference there to a trip having been made to  
16 the Cairngorms. Can you remember ever doing anything  
17 like that?

18 A. We had a trip -- mum -- we used to go -- we went to the  
19 Black Isle in a minibus, because dad used to have  
20 a minibus, and we used to go up for a drive up for the  
21 day and come back. So we used to go up to the Black  
22 Isle and that, and that would be our holiday from  
23 school.

24 Q. Okay.

25 There's reference here in the second paragraph under

1       this heading, I think it's your sister's "hand has  
2       healed nicely. She has lost two fingernails as a result  
3       of her accident". Then there's reference to, "the  
4       movement and power of her fingers seem unimpaired".

5             Can you remember your sister having an accident in  
6       which her hand was hurt?

7   A. I can remember that clearly. We was in the shed and we  
8       was cutting -- cutting the neeps in the neep thrasher  
9       and a neep got stuck and FDP, she had gone up to --  
10      because you've got a wheel going here like that, a wheel  
11      here like that, and a wheel like that, that made it go.  
12      She went to clear the bit of neep that got stuck and my  
13      other sister had accidentally pressed the button and  
14      just cut off the whole of her fingers here.

15   Q. I think you're aware of how that was described in the  
16      records, as being an accident.

17   A. It couldn't have been an accident, because we was  
18      actually thrashing the neeps for the beasts on the farm.  
19      It wasn't -- we were -- that was FLX saying it was  
20      an accident but it wasn't an accident. Well, it was an  
21      accident, but we was actually working. She said we were  
22      messaging about. We weren't messaging about. We were  
23      actually thrashing the neeps for the beasts.

24   Q. Okay. We can put the records away and we go back to the  
25      statement, please. You say at the bottom of page 7,

1 paragraph 38, that you can't remember birthdays ever  
2 being celebrated.

3 A. No. We never had -- never had a birthday card or  
4 anything when I was young.

5 Q. Then you talk about Christmas and at the top of the next  
6 page you talk about killing the birds that were sold  
7 that you had to pluck them.

8 A. Yeah, we had to -- the capon chickens, we had to kill  
9 the chickens with a broom handle and -- you know, put  
10 the broom handle on the ground, on their neck, and pull  
11 them up, and then we'd put them in boiling water and  
12 pluck them and then clean them. The turkeys we had to  
13 do dry and the geese we had to do -- we had to pluck  
14 dry. They couldn't be put in boiling water.

15 Q. If we go back to page 9, and we've looked at some  
16 aspects of this already, but at paragraph 46 you talk  
17 about the toilet that you weren't allowed to use  
18 anything in the house, that there was a toilet in an old  
19 shed in the trees, and then you would have to take the  
20 bucket and empty it in the midden.

21 A. That's right, yeah.

22 Q. The midden was where all the farmyard manure was piled?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. You then talk at paragraph 47 about when you were about  
25 12 there was a proper bathroom in the house but you

1           weren't allowed to use it?

2   A.   No.

3   Q.   At paragraph 48 you say that you would stand up to your

4           foster mother and tell her that you didn't like her and

5           she would punish you. One time she asked your foster

6           father to hit you and he wouldn't do it. You say:

7                "She made me go on my knees the whole night."

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   Can you tell us about that?

10   A.   Because I wouldn't say sorry for telling her I hated

11           her, I had to stand in -- I stood in -- well, many

12           a night -- all of us, we had to stand in a corner with

13           our hands behind our backs until bedtime and then

14           because I didn't say I was sorry, I was made to go down

15           on my hands and knees and say I was sorry before she

16           would let me go to bed.

17   Q.   You say that you had to write a letter --

18   A.   And I had to write a letter as well to say I was sorry

19           for saying that I hated her.

20   Q.   At paragraph 49 you talk about the punishment of making

21           you stand in the corner facing the wall with your hands

22           behind your back and you say that you think that you

23           would have to stand there for hours sometimes?

24   A.   Yes, we had to stand there, as soon as -- you know, if

25           you had your tea and you was in at 7, you went to bed at

1        8. When you got older, she let you stay up until 9 and  
2        if you were naughty you had to stand in the corner with  
3        your hands behind your back and if your leg went she'd  
4        tell you to, "Stand up straight, put your hands behind  
5        your back". And then, when it was bedtime, she'd let  
6        you go to bed.

7    Q. Sometimes would you have to go without your dinner as  
8        well, without tea?

9    A. Yes.

10   Q. Then at paragraph 50 you talk about what you mentioned  
11        earlier, that if you'd been really bad, she would make  
12        you stand in the midden with no shoes and socks on and  
13        a sack over your head?

14   A. Yeah, we used -- yeah. Not just me, other -- my other  
15        sisters as well. Used to have to put a sack over your  
16        head and stand there -- well, in your days, you probably  
17        thought it was hours, it could have been half an hour or  
18        maybe an hour, and then she'd come and say, "Are you  
19        sorry? If you're sorry, you can cry lost and then I'll  
20        let you off".

21   Q. If we go over the page, you talk at paragraph 51 about  
22        what you told us about her only giving you one sanitary  
23        towel and that had to last you.

24        You then talk at paragraph 52 about your oldest  
25        sister, I think, hitting your younger sister if she wet



1 the bed.

2 A. Yes. One of my younger sisters, she used be  
3 a bed-wetter and she used to sleep in the same bed as my  
4 elder sister, there was three of them slept in that bed  
5 and she used to wet the bed quite a bit and she used to  
6 get up in the morning and she used to take either  
7 a slipper or she'd take her outside if she was really  
8 angry, my eldest sister, and she would take a stick to  
9 her, her bum, and hit her.

10 But FLX never stopped it. FLX never ever told her  
11 to stop or anything.

12 Q. At paragraph 53 you talk about even when your sister was  
13 11 or 12, she would put rubber sheets and pants on and  
14 then she would also put big nappies on her?

15 A. Yes, she'd get sheets, an old sheet and she'd make it up  
16 into a nappy and she'd put it onto my sister, which was  
17 so embarrassing because she used to be kicking and  
18 screaming, and put the nap -- and put these great big  
19 enormous rubber pants onto her. That was when she was  
20 10 or 11.

21 Q. You then talk at paragraph 54 that you were never  
22 allowed long hair, that --

23 A. No, oh no. We wasn't -- we wasn't allowed long hair.  
24 The only person allowed long hair was my youngest sister  
25 because she was the baby. She used to have

1 great long hair down here and I remember once -- we used  
2 to get our hair just cut with a bowl, and stuck up with  
3 a ribbon like that. We used to be so jealous of  
4 [REDACTED] having her long hair and she didn't like it  
5 either, so she said to me once, said to me once, "Cut my  
6 hair for me, cut this plait off", so I did and I got  
7 into trouble for that as well. And FLX [REDACTED] put it in  
8 a box.

9 Q. Right.

10 Then you say in summer time, at paragraph 55, you  
11 say in the summer time you didn't have shoes?

12 A. No, we used to run around without shoes.

13 Q. And would that be when you were out in the fields as  
14 well or did you have something on your feet when you  
15 were doing the harvesting, for example, of the hay?

16 A. Sometimes we would wear boots but in the summer time we  
17 didn't. We used to have to run around just bare feet.

18 Q. Then, at paragraph 56, you say that the abuse that you  
19 suffered was mainly mental and that the foster mother  
20 would always put you down and tell you you were ugly and  
21 that no one would ever want you.

22 A. Mm-hmm, that's right. We was always told that, that we  
23 was worthy of nothing. That the state kept us and that  
24 we was nothing. That nobody -- that we was there  
25 because nobody else wanted us.

1 Q. You talk about a incident when your little sister choked  
2 on a potato and then your foster mother got it out, but  
3 you were told that the next time any of you choked, you  
4 would die.

5 A. FDP choked on a potato when she was about five or six  
6 and she got it out, but after that it was if you didn't  
7 chew your food properly, the next time you choked, you  
8 would die. And ever since then -- well, as we've grown  
9 up, I can't swallow tablets or nothing, I can't eat  
10 fish, I can't do anything like that. And my sister who  
11 choked, she actually had an eating disorder and had to  
12 go into hospital and she's had an eating disorder all  
13 her life actually since then. She can't eat like us.  
14 She can only eat food that is mashed up. She can't eat  
15 chips, she can't eat nothing like that. There's certain  
16 stuff I can't eat and I can't swallow tablets, I have to  
17 chew everything or take it with yoghurt or some food  
18 or -- I just can't do it. And that's because she used  
19 to put it into our brain: the next time you choke, if  
20 you choke, you'll die.

21 And I remember once I'd had a fish bone that must  
22 have cut my throat going down and I thought there was  
23 a bone in my throat and I did actually think I was going  
24 to die. I was in such a panic state that to this day  
25 the thought of putting a fish in my mouth, I just can't.

1        If anybody's eating fish, even my husband, I can't look  
2        at him, I have to leave the room.

3    Q.   If we go onto the next page, at the top of page 11,  
4        paragraph 57, you say there that your foster mother  
5        would make you touch electric fencing?

6    A.   Yeah.   We used to -- she used to have a fence around for  
7        the beasts and we would be made to put a hand on and see  
8        who could -- who was the longest to hold their hand on  
9        this electric fence.   It wasn't long.

10   Q.   You say you don't know if it was a punishment or just  
11        some sort of game.

12   A.   Yeah.

13   Q.   In the next paragraph, 58, you say that one time you ran  
14        away but you got caught?

15   A.   Yes, I ran away once but I got caught and got took back.  
16        And then I got punished again.   I think I had to -- if  
17        I remember rightly, I think I had to spend a whole week  
18        standing in the corner, and then had to say I was sorry.

19   Q.   Why was it that you ran away that time, can you  
20        remember?

21   A.   Not really.   I just didn't -- I think I actually wanted  
22        to go -- wanted to see my mum.   My real mum.

23   Q.   Okay.   Then you talk in the next section about leaving  
24        foster care and you say that that happened when you were  
25        about 15 and a half; is that right?

1 A. It was Easter -- I was just turned 15 because it was  
2 Easter time I left school and I was 15 and I'd just come  
3 home and nobody told me I was going to work or anything,  
4 I was just -- a case was packed and I was just put in  
5 a thing and taken to this farm to work as a housemaid.  
6 Out beside Strichen, Strichen somewhere.

7 Q. You said that you went home to Gardenstown once  
8 a fortnight for a time, I think.

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. Were you welcomed back when you went home or not?

11 A. Well, she'd let you come home once a fortnight, but  
12 you'd have to give her your money. And in the end --  
13 I didn't go back much, it was just a little while, and  
14 then I just stopped going back because you were having  
15 to give her the money you'd earned and it was just  
16 not -- you just didn't have anything. So I just stopped  
17 going back.

18 Q. Then I think you talk about at paragraph 62, on page 11,  
19 you say your foster mother told you that you were  
20 allowed back once a fortnight and that your sisters  
21 weren't your sisters any more?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. What did she mean by that?

24 A. Well, she meant that now you had left school and you  
25 were gone, that they weren't your sisters any more.

1 Q. So, what, you weren't to see them or spend time with  
2 them?

3 A. Yeah. Well, actually, there was a time that my eldest  
4 sister, when she was 18 or whatever it was, she wanted  
5 to go for custody of all -- of all the -- have us go and  
6 stay with her, but she wasn't allowed.

7 Q. Then you go on to talk about your life after care and  
8 I think you got married, you were married by the time  
9 you were 17.

10 A. Well, that's what you did. Just in that days, you just  
11 married the first boy you went with, because just to get  
12 out of the system you was in.

13 Q. Okay. If we move on, please, to page 14 and  
14 paragraph 77, you say there that you never reported any  
15 of the abuse that you suffered in foster care. You say:  
16 "I felt I couldn't report it because it was our  
17 home. We needed a place to live."

18 A. Yes, and also didn't think -- well, nobody would have  
19 believed us.

20 Q. Why did you think that nobody would have believed you?

21 A. Just because she was in foster care and she made out to  
22 everybody that she was okay, but nobody would have  
23 believed if we had said anything. We were just being  
24 told oh, we were just a danger, just telling a heap of  
25 lies.

1 Q. You talk at paragraph 78 about something that you've  
2 done in your later life, so I think I understand that  
3 you lived in England for a while?

4 A. 30 years I lived in England, yes.

5 Q. Then you came back to the northeast to live.

6 A. (Witness nodded)

7 Q. And you worked as a carer?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And you say at paragraph 78 that sometimes you had to go  
10 to Gardenstown and care for people there and did people  
11 know who you were from the time that you were fostered  
12 there?

13 A. Oh yes. I mean, I hadn't been there all the time and  
14 I used to go to Gamrie -- obviously a carer look after  
15 the elderly, which was a good job and I used to walk  
16 into people's houses and they used to say, "Are you one  
17 of the FDO quines?" And I would say, "Yes". "Oh my  
18 God, I feel so sorry for you quines up there, what  
19 a life you had". So I would just turn around and say to  
20 the client, "Did you ever do anything about it?"  
21 I said, "Did you report anything?" They said, "Oh, well  
22 no". I said, "Well, I don't want to talk about it".  
23 I said, "I don't want to know", I says, "Because that's  
24 in the past". So they all knew. Everybody knew in  
25 Gamrie, but they just didn't do nothing about it.

1 Q. Did any of them explain to you why they didn't do  
2 anything about it?

3 A. No. You just didn't do it in -- I think you just didn't  
4 do anything in that days.

5 Q. Okay. Then again if we move on from that, if we -- yes,  
6 so down to paragraph 81, please, on page 14, you say  
7 that you moved back up to Scotland hoping you would get  
8 your family back?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. So had your sisters remained up in the northeast?

11 A. I had -- my eldest sister was up in the northeast.  
12 There was one in Liverpool, the one that was really  
13 badly treated by my eldest sister. But I came up many  
14 years ago and I came up to visit and I found my eldest  
15 sister and then I found my -- two of my sisters, and my  
16 youngest sister, that has passed away now, I went to  
17 visit her and she just lived in a complete hovel. It  
18 was unbelievable. I was so, so upset that I had to go  
19 home the next day and it took me 17 years to come back,  
20 and we came up, didn't we, we came up on holiday, and  
21 I contacted my eldest sister and she used to come down  
22 to England for a few times and we used to come back up.  
23 So we decided to sell up and move back up to Macduff  
24 or Banff to see if I could get all my sisters back  
25 together, but there were just too much distance. Too



1           much. It's so hurtful to say, like, but ...

2                   (Witness shook head)

3   Q.   Okay.

4   A.   It just didn't work, it just didn't work.

5   LADY SMITH:  'Jane', please don't worry.

6   A.   I tried my hardest, but it just seemed to be that over

7           the years the distance was too much and if you got

8           anything more than my eldest sister, she would be

9           jealous and she'd stop coming -- she'd just stop coming

10          to see you and stop talking to you.  And now my other

11          sister, who I'd been spoken to for years, we had

12          a difference of opinion and because my opinion didn't

13          match hers, she actually just stopped talking to me at

14          the beginning of the year, and she always had a key to

15          my front door so she put the key back in through the

16          front door and she's never spoke to me since.  So ...

17  MS INNES:  You say that you think that the way that you were

18          treated in foster care has had these effects on the

19          family.

20  A.   Oh, it's had -- it's had -- it's had a really, really --

21          it has had a bad effect, I will say, because if you're

22          not sure -- I always say if you're not shown love from

23          your parents or whatever, you know, and as you grow up,

24          you find it so hard, like if you're not given cuddles

25          and kisses and things like that, you find it so hard to

1 do it to somebody else. And all my family's like that.  
2 My sisters -- you couldn't cuddle one, you couldn't --  
3 you just couldn't. Because even -- you just couldn't.  
4 There was just nothing there. And I just found that so  
5 hard.

6 Q. I think that you perhaps applied to the redress scheme  
7 or to the Scottish Government in respect of the abuse  
8 that you suffered when you were in foster care.

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. I think you had a response from them or an advance  
11 payment?

12 A. Yes, I had a response from -- oh, what was it called  
13 again? Future Pathways, and they have been contacting  
14 me over the last few years and a couple of years ago  
15 they phoned me up and I spoke to a gentleman and he  
16 asked how I was and that, and then he said,  
17 "Mrs FDO", he said, "I think you're entitled to what  
18 we call an advance payment". I didn't know what that  
19 meant. He said, "Because now you're 69, it used to be  
20 70, but you can apply when you're 69, you send me all  
21 the paperwork and I'll tell you what I need", and it  
22 must have gone in front of a board and I didn't think  
23 I'd hear anything but I got a letter from the government  
24 apologising for putting me to the foster care I was in  
25 and giving me a cheque for £10,000, which I have not

1       touched. Which is still in a bank account. Because it  
2       wasn't the money. I didn't want any money. I just  
3       wanted people to believe -- to believe us. To believe  
4       what we went through. And I found that more rewarding  
5       that they believed what I went through rather than  
6       giving me any money.

7   Q. And so was the apology from the government that you  
8       received, did that -- how did you feel about that?

9   A. Well, I couldn't believe it. I just couldn't believe it  
10       that they actually believed what I said, because nobody  
11       ever believed what we said. Like I say, the money that  
12       I've got is in a bank account, I haven't even touched it  
13       because that didn't interest me.

14  Q. Okay.

15  A. And I'm doing this because I'm just hoping as well that  
16       if there's any other children in care, which there's  
17       going to be, and I know there is, there's got to be,  
18       that they don't have to go through the years that I went  
19       through, because I didn't have any childhood. None. No  
20       childhood, not even in Aberdeen when I used to live  
21       here, roaming the streets and picking up tabbies and  
22       everything for my real mum and that. But I never had  
23       a child life.

24  Q. Are there things specifically that you think that we  
25       should learn from your own experience? For example,

1        maybe people in the community that you've mentioned  
2        being prepared to speak up if they see something going  
3        wrong?

4    A.   But I don't know if people would.   They might speak up  
5        nowadays, but they wouldn't speak -- Gardenstown was  
6        a very close-knit brethren town.   Nobody would speak up  
7        down there.   In fact, we weren't even allowed down  
8        there.   We weren't allowed anybody on the farm.   When  
9        I was there, personally, we wasn't allowed to go.  
10       I wasn't allowed to go to any birthday parties, nobody  
11       was allowed to come up and play with you.   We just  
12       wasn't allowed nothing.

13       I remember once we was -- the schoolteacher actually  
14       said to **FLX** that we were very, very good at Highland  
15       dancing and we used to love it and would she let us go  
16       to Highland dancing.   Nothing.   No, she wouldn't allowed  
17       anything.

18       So, really, we didn't have any childhood.

19    Q.   Is there anything else that you think that you want to  
20       say that we should learn from your experience?

21    A.   Well, I don't know what you can learn, but when people  
22       go into foster care or that, they need to listen to the  
23       children.   Not to the adults.   Like in a bit where you  
24       can actually -- how you can actually put words and ask  
25       the children things so that they can tell you, because

1       we was always told we had to say nothing or else we  
2       would go back to the home.

3   Q.   Yes.   Okay.

4   A.   But it's actually, as I say, it's actually listening.  
5       It has took years and years and years for people to  
6       listen and believe what I actually went through.  And  
7       the rest of my sisters.  Some of them worse than what  
8       I did actually, because they were there longer than me.

9   MS INNES:  Thank you very much, 'Jane'.  I don't have any  
10       more questions for you.

11       There's no applications that I'm aware of, my Lady.

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

14       'Jane', thank you so much for engaging with us the  
15       way you have done.  We have a detailed really helpful  
16       written statement from you, but you've also brought more  
17       information here today and you've made your experience  
18       with all its hardship come to life.  It was quite a long  
19       time that you were in foster care and a time of your  
20       life that you'll have no doubt quite clear memories  
21       of --

22   A.   Mm.

23   LADY SMITH:  -- you certainly seem to do from what you've  
24       told me.  I have taken it all on board and it has  
25       increased my learning considerably, so I'm really

1           grateful to you.

2           I hope that you can now go away knowing that you  
3           have added considerable value to the work we're doing  
4           here, but put the prospect of giving evidence behind  
5           you. You've done it and you've done it so well, and now  
6           it's time to go and relax, I think.

7   A.   Lovely. Thank you very much.

8                               (The witness withdrew)

9   LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the lunch break, a reminder,  
10           some names were used in that witness's evidence which  
11           are protected by my general restriction order, such as  
12           the names of the foster family, the foster parents, at  
13           times 'Jane' made reference to her own name and some of  
14           the children's names at one or two points. These can't  
15           be used outside this room.

16           Thank you very much.

17           I'll sit again at 2 o'clock.

18   (1.00 pm)

19                               (The luncheon adjournment)

20   (2.00 pm)

21   LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. I think our afternoon's  
22           session is ready for a witness, a read-in, which?

23   MS RATTRAY: We are starting with a witness, who will give  
24           oral evidence, and later in the afternoon, time  
25           allowing, there will be a read-in as well.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS RATTRAY: The next witness is an applicant who wishes to  
3 remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Brian'.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS RATTRAY: 'Brian' was boarded out by Edinburgh  
6 Corporation to a placement in Stirling from [REDACTED] 1956  
7 to [REDACTED] 1970 and the responsible Local Authority was  
8 Edinburgh Corporation.

9 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

10 'Brian' (sworn)

11 LADY SMITH: Now, 'Brian', that microphone you'll see is  
12 switched on, it has the red light on, and if you don't  
13 mind, I need you to use the microphone so that we can  
14 hear you properly and the stenographers can hear you  
15 through the sound system properly.

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: There's a red folder there just over to your  
18 left.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: That has a hard copy of your statement in and  
21 we'll take you to that in a minute or two. You'll also  
22 see your statement will come up on the screen and we'll  
23 put particular parts of it up that we're looking at from  
24 time to time. If we want you to look at any other  
25 documents, they'll come up there as well, but we may or

1       may not do that.

2       Most importantly, 'Brian', it's important that we do  
3       what we can to make what I do realise is a difficult  
4       task as comfortable as possible. I fully understand it  
5       is not easy to be asked to talk about what happened to  
6       you when you were a child all these years further on,  
7       particularly when it can raise emotions that can take  
8       you by surprise at times. I appreciate that,  
9       I understand it.

10       If you have any concerns or queries as you go along,  
11       do tell me and we'll do what we can to deal with them.  
12       If you want a break, that's absolutely fine, just let me  
13       know. Otherwise, if you're ready, I'll hand over to  
14       Ms Rattray and she'll take it from there. Is that okay?

15    A. Yes, that's fine, thank you.

16    LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17       Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

18                   Questions from Ms Rattray

19    MS RATTRAY: Hello, 'Brian'.

20    A. Hello.

21    Q. To start, I'd actually like you to look at the paper  
22       version of your folder, your statement in the red  
23       folder. If you could turn to the very last page of your  
24       statement, which is page 18.

25    A. Yes.



1 Q. Can you confirm that you've signed your statement?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. You say above your signature at paragraph 96:

4 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

5 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

6 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

7 true."

8 Is that correct?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. We're going back to the first page and you can either

11 use the paper version if that works for you or, as

12 Lady Smith said, it will appear on the screen before

13 you.

14 Can you tell me the year you were born? I don't

15 need the day or the month, simply the year.

16 A. 1951.

17 Q. You've come today to tell us about your experiences when

18 you were boarded out?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What I'm going to do, I'm going to ask you some

21 questions in three parts.

22 The first part is just brief, about some general

23 background of yourself.

24 The second part will be about your experiences when

25 you were boarded out.

1           The third part is about what happened when you were  
2           finished boarding out, when you were 18, and any impact  
3           your experiences have had upon you later on in life.  
4    A.   (Witness nodded)  
5    Q.   Moving firstly to your life before care, you tell us at  
6           paragraph 1 of your statement that you were born in  
7           Edinburgh and you were taken into care when you were  
8           just 13 months old.  
9    A.   Yes.  
10   Q.   But you've since learned a little about your parents.  
11           Can you tell us what you found out about your mum and  
12           dad?  
13   A.   Regarding where I came -- you know, who my mother was  
14           and who my father was, yes. But that didn't come until  
15           late -- you know, until much later that I learned about  
16           them, round about 2020 -- sorry, 2000 ...  
17   Q.   So you learned about your parents later in life, but  
18           I think you tell us you know very little about your  
19           mother, but you found out she was in Lasswade Children's  
20           Home in 1933 when she was 19 years old.  
21   A.   Yes. That's right.  
22   Q.   And she was pregnant at the time. She also gave birth  
23           to you in 1951. I think you tell us that she arranged  
24           for you to go into an orphanage at Smyllum.  
25   A.   Yeah, but prior to that I was in the Royal Society of

1       Prevention of Cruelty to Children shelter in Edinburgh  
2       at the age of six months. I stayed at that place until  
3       the following year and then I was transferred to Smyllum  
4       orphanage.

5   Q. You tell us in your statement about Smyllum, but we're  
6       not focusing on that today. We can now turn to page 5  
7       of your statement at paragraph 22 where you tell us  
8       about what happened when you left Smyllum.

9             In your statement you thought you were seven years  
10       old and it was 1958.

11   A. Yes.

12   Q. I think probably since then you've obviously seen your  
13       records.

14   A. Yes, I have.

15   Q. And I think your records suggest it was in 1956, which  
16       would make you five years old.

17   A. That's correct, yes.

18   Q. Do you have any comment on the records at all? Do you  
19       think that the records are correct or perhaps your  
20       memory's correct?

21   A. No, the records are correct now, but in the home at  
22       Smyllum, they didn't know what date I was discharged  
23       from them to go into foster care, since then, since  
24       I got my records in February this year, then I know  
25       exactly the date that I left Smyllum and then went into

1 foster care.

2 Q. Yes. I think we already mentioned the date here, before

3 you came into the hearing room. I think the date we

4 have is [REDACTED] 1956.

5 A. Yes, 1956, [REDACTED], correct, yes.

6 Q. Do you remember whether there was any preparation

7 carried out before you were removed from Smyllum to be

8 boarded out?

9 A. No, I don't know.

10 Q. Do you remember whether anyone explained to you what was

11 going to happen?

12 A. No.

13 Q. What do you remember about leaving Smyllum?

14 A. I just remember that I was taken from there to be

15 fostered.

16 Q. Who was it who took you from Smyllum to your new home?

17 A. At the time I believed it was Mrs ELB [REDACTED].

18 Q. And she was the person who you were boarded out to?

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. When you were boarded out, was that the first occasion

21 you had met Mrs ELB [REDACTED]?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Turning to what you tell us at paragraph 26 of your

24 statement, 'Brian', what can you tell us about

25 Mrs ELB [REDACTED] own family?

1 A. She had four siblings but they were a lot older, married  
2 and living in separate areas at the time when she took  
3 me.  
4 Q. Did you have any contact with those relatives of  
5 Mrs ELB during your time when you were living with  
6 her?  
7 A. Yes, one of her sons, [REDACTED], he was in the army and he  
8 used to come home from leave. And then there was  
9 ELC [REDACTED] as well. He living there permanently.  
10 Q. What can you tell us about ELC [REDACTED]?  
11 A. Hm. Well, unbeknownst to me, I didn't realise or didn't  
12 know at the time that he was my half-brother. I didn't  
13 know that up until I was about 14 years old. He never  
14 told me up till then. Or Mrs ELB didn't tell me  
15 either.  
16 Q. What was the age difference between you and ELC [REDACTED]?  
17 A. 17 years.  
18 Q. So he was essentially an adult then when you first met  
19 him?  
20 A. Oh yes, he was.  
21 Q. Mrs ELB [REDACTED], what were you asked to call her? Were you  
22 asked to call her mum or were you asked to call her  
23 anything else?  
24 A. No, just ELB [REDACTED] or Mrs ELB [REDACTED].  
25 Q. If we turn now -- the other thing I want to ask you is

1 something you mention at paragraph 31 of your statement,  
2 which is at the foot of this page. You say that you  
3 began to be referred to not by your own surname at the  
4 time but the surname of your foster mother.  
5 A. That's correct, yes.  
6 Q. Did anyone consult you about that?  
7 A. No. None at all. I was just, you know, known as her --  
8 you know, given her surname at the time. Even when  
9 I went to primary school I was known as her name.  
10 Q. Turning to page 7 of your statement and paragraph 32,  
11 can you describe what the foster home was like in terms  
12 of its layout and bedrooms and so forth?  
13 A. Yeah, it was just an average council property. It had  
14 three bedrooms, coal fires in the bedrooms as well  
15 because there was no heating, radiator in them days,  
16 boilers, you know. It was just an average council  
17 house.  
18 Q. Whereabouts did you sleep?  
19 A. I had a bedroom, my own -- you know, a bedroom for me.  
20 A separate bedroom.  
21 Q. Who was living in the house?  
22 A. Mrs [ELB] and [ELC].  
23 Q. He was grown up. Was he working at all?  
24 A. Yeah, he was working there as a -- I think he worked as  
25 a labourer for a building company at the time.

1 Q. Did he spend some time in the army as well?

2 A. Prior to that, yes. Yeah, he was in the army as a young  
3 soldier or -- he was a piper in the [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED].

5 Q. You mention at paragraph 34 of your statement that you  
6 used to sleepwalk a lot when you lived at  
7 Mrs ELB [REDACTED].

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the neighbours would find you out on the street in  
10 a daze and they would guide you back home and ring the  
11 bell. Were you sleepwalking at Smyllum?

12 A. Not to knowledge no, not at Smyllum. Just when I was  
13 there at Mrs ELB [REDACTED] I tended to do a lot of  
14 sleepwalking for some reason.

15 Q. Do you know when you stopped sleepwalking?

16 A. Oh, quite a few years after that. I'd say about 10/11.

17 Q. So you were aged 10 or 11, so from about the age of 5  
18 when you arrived there to the age of 10 or 11 you were  
19 sleepwalking?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. The food at the home, how was that? What was the food  
22 like?

23 A. Are you talking about Mrs ELB [REDACTED] home?

24 Q. Yes, sorry.

25 A. There was the usual mince and tatties, maybe some toast

1       in the morning before I went to school.

2   Q.   Who did the cooking?

3   A.   Mrs **ELB**.

4   Q.   Did you get enough to eat?

5   A.   Not really, because when I was at school you used to get

6       dinner at school and I used to get second helpings

7       because I was hungry.

8   Q.   Right. Were you allowed to help yourself to snacks or

9       other food if you were hungry at home?

10  A.   No, not really, no. There wasn't sort of facilities if

11       you want to call it that, you know.

12  Q.   Moving on now, 'Brian', to page 8, further on in page 8

13       of your statement, did you have any chores or work that

14       you had to do whilst you were living there?

15  A.   Yeah, I had to clean out the fire in the morning, the

16       coal fire every morning, and clean brass, you know, on

17       a Sunday. It used to be a Sunday, clean the brass work,

18       you know, the brasses, things like that.

19  Q.   Were you given any pocket money?

20  A.   The only pocket money I was given was from **ELC** for

21       cleaning his shoes for him, you know, gave me a shilling

22       or whatever, a sixpence at the time, and that was all.

23  Q.   I think you might mention at paragraph 39 of your

24       statement that you had a friend who used to do

25       deliveries --



1 A. Oh yes.

2 Q. -- with a basket on a bike on a Saturday and you used to  
3 help him out sometimes.

4 A. Yes, [REDACTED]. He's actually down here now. (Pause)  
5 Sorry.

6 Q. Is it okay? Would you like a break?

7 A. No, no.

8 Q. You're okay?

9 LADY SMITH: Just take your time, 'Brian'. You tell us when  
10 you're ready to carry on.

11 A. (Pause)  
12 Okay.

13 MS RATTRAY: Okay. Moving on onto clothes, what were the  
14 clothes like that you had to wear as a child at  
15 Mrs [REDACTED] ELB [REDACTED]?

16 A. It was just the normal short trousers and jumper, you  
17 know. Tackety boots as well. Wear them going to  
18 school. A pair of boots.

19 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 40 that when you went  
20 to high school, she took you to a place, is it McAree's  
21 in Stirling?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you were bought long trousers for school and  
24 a blazer?

25 A. Because I was going to a high school, yes.

1 Q. Do you have any other memories of being taken shopping  
2 for clothes?

3 A. No, that was the only place she took me for the --  
4 McAree's to get my school uniform, because I was going  
5 into secondary school.

6 Q. How was your time at school? Did you enjoy school?

7 A. Not so much in the primary school. I did in the  
8 secondary, in the high school, but not in primary, no.

9 Q. What was the problem at primary school?

10 A. Ah, got bullied, you know, the other children used to  
11 bully me.

12 Q. Was there a particular reason they suggested why they  
13 were bullying you?

14 A. Well, they knew that I didn't have a father and I didn't  
15 have a mother, they knew I was -- you know, I was just  
16 fostered, and they used to -- Mrs ELB smoked at the  
17 time and they used to make me steal a cigarette for them  
18 to take them to school for them.

19 Q. Do you know how they knew that you were fostered? Was  
20 that something you told them or did they learn that  
21 somewhere else?

22 A. No, I think what it was that Mrs ELB told  
23 neighbours and friends and their kids went to the same  
24 school as me, you know, so obviously she had mentioned  
25 it to them.

1 Q. Was there anyone that you could tell about or report the  
2 bullying so something could be done about it?

3 A. No, not really. I was a bit of a wimp, I suppose, in  
4 them days.

5 Q. You say that you enjoyed high school and I think you  
6 tell us in paragraph 43 of your statement on page 9 that  
7 you had some ambitions as to what you wanted to do?

8 A. Yes. I enjoyed technical drawing at school and  
9 I thought I'd like to be maybe an architect at one time,  
10 but that -- I told Mrs ELB but she said no, I'd  
11 have to leave school rather than carry on education, you  
12 know, and get a job.

13 Q. So I take it from that you weren't encouraged --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- in your education at all?

16 A. No, I wasn't. I was just told to -- you know, I needed  
17 to get a job and give her the money for my keep.

18 Q. In relation to church, did you attend church at all?

19 A. When I was young, I used to go to the chapel, yes, every  
20 Sunday morning.

21 Q. Did Mrs ELB go with you?

22 A. No. No. Because she wasn't Catholic, she was Church of  
23 Scotland at the time. But then as I got older, I sort  
24 of -- she made me -- well, I think she made me digress  
25 from the chapel to like the Boys' Brigade, Life Boys,

1 Boys' Brigade, you know, which are not on the RC side of  
2 things, Roman Catholics.

3 Q. In terms of leisure time, how did you get to spend your  
4 time when you weren't at school?

5 A. Outside playing football with the other kids, you know,  
6 as you did.

7 Q. You have mentioned the Life Boys and so forth, did you  
8 attend any other clubs or activities?

9 A. No, just the church was only less than half a mile up  
10 from the house, the church there, and just go on  
11 a Friday night it was, the Boys' Brigade was on a Friday  
12 evening.

13 Q. How about any trips or holidays?

14 A. Well, went to -- there was a chap called Mr [REDACTED]. He  
15 used to -- he lived around the corner, round -- you  
16 know, [REDACTED], I think it was. He used to  
17 organise a coach trip from all the local people and  
18 they'd pay so much a month to him and he'd take you --  
19 Burntisland it was, for the day. That was it.

20 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 45 of your statement  
21 that while Mrs ELB [REDACTED] never took you out to activities  
22 like the cinema or swimming or anything like that, there  
23 was another old lady --

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. -- who lived nearby who did that.

1 A. Yes. The lady lived up the stairs, an elderly lady, she  
2 was. Mrs ELB would give her money to take me to  
3 the cinema and on her way to the cinema, stop in at  
4 Woolworths, you know, in them days, and she would buy  
5 broken biscuits in a bag and that was your treat for  
6 the -- you know, going to the cinema. Hand you some of  
7 the biscuits. That was it.

8 Q. Was there any particular reason why Mrs ELB  
9 arranged for this lady to take you to the cinema rather  
10 than taking you herself?

11 A. No, I don't know. She was in and out sort of thing.  
12 You know, she was going and seeing other people, I don't  
13 know who they were or ... things like that. I don't  
14 know.

15 Q. On page 10 at paragraph 49 you tell us about Christmas  
16 and birthdays. What was it like at Christmas?

17 A. What, at Mrs ELB?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. Christmas was very -- it wasn't like what it's  
20 celebrated in England. You know, Christmas is -- but in  
21 Scotland they were all -- well, at Mrs ELB, her  
22 thing was New Year rather than Christmas time. She  
23 loved entertaining at New Year, you know, Hogmanay and  
24 whatever.

25 LADY SMITH: When you first went to the foster home, I don't

1 think Christmas Day would have been a public holiday in  
2 Scotland, I think it was still a working day, wasn't it?  
3 A. I don't know.  
4 LADY SMITH: Things didn't stop.  
5 A. No.  
6 LADY SMITH: It wasn't generally celebrated.  
7 A. No.  
8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
9 MS RATTRAY: Were you given any presents at Christmas?  
10 A. The only -- at Mrs ELB we are referring to?  
11 Q. At Mrs ELB, yes.  
12 A. One year, one Christmas she said, "Oh, I don't have  
13 a lot of money, but I managed to buy you a little  
14 plastic machine gun thing", from Woolworths, funnily  
15 enough. It only lasted about 10 minutes and it broke.  
16 And that was my Christmas.  
17 Q. I think you mentioned that in relation to birthdays,  
18 birthdays weren't really celebrated either?  
19 A. No, not really, no.  
20 Q. But you remember sometimes you got a present from her  
21 sons?  
22 A. Yes. [REDACTED], her son, he worked abroad in the army and he  
23 came back from Malaysia or Singapore, it was, and he  
24 brought me a football, a leather ball, and also a jacket  
25 that you could reverse, turn it inside out, you know,

1       made of silk and so on, you know. Yeah, he brought me  
2       that. It was nice presents.

3   Q. Moving on to the subject of visits, were you ever paid  
4       any visit by any social worker that you're aware of?

5   A. Not that -- no. Just one woman that came once and asked  
6       questions, asked me questions. That was all.

7   Q. I think you tell us about that at page 10, the foot of  
8       page 10, at paragraph 54 of your statement. You say  
9       that she was very smart.

10  A. This lady that came to the house, yes. I always  
11       remember a picture of her in my mind, you know, when  
12       I saw her. She was very curly hair, black hair, and she  
13       wore a nice coat with black fur around the collar, very  
14       smart looking. She stood out, you know, compared to the  
15       average person in the street.

16  Q. And what question or questions did she ask you?

17  A. Well, she just said, "Are you happy here?" you know and  
18       I was going to say yeah and no but I didn't get  
19       a chance. Mrs **ELB** said, "He's happy here", you  
20       know, because she said, "Do you want to stay here?" And  
21       Mrs **ELB** says, "Yes, he does, he likes it here", and  
22       that was it. I didn't have a choice.

23  Q. Over the page on page 11, paragraph 55, you tell us  
24       about one of Mrs **ELB** sisters. At one stage, this  
25       auntie said to Mrs **ELB** --

1 A. Oh yeah.

2 Q. "Let me look after 'Brian'."

3 A. Yes. Her sister, yes. She asked Mrs ELB, you

4 know, you know -- she said, "I'll look after 'Brian'",

5 and she said, "No, you won't", because she knew I wasn't

6 happy, you know, living there and being there, but she

7 said no, flatly refused to let her look after me.

8 Q. You say in your statement that she knew how Mrs ELB

9 treated you. Can you tell us more about how you were

10 treated by Mrs ELB? And perhaps tell us that in

11 the context of any question of, for example, punishment?

12 What happened there?

13 A. Well, punishment was -- she had a leather belt, you know

14 like you have at a barbers -- they sharpened their blade

15 on a leather belt in them days. She had a leather belt,

16 it used to hang at the side of the fireplace. I used to

17 get that quite often, especially if I should have been

18 home at a certain time from school but I ended up

19 playing football and she would know where I was and she

20 would come up and find me and smack me all the way home,

21 you know, with the belt.

22 Q. How frequently were you hit with the belt by

23 Mrs ELB?

24 A. Quite a lot, yeah. Sometimes for no reason, just, you

25 know, in case of -- if I didn't do what I was told, I'd



1           get the belt.

2   Q.   I think you tell us a little more about this at

3           paragraphs 65 and 66 of your statement on page 12.  You

4           also refer to a time -- I think you say at paragraph 66

5           that you would get belted by Mrs **ELB** for anything.

6           You say:

7                 "I couldn't do anything right."

8   A.   Yeah.

9   Q.   And:

10                "The leather belt was used many times just for the

11               sake of it."

12   A.   Yeah.

13   Q.   You also tell us there that you got belted for

14               sleepwalking.

15   A.   Yeah, I used to get belted.  And if I wet the bed as

16               well, you know, get the belt.  But the worst was when

17               I broke the window, the lady's across the road window,

18               with the football, I got the stick. **ELC** beat me with

19               a stick on my backside and that was the most painful

20               beating I've ever had.

21   Q.   Did you have any marks as a result of being hit?

22   A.   Oh, I had a look in my bedroom in the mirror and my

23               backside, I couldn't see it, it was just all black and

24               blue.  And she saw -- watched him actually doing it to

25               me and didn't stop him, you know.

1 Q. Was that the only time that ELC hit you or would he hit  
2 you on other occasions?

3 A. No, sometimes he would -- you know, he would give me  
4 a smack, but that was the worst one, you know, with the  
5 stick. That was painful.

6 Q. You mentioned bed-wetting.

7 A. Mm.

8 Q. You tell us a little about that at paragraph 59 of your  
9 statement at the foot of page 11 and you tell us that  
10 you had terrible problems with bed-wetting at  
11 Mrs ELB. What was her response to that? How did  
12 she manage the bed-wetting?

13 A. Just she had a rubber sheet permanently on the bed for  
14 me, you know a big rubber sheet down.

15 Q. But you would be punished as well?

16 A. Oh, yeah. She made me drink water one night, cup fulls  
17 of water and she said, "This will teach you not to wet  
18 the bed", and I was thinking no, it will have the  
19 opposite effect, because if I drink more water, I'm  
20 going to wee more, but that's what she done to try and  
21 cure me.

22 Q. Was that a regular occurrence, her treating you like  
23 that when you wet the bed?

24 A. Yes, it was.

25 Q. You also tell us on page 12 of your statement from

1 paragraph 60 about the behaviour of ELC towards you.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Now, you've told us about him beating you with a stick,

4 but other things happened as well.

5 A. Yes, they did.

6 Q. Can you tell us what happened?

7 A. Yeah, he used to come into my bedroom during the night

8 and sneak into my bed and start touching me. Trying to

9 take my pants off and touching my penis and he made me

10 hold his penis and masturbate him and things like that.

11 Horrible.

12 Q. Did anything else happen?

13 A. Well, he did try to put his penis in -- you know, the

14 back of my legs, you know, trying to insert it into my

15 anus, but he didn't manage that, thank God. Because

16 I kept my pants on, you know, as best I could.

17 Q. How often did that happen?

18 A. It used to happen sometimes two times a week, three

19 times, just depending how he felt.

20 Q. How old were you when that started?

21 A. Oh, I was only about, say, seven/eight.

22 Q. And how old were you when it stopped?

23 A. Well, it stopped more or less when he left. He went to

24 join the Merchant Navy, so I'd be about 14 at the time

25 when it all stopped, yeah.

1 Q. Did Mrs ELB know that this was happening?

2 A. No, she didn't. She might have had an idea because one

3 night I run out the bed where he was sitting in the bed

4 and I went to Mrs ELB and I said I'd had a bad

5 dream, you know, a nightmare type thing, and she said,

6 "Just jump in at the back and go to sleep", you know, in

7 her bed. That's the only time I think she might have --

8 well, I don't know. She never said nothing.

9 Q. I think you then learned that ELC had abused other boys

10 as well?

11 A. Yes. Yes. Her -- Mrs ELB grandson got the

12 similar treatment, or he tried to ... while he came to

13 stay with his grandmother the one time, yes.

14 Q. Was there anyone at all that you could turn to, to tell

15 what was happening to you when you were living at

16 Mrs ELB?

17 A. No, not really, because he said to me, ELC, said, "If

18 you tell anybody, you'll end up back in the home, the

19 orphanage", so that was that. I was frightened. I was

20 young, you know. I didn't know what to do.

21 Q. You've told us that you don't really know whether you

22 saw a social worker but you remember a smart woman

23 coming and asking whether you wanted to stay there and

24 if you were happy and you didn't really get a chance to

25 answer --

1 A. No, I didn't.

2 Q. -- because Mrs. ELB answered for you. You've  
3 recovered your records and you've read your records,  
4 haven't you?

5 A. Yeah, I have.

6 Q. I'm not going to show them on the screen because they're  
7 handwritten, they're quite small and they're difficult  
8 to read, but I do have some quotes from those.

9 Just for the record, the records have the reference  
10 EDI-000001290. I'm just going to read out some of the  
11 examples of what they say in the records and you will  
12 have a chance to comment on that, 'Brian'.

13 A. Thank you.

14 Q. One of the examples is at page 6 of EDI-000001290 and  
15 it's an entry of a visit on 11 June 1959 and it makes  
16 reference to your brother being expected home on leave  
17 from Germany and that you were looking forward to his  
18 coming, and that it states:

19 "It is very obvious that the child adores the foster  
20 mother."

21 Are you able to help us with that at all?

22 A. No, I didn't adore her. I was just ... just in a place  
23 that I couldn't do nothing about, you know. My life.

24 Q. Presumably you certainly weren't looking forward to ELC  
25 coming home?

1 A. No.

2 Q. There is another entry at page 7 of that document of  
3 16 August 1960 which says:

4 "The elder brother is now demobilised from the army  
5 and residing with foster parent. All are getting on  
6 well with each other. The atmosphere in the home is  
7 a happy one."

8 Then there's another entry which says:

9 "This is a good home and the foster parent is very  
10 fond of the boy."

11 Does that reflect your memories of living with  
12 Mrs ELB ?

13 A. Well, it was just a case of -- you know, I was there and  
14 the things that happened, they happened, and I just had  
15 to accept certain things, you know, that were happening  
16 to me and there's nothing I could have done about it.

17 So I wouldn't say I was very -- I wouldn't say I was  
18 happy, as such.

19 Q. We see throughout the records comments about "'Brian' is  
20 well and he's very happy in this household", "'Brian'  
21 continues happily as usual", but the information about  
22 being happy, was that coming from you?

23 A. No. No, it wasn't coming from me. Because people --  
24 I don't know who wrote these -- you know, I never spoke  
25 to them because I never saw them. You know, only this

1       one woman, as I mentioned, and that's the only person  
2       I've seen over the years when I lived there.

3   Q.   I noticed that there is an entry of a date in -- the  
4       date's not clear but it's in June 1962 on page 8 to 9 of  
5       this document which says:

6       "The brother **ELC** takes a great interest in 'Brian'  
7       and disciplines him as required, as Mrs **ELB** admits  
8       to spoiling him."

9   A.   No. She didn't spoil me because if she spoiled me she  
10       wouldn't hit me, and he was doing the same as well, so.

11   Q.   Then there are two other entries which are of interest,  
12       because they appear to reflect what you say about  
13       perhaps you were not getting to speak for yourself.

14       That's an entry at page 11 of that document on  
15       7 July 1964, where it's noted:

16       "Foster mother spoke at great length of this  
17       resentment in front of 'Brian' and made him confirm how  
18       good she was to him and how well off he was."

19       This is against a background where the foster mother  
20       said you were resentful at not going on holiday rather  
21       than day trips.

22   A.   I don't know. Yeah. What can I say?

23   Q.   But even the social worker or childcare officer seems to  
24       comment that the foster mother made you confirm how good  
25       she was.



1 A. Well, I never spoke to her, so I, you know, confirm it  
2 "yes" or "no". I just didn't speak to her.

3 Q. There's another entry on 2 February 1966 which comments:  
4 "Foster mother still inclined to confront 'Brian'  
5 with statements that he has to back up, but 'Brian'  
6 seems very happy in this home."  
7 Once again, that's not something you're able to  
8 comment on?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Now, 'Brian', I'm going to move on to the third part of  
11 the sections that I talked about and just look at some  
12 parts of your life following care.  
13 You've already told us that you had your own  
14 ambitions but Mrs ELB said you had to go out and  
15 get a job.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What job did you get when you left school?

18 A. Well, she was very friendly with a builder chap,  
19 [REDACTED], the builders at that time -- they don't  
20 exist now, obviously -- and I started working as  
21 an apprentice bricklayer. It just wasn't -- wasn't for  
22 me, you know, so I left there. I got myself a job after  
23 that with the -- as an apprentice grocer, you know, at  
24 the Co-op, Co-operative at the time, and I stayed there  
25 for a couple of years.



1           And from that I went to Burton's the tailors and  
2           then from there to the army when I was 18.  
3   Q.   You joined the army I think you say in 1970.  
4   A.   Yeah.  
5   Q.   And when you were in the army you sent money home to  
6       Mrs **ELB** ?  
7   A.   Yes, to start with, yes, I did, I sent her money, but  
8       then I got married when I was in the army at 21, I was  
9       21 years old then, so obviously I had to look after my  
10      wife at the time, but then Mrs **ELB** died any -- at  
11      the time in 1973 she passed away.  
12   Q.   I think you also tell us that **ELC** died as well?  
13   A.   Yes, he died 20, 21 years ago now. He died of a brain  
14      haemorrhage. His body was found near the railway  
15      station at Stirling just off the dual carriageway by  
16      a member of the public and the police contacted me here  
17      in -- in Leicester, sorry, it's when I was in Leicester,  
18      and I had to go up and identify his body.  
19   Q.   And you were the one who had to arrange his funeral?  
20   A.   Yes. He had no funeral plans or anything. Actually,  
21      I had to get a loan to pay for his funeral at the time,  
22      you know, but that was okay.  
23   Q.   And how did you feel about that, given his abuse of you?  
24   A.   Well, because of how he abused me, my thoughts at the  
25      time when I looked at him, you know, at the hospital, at

1 the mortuary, and I come away with the police, they took  
2 me back to the police station, and I just thought,  
3 "Well, he's not going to harm anybody else". I know  
4 it's not a nice thought, but that was my thoughts.

5 Q. I think moving to page 15 of your statement, 'Brian',  
6 from paragraph 78 you speak about the impact your  
7 experiences have had upon you and I think at  
8 paragraph 78 you tell us that you didn't think about  
9 your situation in Smyllum much when you were there. It  
10 was only after you left and as time went on that you  
11 thought about it. But when you were boarded out, you  
12 wished you were back in Smyllum.

13 A. Yes, that's right. That was my thoughts at the time,  
14 because of being abused there at, you know,  
15 Mrs <sup>ELB</sup> [REDACTED], and I thought I'd probably be better off  
16 back at Smyllum. But then again, from what I've heard,  
17 it wouldn't have made any difference to my -- you know,  
18 being brought up in care.

19 Q. At paragraph 80 you tell us of one of the sort of  
20 long-lasting impacts of the sexual abuse you suffered --

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. -- and what's that?

23 A. As I said, even to this day, you know, I keep my  
24 underpants on, you know, at night when I'm putting my  
25 pyjamas on, because I feel safe.

1 Q. You tell us at paragraph 82 that it's hard to say what  
2 the impact was of the abuse you suffered. It happened.  
3 And at the time, you say:  
4 "I didn't think I could do anything about it.  
5 I have accepted what happened. I have thought about it  
6 a lot more in the lead up to talking to the Inquiry.  
7 Although I wanted to stay on at school and become  
8 an architect I am very happy with what I did do.  
9 I think I've done all right."  
10 A. Yes. I've achieved a lot, you know, in my life. And  
11 now I just reap the benefits of being retired and  
12 getting old gracefully.  
13 Q. When you speak about records on page 16 of your  
14 statement, I think this is probably what you referred to  
15 at the start of your evidence.  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. That with the help of Birthlink you have been able to  
18 find out more about your parents.  
19 A. Yes. I contacted them 2003, I think it was, roughly,  
20 but I'd been with them a couple of years, because they  
21 would take a while to try and find out more about -- you  
22 know. And I found out my father had died, because  
23 I didn't know he'd died, and he's buried at Mount Vernon  
24 cemetery.  
25 Q. I think, 'Brian', you tell us that you and your wife

1           have been able to visit his grave.

2   A.   Yes.   Yes.

3   Q.   But you also were able to find out about your father was

4           in fact from Poland.

5   A.   Yes.

6   Q.   You tell us you were able to make contact with relatives

7           in Poland?

8   A.   Yes, I flew over to Poland a good 15/16 years ago, and

9           met my father's family from Poland.   It's a big family.

10          Very -- you know, really nice.   Looked after me well.

11   Q.   You also tell us, I think, at the foot of that page at

12          paragraph 88 that through contacting family members you

13          have been able to get photographs of your mum and dad?

14   A.   Yes.   I didn't know that I had a half-sister as well.

15          Birthlink found that out for me and they gave me a phone

16          number and address of my half-sister.   She lives in

17          Southend-on-Sea.   She's been down there for many years.

18          And I contacted her on the phone and asked her if she

19          had photographs of my mum, because I didn't know what

20          she looked like, and she sent me a couple of photographs

21          of my mother.

22               And from my father's side, I've got loads of

23          information but it's all in Polish.   Photographs when he

24          was in the army and so on, you know.   He was quite

25          a hero, I believe.   He was at Monte Cassino, the battle

1       there, helping the British -- and then he came over to  
2       Edinburgh after the war and that's how he met my mother.  
3       And that was that.

4   Q.   I think that's a point you make when you are reflecting  
5       on lessons to be learned from this at paragraph 92 of  
6       your statement and you say that you think you would have  
7       benefitted from knowing more about your birth parents  
8       when you were younger.

9   A.   I certainly would have, but I was never told, nothing  
10      from Mrs **ELB**. She knew obviously a lot more than  
11      I did, because she got me from the orphanage, and also  
12      the council, Edinburgh Council were paying her to -- you  
13      know, for fostering me and she could have got a lot more  
14      information for me, but she never did. You know.

15  Q.   You also reflect at paragraph 94 about your mother being  
16      in Lasswade and I think you mean a Children's Home in  
17      Lasswade.

18  A.   Yeah.

19  Q.   So you have reflected on the fact that you learned that  
20      your mother was in care as a young person as well.

21  A.   That's right, yes. I found that through Birthlink.  
22      They had records of my mother going to Birthlink here in  
23      Edinburgh in 1933 with a child called **ELC**. From there,  
24      she went to Lasswade and that place was only for ladies,  
25      for females, seemingly, that home, and she had to go out

1 to work when she was there and the nuns or whoever  
2 looked after the children while the mothers were out  
3 working. That's what I've learned so far.

4 MS RATTRAY: It just remains for me to thank you very much  
5 for your assistance. I have no further questions for  
6 you and I'm not aware of there being any applications  
7 for questions.

8 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
9 questions?

10 'Brian', that completes all the questions we have  
11 for you.

12 A. Thank you.

13 LADY SMITH: But before you go, I just want to thank you  
14 very much for engaging with us the way you have done,  
15 both by providing such a clear and helpful written  
16 statement and by coming here today to talk about your  
17 life in care when you were boarded out with  
18 Mrs ELB .

19 A. (Witness nodded)

20 LADY SMITH: I can see and hear that it's not been easy to  
21 do that.

22 A. No.

23 LADY SMITH: And I tried to make it clear to you at the  
24 beginning that I do understand that, but by doing what  
25 you've done this afternoon, you've educated me and

1       you've helped considerably with the learning that we're  
2       engaging in here. Your contribution is very valuable.  
3   A. Thank you.  
4   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much for it and I hope you can  
5       go away knowing that that's been a positive for us  
6       anyway and perhaps there's something of a positive for  
7       you in having done that and leaving it here with us.  
8   A. Thank you.  
9   LADY SMITH: Thank you, I'm able to let you go with our good  
10       wishes.  
11   A. Thank you.  
12                               (The witness withdrew)  
13   LADY SMITH: Afternoon break time?  
14   MS RATTRAY: Yes, I think that might be appropriate, allow  
15       me to speak to the witness and then we can return for  
16       a read-in.  
17   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll rise now.  
18   (2.53 pm)  
19                               (A short break)  
20   (3.05 pm)  
21   LADY SMITH: Just to remind anybody who's forgotten, before  
22       we move on to the next witness, the read-in, the name of  
23       the last foster carer was used, Mrs **ELB**, and some  
24       other names of family names, and they can't be mentioned  
25       outside this room because of my general restriction

1 order.

2 Ms Rattray.

3 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. This is a statement of

4 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has

5 chosen the pseudonym 'Emma'.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 'Emma' (read)

8 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we've recovered some but very few

9 records for 'Emma'. The records we have indicate that

10 she was boarded out to a placement in Blantyre possibly

11 on [REDACTED] 1955. It's not clear from the records

12 whether the responsible authority was Glasgow

13 Corporation or a predecessor of South Lanarkshire

14 Council. The few records we have were recovered from

15 South Lanarkshire Council.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Emma'. I was born in 1952. My

18 contact details are known to the Inquiry ..."

19 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, I'm sorry to interrupt, can we just

20 put the statement reference number into the record?

21 MS RATTRAY: My apologies. Her statement is at

22 WIT.001.001.9248.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Emma'. I was born in 1952. My

25 great grandparents were [REDACTED]. I was



1       born in Glasgow. There are a lot of different stories  
2       about my dad.

3             The information I have is that my mum had been down  
4       to England and had been with my dad. She came back up  
5       to Scotland, had me and then gave me up. From the  
6       papers I have, I think my dad knew about me. I have  
7       a brother. He's been doing some research and has found  
8       out some information about my mum. My mum had been  
9       married quite a few times and used different names.

10            I have some paperwork from social work and there's  
11       a picture of a big house with nurses with babies all in  
12       cots. The information is that I was placed in this  
13       house. My mother apparently handed me over as a baby.  
14       I don't know the exact date. The papers say that my mum  
15       got paid for handing me over, I was only there a short  
16       time as a baby. From there I was taken to Quarriers."

17            From paragraphs 5 to 32, 'Emma' speaks of her  
18       experiences in Quarriers. Moving now to the end of  
19       paragraph 32 on page 7:

20            "When I was about six years old, I was taken to  
21       foster care in Blantyre.

22            There was a couple in Blantyre who fostered  
23       children. I don't know who made the decision that I was  
24       to be fostered by this couple. I remember being told by  
25       one of the older boys who was fostered by them, "It's

1 government guided this, it's the government that chose  
2 to put us in this home".

3 I went into foster care when I was six. I stayed  
4 there until I was 24. My first memory of foster care is  
5 getting out of the doors of a wee blue van. I was taken  
6 to the foster carers' house by someone from Quarriers.  
7 When we arrived, a tall man was standing there. I was  
8 crying.

9 The man was my foster father, Mr QEJ. He took me  
10 into the front room and shut the door. He was about six  
11 feet tall. I felt like it was just all happening again.  
12 He raised his voice. Mr QEJ seemed really angry for  
13 some reason. He told me there was no crying allowed in  
14 this house. He said that I must do whatever he told me  
15 to do. Mr QEJ cleaned in a bookies office. As far  
16 as I know, he didn't work for a lot of years.

17 QEJ/SPO were of a good age. Some of the  
18 girls at school used to kid me on that they were my  
19 grandparents. QEJ/SPO had a family of their  
20 own. He had two daughters. One died when she was in  
21 the Land Army. The other was a lot older than me. She  
22 was married and didn't live in the house with us.

23 My foster home was a council house with two  
24 bedrooms, the front room and the back room. There was  
25 a front and back garden. There were seven children in

1 the house. The children were all fostered. There were  
2 two girls and three boys. There was somebody else there  
3 for a wee while but I can't remember their name. There  
4 was about five years' difference between each of us.  
5 One girl was five years younger than me, the other girl  
6 was five years older than me.

7 I didn't meet the other children straight away.  
8 There was nobody else there but QEJ/SPO .  
9 I met the other children later that day. It was good  
10 because they were nice. Two of the boys were  
11 exceptionally nice. One of them gave me the feeling  
12 that I was going to be all right with him.

13 The boys slept in the front bedroom and the girls  
14 slept in the back bedroom, in one bed. QEJ/SPO  
15 QEJ/SPO slept in the living room in one of those  
16 old-fashioned pull-down beds. I wet the bed and  
17 Mr QEJ physically punished me for it. Mrs ,  
18 however, did not punish for bed-wetting. He would be  
19 really angry because it meant washing the sheet. They  
20 didn't have a lot of bedding.

21 I know Mrs didn't have a lot financially but  
22 she did well making sure we had clean clothes.  
23 Sometimes she needed to wash the clothes when we came in  
24 from school to get them dry for the next day. That was  
25 our regime. We had to get the clothes in quick to get

1       them washed.

2               We'd get up early in the morning. Mrs [REDACTED] was  
3       the "good guy" out of the two. She would wake us up.  
4       It would be around 7.30 before we got something to eat.  
5       The girls would all be in the toilet, we would take  
6       turns to get washed. The older girl looked after me and  
7       the other girl guided us how to get washed, dressed and  
8       ready for school.

9               Mrs [REDACTED] would give everybody something for  
10       supper. We would go to bed early, maybe about 8 pm. We  
11       had a bath once a week. It was Mr [REDACTED] QEJ that would  
12       bath us.

13              We would get something to eat with the boys. I had  
14       a total disdain for food. I had developed real problems  
15       with eating. If you put food in front of me, I felt  
16       sick. I lived off very little. There would be cereal  
17       and milk but I was never hungry. The food was all  
18       right. Everybody else managed to eat it. It just  
19       seemed to be a difficulty for me. Mr [REDACTED] QEJ got annoyed  
20       and angry with me. I was told I must eat something.

21              Cauliflower was my favourite. Mrs [REDACTED] tried  
22       different things to help me eat. I remember the first  
23       time, it was just me and her. I had started to lose  
24       time at school because I was unwell. Mrs [REDACTED] said to  
25       me, "Now, 'Emma'". Calling me by my name was always bad

1 for me because of what happened at Quarriers but when  
2 Mrs [REDACTED] said it, it was so different. Mrs [REDACTED]  
3 said, "I've made something for you", and the two of us  
4 sat down on the couch. I had a plate and she had  
5 a plate. Mrs [REDACTED] just encouraged me to eat and  
6 I loved it.

7 From early on in foster care, Mr [REDACTED] QEJ used to  
8 force feed me at times when Mrs [REDACTED] wasn't in the  
9 house. I'd be sitting in the kitchen and Mr [REDACTED] QEJ  
10 would put food in front of me. He would tell me that  
11 I either ate it or he would feed me. When I couldn't  
12 eat it, Mr [REDACTED] QEJ would hold my hair and my neck back  
13 slightly and spoon the food into my mouth. There would  
14 be times I was going to choke and I'd ask him to stop  
15 but he didn't. Mr [REDACTED] QEJ forced me to eat until I felt  
16 sick. That was something he did regularly.

17 Mr [REDACTED] QEJ was a hard taskmaster. The girls and  
18 I each had chores to do. The younger girl had chores to  
19 do even though she was very young. There was vinyl on  
20 the floors. We had to roll up the carpet runner in the  
21 hall and scrub the floors. I remember many a time  
22 Mr [REDACTED] QEJ would grab me by the hair and lift me off the  
23 ground. Mr [REDACTED] QEJ disciplined you by kicking you with  
24 his shoes on. He kicked me up and down the hall many  
25 a time.

1           The only possessions I remember having were given to  
2           me by one of the other foster children. He had started  
3           working as a landscape gardener. At Christmas he would  
4           buy presents for us. My first toy was a Barbie. He  
5           would maybe buy us a cardigan or a jumper too. Other  
6           than that, we didn't celebrate birthdays or Christmas.

7           He went to church regularly. The strange thing was  
8           that Mr <sup>QEJ</sup> [REDACTED] didn't stop him going. Before Mrs [REDACTED]  
9           died, we used to attend Sunday school every week. That  
10          stopped when she died.

11          When I was younger, I had to be taken to school.  
12          The younger girl and I went to High Blantyre Primary  
13          School. We got the bus. Mrs [REDACTED] would take us  
14          sometimes. As we got older, Mr <sup>QEJ</sup> [REDACTED] would take us to  
15          the bus stop. I never told anybody I was fostered. At  
16          that school, nobody treated you any differently. The  
17          older girl and boy went to David Livingstone School,  
18          because they were older than me. We stayed at school  
19          every lunchtime. School was very difficult. No one  
20          really understood why I was having difficulties  
21          educationally.

22          My teacher was an old lady and she was lovely. She  
23          did everything to try and help me with things. The  
24          school persevered. There was a lady who helped me who  
25          lived in Blantyre. The teachers and the headmaster,

1 Mr Crawford, were so nice. Mr Crawford had a rough  
2 voice but he was kind.

3 Because I had problems with breathing, I didn't find  
4 mixing in the playground easy. I would stand on my own.  
5 Mr Crawford used to come out to the playground and if he  
6 saw you standing by yourself he'd come over and ask what  
7 was wrong. At that time, I didn't really talk much to  
8 people but he was nice. I remember one time Mr Crawford  
9 offered me a biscuit and a glass of milk. He took me  
10 into the school. All the other pupils were watching.  
11 It was a big thing for the headmaster to look after you.  
12 Mr Crawford got me a glass of milk and digestive  
13 biscuits from the tea trolley. I'll never forget it.  
14 I loved those biscuits.

15 Two of the boys would help me with my homework.  
16 I found things really very difficult educationally. It  
17 was very difficult because Mr QEJ was always  
18 watching. If Mr QEJ saw me not being able to do  
19 things and the boys trying to help me, he would get  
20 really angry.

21 You got the belt at school if you were caught  
22 talking in class or if you hadn't done your homework.  
23 There came a time that I struggled with homework because  
24 Mr QEJ wouldn't let the boys help me. This meant  
25 that I had to go to school with work that wasn't done

1 and I'd get one of the belt.

2 When I was about seven years old, I started having  
3 serious breathing problems. It was asthma. It stopped  
4 me going outside. I couldn't run and there were a lot  
5 of things I couldn't do. The children would be playing  
6 catch the ball and different things that involved  
7 exercise and running about. I found all that difficult.

8 Mr QEJ wouldn't let us see doctors. A couple of  
9 years down the line, one of the older boys used to  
10 secretly take me to the doctor about my asthma. One  
11 time, Mr QEJ found out that he had taken me to the  
12 doctors. He was really angry and I was disciplined for  
13 it. The older boy got into trouble too. Mr QEJ was  
14 angry that we had gone behind his back. That was just  
15 a no, no. We didn't see a dentist. Mr QEJ used to  
16 pull our teeth with a hanky. I started going to the  
17 dentist myself when I was about 17.

18 The asthma became chronic early on in foster care.  
19 When I was 11 years of age, my lungs were full of fluid.  
20 One of the boys took me up to Dr Easton at Strathclyde  
21 Hospital to get an X-ray. The doctors weighed me and  
22 I was 2.5 stones. They took me from Strathclyde  
23 Hospital straight to Hairmyres Hospital. I was in  
24 hospital for a year while they sorted me out. I moved  
25 around the wards. Dr McCluskey was the head doctor.



1 I was in the ladies ward when a nurse and a doctor  
2 examined my tummy and private parts.

3 When I was in Hairmyres, I saw a Dr Buchanan. He  
4 was a psychiatrist or psychologist. I went to his  
5 office from the ward quite a few times. He was a lovely  
6 man. I remember Dr Buchanan talking to me but  
7 I wouldn't talk to him. Dr Buchanan asked me if I liked  
8 where I was, was I getting punished, how did I feel  
9 about my foster mum before she died and how did she  
10 treat me. He asked me how Mr QEJ treated me.  
11 I couldn't tell Dr Buchanan what was happening. I was  
12 too scared. I'd always been told by Mr QEJ not to  
13 speak to anyone.

14 About a year later, the older boy who had taken me  
15 to the doctor had gone into the Royal Air Force and was  
16 home on leave. I had taken a really bad asthma attack.  
17 Mr QEJ wouldn't get a doctor or an ambulance. The  
18 older boy took the law into his own hands and there was  
19 a lot of shouting. The doctors got me into Hairmyres  
20 Hospital where they stripped me and X-rayed me. Years  
21 later he told me that once they got me settled, the  
22 doctors took him in and questioned him. They asked him  
23 about bruising on my back and my private parts.

24 People from the government came to the foster  
25 carers' house once a month. The man from the government

1 had a black book with all the foster children's names  
2 and dates of birth in it. The man had this book right  
3 up until I was an adult. The book would be ticked and  
4 signed by Mr QEJ to say that we were in good health  
5 and that we were being well looked after. There was  
6 a group of questions that would be ticked saying that  
7 Mr QEJ was complying with things.

8 When the government man came, we weren't allowed to  
9 speak to him. We were in the front room. We had to sit  
10 and keep quiet. As my asthma got worse, I had  
11 bronchitis so I would cough a lot. The older boy had to  
12 hold his hand over my mouth so the man wouldn't hear us.  
13 You couldn't make a sound. Mr QEJ did not want the  
14 government man to know we were in the house. Nobody  
15 came into the room to check on us.

16 No one came to speak to us at all. There was nobody  
17 to speak to about what was happening to me. Mr QEJ  
18 had such control that even the boys wouldn't question  
19 him. When my foster mother died there was no change of  
20 any kind. Nobody official came to see us. The  
21 government man seemed to stop coming to the house when  
22 I was in my teens.

23 Mrs died when I was nine years old. She had  
24 a fall and a poisoned leg. I think she was about 65  
25 when she died. Just after my foster mother died, two

1       neighbouring sisters knocked at the door. They were  
2       kindness personified. If someone came to the door, we  
3       weren't allowed to come out. We stood at the living  
4       room door, it was a wee bit ajar. I heard the sisters  
5       saying to Mr QEJ, "We know, Mr QEJ, that this is  
6       a really hard time for you and the family. We were just  
7       wanting to offer you help in some way, even if 'Emma'  
8       could come and stay a couple of nights with us. It  
9       would take her out of all that's going on and just with  
10      her health, we would love to offer that". They were  
11      lovely ladies and Mr QEJ wasn't nice to them. He was  
12      quite indignant. Mr QEJ whole manner changed with  
13      them. I remember quite clearly him saying, "No, they're  
14      staying here and that's it". I never forgot that these  
15      two ladies had come to try to help.

16           When Mrs [REDACTED] was alive, she tried to stand up to  
17      Mr QEJ as best she could. The next door neighbour's  
18      daughter would do Mrs [REDACTED] hair and Mrs [REDACTED] would  
19      always take me next door with her. Later on in years,  
20      the neighbour told me that Mrs [REDACTED] had "tried so  
21      much. She tried to protect you and tried to stand up to  
22      him. She had a horrendous life with him".

23           The sexual abuse in foster care started early.  
24      Mrs [REDACTED] was still alive. I was seven or eight years  
25      old. Mr QEJ would have been about 59 or 60 years

1 old. There was a time when I was wasn't at school  
2 because I was unwell with asthma. Mr QEJ used to  
3 take me outside for a walk. Even if I was unwell, he  
4 would still do that. Initially I enjoyed being outside  
5 but then he took me to a secluded place.

6 I remember seeing trees. I was scared. Mr QEJ  
7 made me lie down and took my underwear off. He lay on  
8 top of me. I was doing everything I could to think  
9 about other things. I remember the trees and trying to  
10 focus on them. Mr QEJ touched me between my legs and  
11 inserted his fingers into my private area. It was  
12 really painful. Mr QEJ would hold his hand over my  
13 mouth so I wouldn't scream. That was difficult for me  
14 because of my asthma. I was having great difficulty  
15 breathing. At that time I didn't have inhalers or  
16 anything.

17 When he was doing this, Mr QEJ would say similar  
18 things to what they used to tell me in Quarriers. He'd  
19 say I was disgusting and filthy. Mr QEJ would repeat  
20 the thing about my mum not loving me and giving me away.  
21 He said nobody wanted me and nobody cared. Then he'd  
22 get off me. Mr QEJ would get up and say to me that  
23 I couldn't tell my foster mum. He'd say I wasn't to  
24 tell the girls and boys what had happened and if I did,  
25 he would punish me.

1           That was the beginning of the sexual abuse. It  
2           became a regular occurrence. Mr [REDACTED] would take me to  
3           the bookies where he worked part-time. It was a smelly  
4           and smoky place. There was a big jar of coins as you  
5           came in the door. Mr [REDACTED] would clean and I'd stand  
6           about. Then Mr [REDACTED] would take me through the back  
7           and sexually abuse me in the same way he had before.  
8           One day someone else came in. The man came through the  
9           back. Mr [REDACTED] told me to do whatever the man told me  
10          to do and if I didn't, I'd be punished. This man  
11          sexually abused me in the same way as Mr [REDACTED] had.  
12          This was just the beginning. It happened on different  
13          occasions and it was done to me by different men.

14          There's a place called the "Calder's" in High  
15          Blantyre. It's quite an isolated place. It was before  
16          my foster mother died, on days that I was off school.  
17          Mr [REDACTED] would take me up there. When you get into the  
18          Calder's there's a big steep brae. There were toilets  
19          there.

20          The first time Mr [REDACTED] took me into the toilets,  
21          there were two men. Again Mr [REDACTED] said, "You'll do  
22          what they ask you to do". He pulled my pants down. The  
23          men took turns in touching me and inserted their fingers  
24          into me. It felt like they were rubbing themselves off  
25          me. That was another beginning of things. That was

1 a weekly occurrence for as long as I remember. When my  
2 foster mother died, it got worse.

3 A year before Mrs [REDACTED] died, when I was eight,  
4 Mr QEJ [REDACTED] moved Mrs [REDACTED] into the back bedroom and  
5 moved me into his bed. That was the beginning of things  
6 happening in the house. Before, it was always places  
7 out of sight that Mr QEJ [REDACTED] would take me to. The  
8 sexual abuse carried on, even when I was an adult. This  
9 man had so much control over me. Mr QEJ [REDACTED] played mind  
10 games. I had to try and learn to read him, to know what  
11 was happening next. When Mr QEJ [REDACTED] was angry, it would  
12 be sexual abuse. If Mr QEJ [REDACTED] was being quiet, he would  
13 watch me going about the house. He convinced my foster  
14 brothers and sisters that I couldn't be trusted. He  
15 destroyed the relationship that I had with them.

16 I didn't tell anyone what was happening to me. None  
17 of the children in the house spoke together. Mr QEJ [REDACTED]  
18 kept us all separate in a way that I can look back and  
19 understand now, but I didn't see it then. For instance,  
20 one of the older boys and the other children would be  
21 out playing and I would be kept in the house. If they  
22 were in the house at weekends, Mr QEJ [REDACTED] would take me  
23 out walks.

24 After Mrs [REDACTED] died, the older foster boy got  
25 married and he went away. He hardly visited. At

1 Christmas, he would bring a present but he wouldn't  
2 spend any time with you. He'd come in and have a cup of  
3 tea and go back out the door. The other older foster  
4 boy went into the Royal Air Force. Then Mr QEJ put  
5 the third boy out. I was about 12 by then. That left  
6 the two foster girls and me in the house with Mr QEJ.  
7 The things that happened in the house, they were  
8 different as I got older. He still had me in his bed.

9 Later on, I found out it had been happening to one  
10 of the other girls too. There were different things  
11 with the second girl. She played football. When she  
12 came in at night, Mr QEJ would rub her legs with oil.  
13 He did a lot of that with her. Mr QEJ seemed to have  
14 a better relationship with her. He wasn't angry with  
15 her the same way he was with me. She eventually got  
16 away and got married.

17 I remember one particular time when she was getting  
18 older and had met someone that she wanted to go out  
19 with. She had to ask Mr QEJ permission. He  
20 wouldn't allow it. She was sitting at the fireplace  
21 trying to talk to him about it. I was standing beside  
22 the chair. Mr QEJ was at the coal fire with the  
23 poker. At one point, Mr QEJ was getting angry and he  
24 was telling her no way was she having any boyfriend,  
25 a boyfriend wouldn't be allowed in the house and it



1        wasn't happening. Mr QEJ was shouting and he turned  
2        with the poker. He actually lifted the poker and  
3        I don't know to this day if he was going to use it.  
4        I don't know where I got the strength from but I stood  
5        in front of him. I wasn't a child like that. Some  
6        people have that in them. I didn't think I was like  
7        that.

8            It ended up that Mr QEJ refused to allow the  
9        older foster boy back into the house. When I was about  
10       nine or ten I remember he came back and Mr QEJ told  
11       him that he couldn't stay at the house. It seemed as  
12       if, as time went on, Mr QEJ wanted rid of the boys.

13           The older boy was like us, as he didn't have any  
14       family or anybody. I remember getting really upset and  
15       trying hard to keep him. I remember holding onto him  
16       and begging Mr QEJ to let him stay because I knew if  
17       he went then there was nobody to stop what was going on.  
18       It was only because the parents of one of his friends  
19       were willing to let him stay that he had anywhere to  
20       sleep. He tried everything to see us but Mr QEJ  
21       wouldn't even let him see us or visit us.

22           I left school and started work when I was 16 years  
23       old. Mr QEJ still had a lot of control over me.  
24       I had to give him my wages every Friday night and I got  
25       spending money. I did extra work in the hotels. For



1 instance, I'd go in if they were short of staff. Any  
2 money I made there, I had to give to him. It was really  
3 difficult financially but I just had to manage.

4 As I got older, the control Mr QEJ had over me  
5 mentally, the mind games and the manipulation, seemed to  
6 be greater. I don't know how it got to that extent.  
7 Whatever he said, I did. I remember a particular time  
8 when he had soreness on his privates. I was 17 or 18  
9 years old. Mr QEJ stood in the kitchen. He dropped  
10 his trousers and he had no underwear on. Mr QEJ told  
11 me to put the cream on his privates. He made me do that  
12 two or three times a week over several weeks. I didn't  
13 do things like that in the past. As I got older, I had  
14 to do sexual things for Mr QEJ. He was still coming  
15 into my bed at night-time. That continued right up  
16 until I left the house. I didn't feel able to stop it.

17 I eventually left the house when I was 23 or 24  
18 years old and Mr QEJ was about 75 years old. He was  
19 a good age. Mr QEJ was 89 years old before he died.  
20 I left the house because I was pregnant with my  
21 daughter. In my mind, I didn't want to bring up my  
22 daughter in that house. I know it's a contradiction  
23 because, a few years later, I took her back into it.

24 Later, I was staying in Larkhall. Mr QEJ was now  
25 elderly and was getting nurses in to look after him. My

1       auntie, who was a relation in Blantyre, visited where  
2       I was working and pleaded with me to move back into  
3       Mr QEJ [REDACTED] house because the nurses and doctors  
4       couldn't cope with him. I was about 26 or 27 years old  
5       and my daughter was three. I moved back into the house  
6       and took her with me. In terms of looking after my  
7       daughter it was a bad decision.

8       QEJ/SPO [REDACTED] daughter never came near the  
9       house. When she was 16 years old she was going about  
10      with a married man, whom she later married. Mr QEJ [REDACTED]  
11      disowned her. I used to meet her in the street.  
12      I never had the courage to talk to her about what was  
13      happening. Later on when my foster mum died, if I got  
14      the opportunity I'd go down for a wee visit without  
15      Mr QEJ [REDACTED] knowing about it. To me, she was like my mum  
16      and she was built like my mum. In later years,  
17      I wondered about how far back this abuse had gone  
18      because she never came near Mr QEJ [REDACTED]. It was only when  
19      he died she came to the funeral.

20      The daughter's oldest son, Mr QEJ [REDACTED] grandson,  
21      frequented Mr QEJ [REDACTED] house when we lived there as  
22      children. The grandson was friendly with the older  
23      foster boy. They went about together. They were about  
24      the same age. The grandson was a predator. When my  
25      daughter was eight, the grandson got hold of her. He

1 did everything but rape her. The grandson was  
2 prosecuted.

3 I left Mr QEJ house when I was about 23 or 24  
4 years old. I was pregnant with my daughter. Her dad  
5 was a friend. He was a lovely guy. The relationship  
6 was just for all the wrong reasons. I wanted a way out.  
7 He went back to work abroad. For some reason, I didn't  
8 have the wherewithal to just walk out of Mr QEJ  
9 house.

10 When I told Mr QEJ I was pregnant, he arranged  
11 that I would move in there and it would be all fine. He  
12 was making all the plans for the pregnancy. Mr QEJ  
13 said that if I moved in there, it wouldn't cost me  
14 anything. I could have a room to myself with the baby  
15 and I could save some money. He made it sound as if it  
16 could be feasible. Mr QEJ wasn't displeased that  
17 I was pregnant, he was displeased that I was planning to  
18 leave.

19 My mind took over. I had to protect this wee baby.  
20 I did leave. I went to the social work in Larkhall.  
21 I saw a lovely girl called Eileen. I told her I was  
22 pregnant and I didn't have anywhere to stay. I didn't  
23 tell Eileen anything of my life, just that I needed  
24 something immediate. The social work put me in  
25 a private rented flat in Larkhall until they could get

1 me a house, which they did. It was as far away as  
2 I could go at that time. The foster house was the only  
3 place I knew. It was scary to go out and know you were  
4 going to be totally on your own. There was nobody.

5 I got a house in Blantyre because it was the only  
6 place I knew. I got jobs in hotels. I was working in  
7 some of the places up in Larkhall. I worked behind the  
8 bar and the cocktail bar. I would also organise things  
9 for them. From there, I worked in another hotel.  
10 I loved that. I loved the whole thing and meeting  
11 people.

12 I went to Motherwell College. It was really hard  
13 but the lecturers were great. I got my Higher National  
14 Diploma in hotel management. That was a miracle because  
15 I couldn't read or write. I worked myself up into  
16 management in hotels. I had to give up work a few years  
17 back because of health issues.

18 My dad is in England. I found him but he didn't  
19 want anything to do with me. I have two stepsisters.  
20 I found my brother ten years ago. I didn't know I had  
21 a brother. He is my full brother. I'd been talking to  
22 a friend saying I at least wanted to find out if there  
23 was anybody out there. She looked the name up in  
24 a library. She found phone numbers and asked if  
25 I wanted her to phone them. She did and told me that

1       one of the numbers was my dad's and another was my  
2       brother's.

3           There are things which I've really tried to block  
4       out over the years, like what happened in Quarriers and  
5       in foster care. I had never opened the door to the wee  
6       girl I was. To me, she had died. For the first time  
7       through counselling I went back and became that wee  
8       girl. I remembered what it was like to be living under  
9       the abuse of that man in Quarriers. I remembered what  
10      it did to me mentally and emotionally and how it made me  
11      feel every day.

12          I had an overwhelming feeling of misery. When  
13      I opened my eyes as a child in the morning, I could only  
14      see darkness. There was no light. I didn't want to  
15      wake up in the morning. I didn't want to feel what  
16      I was feeling every day. I felt a void inside like  
17      I had died inside. Every day was hard. There was no  
18      joy, no laughter, there was nothing nice about my life.  
19      I don't ever remember feeling good inside. I felt I was  
20      all the things the man said I was. I felt disgusting,  
21      filthy and no good. I felt empty. I didn't exist.  
22      I didn't enjoy being me. I hated being me. I wanted to  
23      die inside every day of my life.

24          As the years went on, I didn't want to wake up in  
25      the morning. I knew the only way to stop the feelings

1 of hurt would be to die. So I wanted to die. I thought  
2 of ways to die and how to go about it. When I was 11  
3 years old in Hairmyres Hospital I went to the train  
4 station. I sat there for an hour. [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] That happened  
6 a few times when I went into hospital.

7 I had nothing to live for. There was no beauty,  
8 nothing nice about me. I felt so alone. There was  
9 nobody. I wanted to go somewhere quiet and let all the  
10 anger and pain out. I was going through the motions of  
11 life and not feeling anything.

12 I don't ever remember saying no to Mr QEJ [REDACTED]. I was  
13 so scared of him and what he was able to do to me.  
14 I felt like I let him do it, even as I got older. When  
15 Mr QEJ [REDACTED] became ill and they wanted me to move back  
16 into his house, one of the older foster boys said to me,  
17 "I don't understand why you and your daughter can't move  
18 in here and look after him full time". It then hit me  
19 how much influence Mr QEJ [REDACTED] had had on us. I wondered  
20 how he would ask me this. I'd never had the courage to  
21 just come out and say it. I just looked at him and  
22 said, "Have you any idea of the life that man gave us?"  
23 He got married and he got out. He never came near,  
24 never visited, and he never came to help us. It was  
25 like the older foster boy was oblivious to it.

1 I started to talk to him about the abuse. He didn't  
2 want to know about it. It was the first time I'd told  
3 anybody. He became a Christian. That's quite difficult  
4 for me because I'm a Christian and I look back and  
5 think: why did you never visit us? I've had to deal  
6 with that and get that sorted out for myself. Mr QMJ  
7 destroyed my relationship with my foster brothers and  
8 sisters. They don't want to know me."

9 From paragraphs 94 to 97, 'Emma' speaks further  
10 about the impact the abuse she experienced had on her  
11 education. She says she couldn't read or write when she  
12 left school at 16. She summarises this at paragraph 98  
13 on page 22, where she says:

14 "The abuse stole my education and it stole what  
15 I wanted to do. I feel inadequate. I don't have the  
16 knowledge. The abuse took everything away that I should  
17 have had. I look around my church sometimes and I see  
18 teachers and lawyers, all these people who've achieved  
19 what they wanted to achieve. It still tears me up  
20 inside that I never got the chance to do that. I never  
21 got the chance to be somebody I wanted to be. It's not  
22 envy, it's something deep, deep within me that's  
23 missing. There's an emptiness.

24 The abuse stole my life. I was at a church group  
25 once and everyone was getting asked different questions

1       about their goals. I never had a goal because I never  
2       had the ability to even have a goal. The members of the  
3       group were talking about their childhood. When they got  
4       to me I said, "I died inside. What was done to me,  
5       I died. That child doesn't exist any more". There's no  
6       looking back. There are no good memories. The bad  
7       overruled everything. It's like complete darkness."

8       Moving to paragraph 105 on page 23:

9       "In the last 20 years, my faith has been my life.  
10      That's what's changed me from the inside out. I tried  
11      antidepressants but they have an adverse effect on me  
12      because of my breathing problem. So I don't use them.

13      I first tried counselling quite a few years ago.  
14      I felt I was going for months and there was nothing.  
15      I started counselling again last year, which has been  
16      great. I'm getting it through Future Pathways. The  
17      counsellor is amazing. She has opened doors.

18      It was only through Future Pathways that I started  
19      looking for my records. I got the information about  
20      when my mum handed me over. There was mention of  
21      Quarriers in that. I also found out information about  
22      my mother's burial place.

23      The reality is that abuse is not going to go away.  
24      Whenever men and women are, there are always going to be  
25      predators. There are always going to be people who want



1 to destroy children. When people have false hope,  
2 people let go of the safety barriers. When we have this  
3 kind of thinking, "We're getting better, we can tick the  
4 boxes", there's always a grave danger of people saying,  
5 "Okay, it's all right". There must be something in  
6 place and as much safety for our children as possible.

7 I think every school should have a person there  
8 who's got the knowledge and understanding of this whole  
9 field of abuse. Someone at the doorstep, literally, so  
10 that children can go to them. A few years ago, I did  
11 something on the computer, it was just a wee idea. It  
12 was setting up a computer program for children. I kept  
13 it simple. There were five questions to find out how  
14 children were feeling, what was going on. Things like  
15 that should be in place so at least you have built up  
16 information to get a picture of what's going on. Every  
17 day after school, there are children going home to some  
18 form of abuse, having the fear and the terror. We need  
19 to find ways to stop this.

20 People need to talk. Social workers need to listen.  
21 Professionals need to link up. Agencies need to take  
22 the blinkers off. Children need to not be put in  
23 vulnerable situations. I would love the government to  
24 make changes to make a safer environment for our  
25 children. Our children of today are the adults of

1 tomorrow. If anybody wants a better future for this  
2 country, then every stop needs pulled out to provide for  
3 and protect our children, no matter what it takes. The  
4 government and the people of this country have to  
5 recognise the value of our children.

6 I have no objection to my witness statement being  
7 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
8 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
9 true."

10 'Emma' signed her statement on 1 June 2018.

11 My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today. We  
12 resume tomorrow at 10 am with further oral witnesses and  
13 one read-in.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much for that, Ms Rattray.

15 There were names mentioned in that statement,  
16 particularly the **QEJ/SPO** family and other children in the  
17 home and those can't be repeated outside this room  
18 because of my general restriction order.

19 Very well. I'll rise now and sit again at  
20 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, the last day of this week's  
21 evidence. Thank you.

22 (3.42 pm)

23 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on  
24 Friday, 10 June 2022)  
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