

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our foster
4 care and boarding-out hearings.

5 We return this morning to oral evidence, with
6 a witness who I'm told is ready and waiting; is that
7 right?

8 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. The next witness is
9 Shirley Caffell. She has waived anonymity. She was in
10 the care of Edinburgh Corporation, now the City of
11 Edinburgh Council. She was placed into care in
12 Portobello on 8 June 1965 and removed from there on
13 6 March 1968.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 Shirley Caffell (sworn)

16 LADY SMITH: Shirley, you'll see there's a red folder there.
17 That has the hard copy of your statement in it that you
18 signed, and you may be taken to it in a few minutes.
19 You'll also see your statement coming up on the screen
20 in front of you, and we'll move it to whichever parts
21 we're looking at as we go through your evidence. You
22 might find that helpful too.

23 A. Thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: But otherwise, and this is important, Shirley,
25 I do know that what we're asking you to do in coming

1 here to talk about your childhood and events during your
2 childhood isn't easy and it's likely to provoke emotions
3 that may take you by surprise at times. I know that and
4 I do understand.

5 If you need a break, you can have a break at any
6 time. If you have any questions, please ask. You may
7 not have been allowed to ask questions as much as you'd
8 have liked when you were a child, but you can do that
9 here, and we want -- and I particularly want to do
10 anything I can to make this difficult task as easy for
11 you as possible.

12 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
13 she'll take it from there; is that all right?

14 A. Thank you.

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

16 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

17 Questions from Ms Innes

18 MS INNES: Now, Shirley, we understand that you were born in
19 1956; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. First of all, if we can look at your statement. We give
22 it the reference WIT.001.001.1429 and if we can look,
23 please, at the final page of that statement, I think we
24 can see at paragraph 165 you say:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry and
2 I want my identity to be made known. I believe the
3 facts stated in this witness statement are true."

4 And you signed the statement on 11 October 2016.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If I can take you back to the start of your statement
7 now, please. You set out a bit in your statement about
8 your early life and you remember, I think, living in
9 Edinburgh with your mother [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED] is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think you say at paragraph 5 that you have awareness,
13 I think perhaps from your records, that you had some
14 periods of care in the City Hospital and then the
15 Children's Shelter, or you say the Children's Shelter
16 would place you in their home in Polwarth in your early
17 life. So you had some periods of care but they were
18 when you were so young you can't remember them; is that
19 right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And then if we go on, please, to paragraph 9, you
22 say that you have some recollection of your mother being
23 rarely at home and quite often your neighbours would
24 help you out?

25 A. That's correct, yes.

1 Q. I think at paragraph 10 you say that you have virtually
2 no happy memories of your life at home before you went
3 into care?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And then over the page at paragraph 12 you talk about
6 a man [REDACTED] began
7 visiting, but he never lived with you and you describe
8 him as a violent alcoholic.
9 A. Yes.
10 Q. I think he was abusive both to your mother and to you;
11 is that right?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. And then you talk at paragraph 13 about some occasions
14 where you would have to go and run to the police box for
15 help if your mother had been beaten up by him; is
16 that right?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. And then if we go on, please, to page 5, and at
19 paragraph 20 you talk about what happened which led you
20 being taken into care for a longer period of time. And
21 if it's all right if we just summarise what
22 happened here?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 20 that your mother
25 took you [REDACTED] to a play

1 park and she left you there.

2 A. The Meadows.

3 Q. The Meadows. And you describe at the bottom of that

4 page, I think, that [REDACTED] you

5 decided that when your mother didn't come back or nobody

6 came, you went to your grandmother's house or flat; is

7 that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What response did you get from your grandmother?

10 A. Basically the door was slammed.

11 Q. And then at the top of page 6 and at paragraph 25 you

12 talk about coming back from your grandmother's house,

13 I think you'd gone down to Leith where your grandmother

14 lived --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- and gone back to The Meadows, and at paragraph 26 you

17 describe going and seeking help from the police?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. So I think these were the events that led to you being

20 taken into care for a longer period of time; is that

21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And initially you say, I think, that you spent time in

24 Canaan Lodge?

25 A. Yes, just over a year.

1 Q. You tell us about some of your experiences there, but
2 I would like to move on, if it's okay, to page 10 and to
3 the time that you were placed into foster care.

4 Paragraph 43. You say there that you were placed
5 into a foster home in Portobello, and we know that was
6 with the JCI-SPO

7 Can you remember if anybody told you that you were
8 going to a foster home?

9 A. No, [REDACTED]

10 Q. Can you remember being taken to the JCI-SPO house?

11 A. Yes, yes.

12 Q. Who took you?

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 Q. Can you remember your social worker's name or not?

15 A. Ms Tait.

16 Q. [REDACTED]

17 A. [REDACTED]

18 Q. [REDACTED]

19 A. [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 Q. [REDACTED]

22 A. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 Q. [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 A. [REDACTED]
2 Q. [REDACTED]
3 A. [REDACTED]
4 Q. [REDACTED]
5 A. [REDACTED]
6 Q. [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 A. [REDACTED]
11 Q. At paragraph 44 you tell us a little bit about the house
12 that you went to. Can you remember, when you went there
13 first, what was the house like?
14 A. I remember it had a posh name etched in the glass. It
15 was called [REDACTED]
16 Q. Right.
17 A. And it was a massive front door and a really nice front
18 little garden area. It looked nice. It looked clean.
19 Q. And when you were taken into the house, can you remember
20 being shown where you were going to sleep or anything?
21 A. First [REDACTED] allowed to have a bath.
22 I mean, [REDACTED] allowed to have a bath in the house, but
23 only that once. It never happened again.
24 Q. Okay.
25 A. And [REDACTED] -- the bathroom was on the

1 right and there was stairs off to the left up to
2 an attic space that had two bedrooms. Her son slept
3 in -- [REDACTED] in the first bedroom. Her son, JCI [REDACTED]
4 JCI [REDACTED] slept in the bed on the right and [REDACTED] in
5 the bed on the left behind the door.

6 Q. Okay, so the --

7 A. And I -- I honestly don't know how long [REDACTED] in that
8 room, with him in the same room. And then [REDACTED] moved
9 to the back room, which there was a door leading through
10 into, a bigger room.

11 There was a cot, there was a small bed at the window
12 overlooking the garden and there was a double bed that
13 her other son and his wife at the time used. [REDACTED]
14 and I were under the window, and their child -- they had
15 one at the time -- was in the cot.

16 Q. Okay. So if we just talk a little bit more about the
17 layout of the house. You said that the bathroom was on
18 the same floor as the bedroom. Was that downstairs or
19 was that upstairs in the house? How many floors did it
20 have?

21 A. Three floors.

22 Q. Right, okay.

23 A. So the main floor coming in from the street door. There
24 was a room to the right. There was also a room that
25 Mrs JCI [REDACTED] used as her sitting room/bedroom. A little

1 bit further down there was sort of like a recess to the
2 left. There was a bedroom there which Mr [REDACTED]
3 senior slept in, and right beside the door of that were
4 the stairs leading up to the attic area.

5 There was another bedroom directly opposite on the
6 right hand, where [REDACTED] stayed or slept.

7 And there was a set of stairs leading down into the
8 lower floor, and the bathroom was at the top of these
9 stairs on the right.

10 Q. I see, okay. And you mentioned [REDACTED]. Were
11 these [REDACTED] --

12 A. They were fostered, yes.

13 Q. And when you went there, were they living there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And were they there for the whole time that you [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] were there?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did [REDACTED] stay in that same room that you've
19 mentioned?

20 A. As far as I know, yes.

21 Q. So you mentioned that that floor where the JCI-SPO [REDACTED]
22 themselves slept, as in Mr and Mrs JCI-SPO [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] And then above that is the floor that you're
24 describing, a sort of attic floor?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And I think you've already told us that that's where the
2 JCI-SPO son JCJ slept and you [REDACTED]
3 slept initially?
4 A. Yeah.
5 Q. Was that all the same room or was there any kind of
6 division between --
7 A. There was a division between the first room [REDACTED]
8 with JCJ [REDACTED] and on the other side. And there
9 was a doorway into the back area.
10 Q. Okay. And the back area --
11 A. And the bedroom.
12 Q. The back area was where you said that maybe
13 [REDACTED] --
14 A. Definitely did, not maybe.
15 Q. Okay, so he stayed there?
16 A. Yeah. He wasn't there all of the time, but his wife,
17 she definitely was there.
18 Q. Right.
19 A. And they eventually had another child, so they were all
20 in that same room.
21 Q. Okay. If we can just talk about [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] at the moment. We understand he's a person called
23 Tommy Hazlett; is that correct?
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. Are you aware of anything that's happened to him since

1 you left the care of Mrs JCI [REDACTED] ?

2 A. Yes. He's been in and out of prison for years. And

3 named a paedophile.

4 Q. Just to be clear, when you were living there, did you

5 ever experience any abuse at his hands?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. After you left the JCI-SPO [REDACTED], did you ever have

8 any contact with him again?

9 A. No.

10 LADY SMITH: Do you know what it is that he's been in and

11 out of prison for?

12 A. Child abuse.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS INNES: Okay. If you go over the page to page 11. At

15 paragraph 46, you talk there about the people that were

16 living in the house and you talk about [REDACTED]

17 towards the bottom of this paragraph, and you also say

18 that there was a little baby girl there.

19 A. Yeah, baby [REDACTED]

20 Q. Can you remember how long she was --

21 A. She wasn't there very long. It was possibly a couple

22 of months.

23 Q. And you talk about an old man who lodged with them but

24 lived outside in a shed in the back garden?

25 A. [REDACTED] yes.

1 Q. What was this shed like?

2 A. Just a normal, common garden shed, but it was very, very

3 long, narrow built, long. It took up almost one whole

4 wall of the garden.

5 Q. If it was described as a chalet, is that --

6 A. No, it was worse than that. It was a shed.

7 Q. Were you ever inside it --

8 A. Once.

9 Q. Did it have carpets and was it fitted out inside?

10 A. I can't remember. I know that [REDACTED] slept in there so

11 I know there was a bed, and there was a workbench as you

12 went in the door under a window overlooking the garden.

13 Q. Did he stay there for the whole time that you lived with

14 the JCI-SPO [REDACTED]?

15 A. [REDACTED] died there, yes.

16 Q. Did he die when you were living --

17 A. (Witness shakes head)

18 Q. Or was that later?

19 A. Later.

20 Q. Right.

21 LADY SMITH: Would he be in the shed during the day or would

22 he be in the house?

23 A. He was basically a workhorse. He would do any jobs he

24 was told to do. I always remember his feet were really

25 badly swollen and he walked painfully.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS INNES: I think you've also mentioned in a part of your
3 statement that she was running a bed and breakfast.

4 A. She was, yeah.

5 Q. Was that just in the summer months or was that in the
6 winter as well?

7 A. Summer.

8 Q. And how many guests did she take in, or rooms did she
9 use for guests?

10 A. Quite a lot of guests started arriving during the
11 Glasgow trade holiday weeks, so I think that was for
12 two weeks.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And then it was just dribs and drabs.

15 Q. Do you know how many rooms she was using?

16 A. One. There was a family room.

17 Q. Right, okay. If we can just go back to [REDACTED] JCJ
18 for a moment. I think you say that you thought he was
19 about 17 or 18 at the time you lived there.

20 A. Thinking back on it now, he was actually still going to
21 school, so I think he was probably in his last year.
22 I don't know.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I know he went to [REDACTED] High School. It wasn't for
25 very long [REDACTED]

1 Q. So then he stopped going to school. And did he start
2 working?

3 A. He started work, yeah.

4 Q. If we go down in your statement, we see at paragraph 49
5 reference to the bath that you mentioned earlier, that
6 you were able to have a bath.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you say:
9 "This was the last time [REDACTED] saw the inside of
10 that bathroom ..."

11 Because after that you had to use the outside
12 toilet; is that right?

13 A. Yes, in the garden.

14 Q. So in the garden, separate from the shed that [REDACTED] was
15 living in, there was an outside toilet?

16 A. It was right beside the back door from the kitchen area,
17 and it was just an outside toilet.

18 Q. Okay. At paragraph 50 you say that you wet the bed on
19 your first night, and everything changed instantly.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell us how Mrs JCI [REDACTED] reacted?

22 A. Name-calling. The sheets never got changed. Didn't
23 matter how many times you weed the bed, they were always
24 the same sheets. Unless you moved room; you got a new
25 set of sheets and you stuck with them. She just

1 basically turned on a sixpence. And the name-calling
2 was horrible. I'd never wet the bed before going into
3 care.

4 Q. Okay. If we can move on to the next page, please,
5 page 12. And paragraph 53, you say there that [redacted] JCJ
6 used to take away the toilet roll.

7 A. He would, yeah.

8 Q. Can you tell us about that?

9 A. From the outside toilet. Most of the time it was cut-up
10 newspapers in there on a string, but now and again there
11 would be a toilet roll of sorts. And he just thought
12 this was a great game. He would take it away. And then
13 you shouted for someone and he'd come, tell you to clean
14 yourself with the toilet water.

15 Q. You say in this paragraph that he stood there until you
16 cleaned your bum. You say --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Was he watching you?

19 A. Yeah. There was a little square window above the
20 toilet.

21 Q. You then say at paragraph 54 that you, [redacted]
22 [redacted] had to wash together; is that right?

23 A. Mm.

24 Q. You mentioned that you weren't able to use the bathroom
25 anymore, so where did you use for washing --

1 A. The washing machine in the garden.

2 Q. Was that in the same outhouse that the toilet was in or
3 was it separate?

4 A. It was in the other corner of the garden.

5 Q. So you say there was a washing machine in there. Was
6 there a sink or --

7 A. There was in the pantry. They had one of the -- you
8 know, the big old-fashioned sinks.

9 Q. Mm-hmm.

10 A. There was one of them. We were only allowed to wash in
11 there in the winter.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. But if the weather was dry and not freezing, it was the
14 washing machine.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And it wasn't water that they filled from the tap. It
17 was -- they gathered rainwater. So we never ever had
18 hot water or soap. The only soap we were allowed to use
19 was Derback soap for our heads.

20 Q. Okay. In the next paragraph, at paragraph 55, you say
21 that you had no -- you weren't given clean clothes?

22 A. No.

23 Q. At all? If you wanted them cleaned, you had to wash
24 them yourselves.

25 A. We didn't even know how to do that. We never got clean

1 underwear. We slept in our underwear. We wore the same
2 underwear to school. You can imagine, if you'd wet the
3 bed, you were going to school basically smelling.

4 Q. And you talk about not having any dental care or
5 treatment, and you say you never even had a toothbrush?

6 A. No. No.

7 Q. In the next paragraph, paragraph 56, you say that there
8 were no birthday celebrations --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- while you were there.

11 A. No.

12 Q. So your birthday was never marked?

13 A. Unfortunately, JCJ [REDACTED] birthday's the same as
14 mine. So I don't know --

15 Q. Was there something -- sorry.

16 A. I don't know if they did anything for his birthday, but
17 they certainly never took notice of any of the
18 children's birthdays.

19 Q. Okay. And you say you can't remember celebrating
20 Christmas either?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Then at paragraph 57 on page 13, you tell us about
23 an illness that you suffered. I think this was in 1966.

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?

1 A. I had rheumatic fever, but then went on to contract
2 chorea, which really botched up my nervous system.
3 I was unable to communicate other than moaning.
4 I couldn't feed myself. I couldn't take myself to the
5 toilet. The only reason I was taken to the doctor's for
6 that was because I always had to take her breakfast on
7 a tray into her bedroom before leaving for school. And
8 because I couldn't speak, I panicked. But all I managed
9 to get out was, "Oy", and I dropped the tray. The tray
10 went everywhere. And she called me a mental case.
11 "You're going to the doctor's; you're brainless", and
12 all that.

13 But it was only when the doctor looked at me and
14 decided that it was actually chorea and it was more
15 serious than being brain damaged or mental.

16 Q. Okay. You tell us that you eventually had a period in
17 hospital as a result of this.

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. But I think that your records say that this developed in
20 about June 1966.

21 A. The chorea did, yes.

22 Q. And then you were admitted to hospital in December 1966?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And returned home on 11 January 1967?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So when you say the chorea developed in the middle of
2 1966, you'd in fact been ill for a period before that?
3 A. (Witness nods)
4 Q. But had you ever seen the doctor up until that time?
5 A. No.
6 Q. Okay. How do you know that you had rheumatic fever?
7 A. I was told that by the social worker.
8 Q. Right.
9 A. And the way it was described was that that led to the
10 chorea. But I'm not a doctor; I don't know.
11 Q. When you say you were told that by the social worker,
12 was that at the time that you saw --
13 A. That was after [REDACTED]
14 Q. Okay.
15 A. In fact, I'm sorry, that's wrong. It was Dr Melvin who
16 was doing research into traumatised children in care for
17 Edinburgh University. It was her that explained it.
18 Q. Okay. And when did you see Dr Melvin? Can
19 you remember?
20 A. After [REDACTED] Templedean.
21 Q. So when you were in Templedean --
22 A. No, no, sorry.
23 Q. That's okay.
24 A. I think the hospital put Dr Melvin in touch, and I used
25 to go to Spittle Street where she had her offices, and

1 I'd get all the wires put on my head and put on
2 a machine.

3 I can't remember the questions that she would ask,
4 but it was -- a lot of it was, I think, play and
5 drawing, and then she would ask me, "Why did you draw
6 that?" That sort of stuff. But I always used to panic
7 that they were reading my brain, with these things stuck
8 on it, and I was scared that certain things would --
9 would show.

10 Q. And can you remember if you went to Dr Melvin when you
11 were still living with the JCI-SPO ?

12 A. It was -- but it started while living there, but
13 this was after the hospital. It wasn't long before
14 left.

15 Q. Okay, thank you. At paragraph 58, you say that while
16 you were ill you were moved to a bed outside the house.

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?

19 A. In the garden.

20 Q. And where was that?

21 A. I have to create a picture. So come out of the back
22 door. On the left-hand side of the pantry and the
23 kitchen and round a little -- there was a little wall
24 that was sort of like an L shape that was -- it was wide
25 enough. Stuff used to be stored in there. But JCJ

1 JCJ built a plastic -- clear plastic corrugated
2 sort of roof and a wall, and they put a bed in there and
3 that's where I spent the summer. None of the other kids
4 were allowed to see me. No one in the foster -- not
5 her, anybody, came to see me or whatever.

6 It was the old guy, who did all the -- he
7 would feed me. He would let me use the potty. That's
8 just the way it was.

9 Q. Okay. So this construction, you said it had
10 a corrugated plastic --

11 A. It was an effect. It was like corrugated iron but it
12 was plastic.

13 Q. And then the wall, was that concrete or was it
14 also plastic?

15 A. Yeah, it was a brick-built wall, but it was only
16 probably about the height of this desk.

17 Q. Right, so was the whole construction quite low, then?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You couldn't stand up in it?

20 A. Oh, you could stand up fine.

21 Q. As a child, I suppose?

22 A. Yeah, yeah.

23 Q. Okay. And then there was this -- was there enough room
24 in it for the bed only or was there --

25 A. The bed and the potty.

1 Q. Okay. And when you say it was a bed, was it an actual
2 bed or was it just --

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. An actual bed?

5 A. No, it was a bed.

6 Q. And did you sleep in there on your own or did [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] for example, ever sleep in there with you?

8 A. No, on my own.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And they knew I was terrified of -- I can't even call
11 them their name, the creepy-crawly eight-legged freaks.
12 They knew I was terrified of those.

13 Q. So you told us that you went to hospital for a time, and
14 at paragraph 61 you say that you went -- part of your
15 period in hospital was at the Astley Ainslie.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And when you went back to the JCI-SPO [REDACTED] at the beginning
18 of 1967, where did you go to sleep then?

19 A. In the -- the bed and breakfast family room.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Because I was also being home schooled, they got a tutor
22 to come in, because I had to learn to write again and my
23 speech had to be -- I wouldn't be able to go back to
24 school unless I -- because it was coming up to the
25 11 Plus at the time.

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. So I had to reach a standard in order to get the
3 11 Plus.

4 Q. Okay. When you were in hospital, can you remember [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED] ever coming to visit you?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Can you remember Mrs JCI [REDACTED] ever coming to visit you?

8 A. Definitely not.

9 Q. Can you remember any social worker coming to visit you?

10 A. Not at all.

11 Q. So when you were in the family room, I think you
12 describe that you were in a wardrobe that had a bed
13 built into it. Can you explain that?

14 A. That was later. That was later on. It was downstairs
15 in the, I suppose it would have been like an old
16 kitchen, because it had one of the old wrought iron or
17 cast iron cooking ranges. And there was a bed in
18 the wardrobe.

19 Q. Right.

20 A. So as soon as I was back to school, that's where [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] slept.

22 Q. Okay. In the next section of your statement you talk
23 a little about the work that you had to do in the house,
24 and you've already mentioned that you had to take
25 Mrs JCI [REDACTED] her breakfast in the morning. I think you

1 also say that you had to prepare JCJ breakfast?

2 A. Yeah. By 6 o'clock in the morning.

3 Q. If we hear evidence from JCJ that he got his

4 own breakfast, what's your response to that?

5 A. That's just -- that isn't true.

6 Q. In paragraph 63 you say that you also had to make

7 breakfast for the guests.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. For the bed and breakfast guests?

10 A. And serve them, yes.

11 Q. And you say that you got -- you might get tips from the

12 guests?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. And what happened to the tips?

15 A. I used to try and hide them in my knickers. But

16 Mrs JCJ always found it. It was always taken

17 off me.

18 Q. And you say that you also had to do grocery shopping?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was that --

21 A. Before I got the chorea.

22 Q. And would you do that on your own or would you --

23 A. Just me.

24 Q. Was that the weekly shop that you were going to get?

25 A. Yeah, more or less, yeah.

1 Q. When you came home from school, did you have jobs to do
2 when you came home?
3 A. Yeah, mostly, yeah.
4 Q. What sort of things did you have to do when you
5 came home?
6 A. It would either be wash down the woodwork or clean the
7 dreaded stair-cleaning thing. And if it wasn't done to
8 her satisfaction, you did it again.
9 Q. Okay. In the next section of your statement, you talk
10 about contact with your family and you talk about,
11 I think, Mr [REDACTED], who you described, I think, as
12 being the person who [REDACTED] was
13 abusive towards you.
14 A. He never moved in.
15 Q. He didn't moved in, he just visited?
16 A. He just turned up, yeah.
17 Q. [REDACTED]
18 A. [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED] he started sexually
21 abusing me. And then it was later in that year -- and
22 I only know this from having got it in my records --
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 Q. If we go over the page here on to page 15, you mention,

1 I think, that he perhaps came to see you. Did he come
2 to see you from time to time when you were at the
3 JCI-SPO ?
4 A. Mostly, no. [REDACTED] had to get the bus from
5 Portobello to his mother's house in [REDACTED] --
6 Q. Right.
7 A. -- or meet him. If he was maybe treating [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] have to meet him at the cinema or wait
9 outside the pub.
10 Q. Okay.
11 A. He knew the JCI-SPO .
12 Q. How did he know them?
13 A. The house that him and his mother lived in was --
14 belonged to the JCI-SPO .
15 Q. Did you know that at the time or is that something you
16 learned --
17 A. No, no, that's just from my records.
18 Q. When he had contact with you during the time that you
19 were at the JCI-SPO , did he continue to abuse you
20 during those times?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. And did you tell Mrs JCI [REDACTED] what was happening?
23 A. Just before a major incident, yeah, I did.
24 Q. And what was her reaction?
25 A. Oh, total disbelief. I was lying.

1 Q. Did you tell JCJ [REDACTED] what was happening or was
2 he there when --

3 A. She -- I think she told him.

4 Q. Right. How do you -- what makes you think that she told
5 him?

6 A. Because I had come back from visiting [REDACTED] and I was
7 in such pain down below, but it was itchy pain and I was
8 rubbing my groin. And we were in the wardrobe bed and
9 she dragged me out of that bed and accused me of doing
10 something "sexual". I'd never heard the word "sex".
11 And she insisted I tell her. How did I know how to do
12 that? How do I know about sex? And I was like, well,
13 if that's what [REDACTED]'s doing to me, that's how I know
14 about it, so I said, "That's what [REDACTED] does", and that
15 led to JCJ [REDACTED] punishing me. To teach me about
16 sex.

17 Q. Okay. Are you able to tell us how he punished you?

18 A. I might cry, but I'm trying not to.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I was taken into [REDACTED] shed. [REDACTED] wasn't in there.
21 And at the work bench under the table I was told to face
22 the window, drop my knickers, pull up my dress and lean
23 over face down, and he had a broom in his hand and he
24 was jabbing my bum. And I thought that broom handle was
25 going to go inside me and I just screamed and didn't

1 stop. And I think he got a bit worried that the
2 neighbouring [REDACTED] was going to hear me, but I was
3 terrified.

4 Q. Do you know if Mrs JCI [REDACTED] had any awareness of what
5 her son was doing?

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. What --

8 A. He didn't punish us unless she told him to.

9 Q. So on that occasion when you had told Mrs JCI [REDACTED] what
10 had happened with Mr [REDACTED], do you know if she told
11 JCI [REDACTED] to punish you or is that your assumption?

12 A. I just knew that that was how it went because that's how
13 it always went.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Sorry.

16 Q. It's okay. Right, I'm going to go on to visits that you
17 had when you were in the care of the JCI-SPO [REDACTED]. At the
18 bottom of the page here, paragraph 70, you talk there
19 about social workers coming to see you and can you
20 remember social work visits?

21 A. I remember two.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. One of them was on the day of arrival.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Or maybe three. On the day we left there as well.

1 Q. Okay. So you remember one on the day of arrival. We'll
2 come back to the day that you left. What about the
3 other one? What can you remember about that?

4 A. I think -- and only from looking at my records, the
5 timing seems about right -- there was an unexpected
6 visit from the RSPCA governor and a social worker.
7 I was whipped out of the garden bed and put into
8 Mr [REDACTED] bed. And obviously the governor saw the
9 bed in the garden and asked, "Who's sleeping in there?"
10 and apparently was told, "No one".

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But she commented in her report that it was plainly
13 obvious that someone had just left the bed. Someone was
14 sleeping there.

15 LADY SMITH: So that's the social worker's report you're
16 referring to, is it, or is it the RSPCC report?

17 A. It could be either. I can't remember offhand.
18 I apologise.

19 LADY SMITH: No, don't worry.

20 MS INNES: I think we can look at that reference that you're
21 making, Shirley. If we could look, please, at
22 EDI-000000775 and page 9.

23 A. Oh yeah.

24 Q. It's the entry at 10 August 1967 and I think what it
25 says here -- it's handwritten so just bear with me

1 a moment -- it's blanked out, but I think it says:

2 "Visited by Councillor Duff and Mrs Marriott."

3 So you don't know who these people are?

4 A. No.

5 Q. It then goes on to say:

6 "Mrs JCI [REDACTED] did not impress us, neither herself
7 nor her attitude towards Shirley in particular. She
8 seems to know all the answers childcare-wise but is not,
9 I feel, being absolutely honest. [REDACTED] was helping to do
10 some painting in the back of the house. In the garden
11 I saw a bed in the outhouse, but according to Mrs JCI [REDACTED]
12 no one uses it, although it was obvious it had been
13 slept in the night previously. [REDACTED] seemed well but had
14 nothing to say to us. She did not, in fact, have much
15 opportunity as JCI [REDACTED] never stopped talking. I feel
16 I would agree with Ms Griffiths ..."

17 Don't know who that --

18 A. Social worker.

19 Q. She's the social worker.

20 " ... that [REDACTED] would benefit from being
21 transferred to Greendykes."

22 A. Oh.

23 Q. I think that's the reference that you were making to
24 your records --

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. That's the entry there. And I think you can recall that
2 visit as well?

3 A. I can't recall the visit, but I do remember being very
4 quickly taken out of that bed and put into Mr [REDACTED]
5 bedroom.

6 Q. I see, right.

7 A. And then later on in the day getting put back outside.

8 Q. Okay. Now although it says here -- and I think the next
9 entry is 25 October 1967, so it's August and October,
10 there's then a reference to a letter to Councillor Duff
11 enclosing a report on circumstances surrounding the
12 foster home.

13 A. Mm.

14 Q. But I don't know if you know anything about that.

15 A. No.

16 Q. And we know, I think from your records, that you weren't
17 removed from this home until [REDACTED] 1968.

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. If we can go back to your statement again, please, in
20 terms of any visits from social work, you say that
21 you're aware of these three visits. Can you remember
22 ever having the opportunity to speak to a social worker
23 on your own?

24 A. It was Ms Griffiths.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. And she'd obviously insisted on seeing all of us because
2 she was social worker to all [REDACTED] of us.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But we were told what to say and when to say it.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. We were told that, "You can ask to go to the beach but
7 you're not going to the beach", that was it. We asked
8 if we could go to the beach and we damn well did. We
9 went to the beach. But after that, she -- she made this
10 comment that she'd never ever asked before and she sort
11 of looked at us and went, "Yeah, of course you can, but
12 you'll need to let me know what you want for your tea
13 tonight", and I looked at her and I thought "Eh?" And
14 I went, "Same as usual, a piece and jam and a cup of
15 tea." Oh my God. Then we went to the beach, never
16 thought any more of it. But the punishment that
17 followed that, I thought [REDACTED] would hate me for
18 life for saying anything. But I can't tell a lie.
19 I can't ask for food that I know I'm not going to get
20 that's any different to what we get.

21 Q. So --

22 A. So ...

23 Q. So normally what did you get for your tea?

24 A. Bread, jam and a cup of tea.

25 Q. Did you ever have a main meal in the [REDACTED] JCI-SPO house?

1 A. Never. Not even a Christmas meal.

2 Q. Did you get lunch at school?

3 A. Yeah. When I was able to be at school. But ...

4 Q. When you weren't at school, did you --

5 A. When I was unwell, no. It was the same. A slice of

6 toast and jam in the morning with a cup of tea, and two

7 slices of bread and jam and a cup of tea at night.

8 Q. You must have been hungry as a result?

9 A. No. I'm -- even as an adult, I'm never hungry.

10 Q. Right, okay.

11 A. I've got a really bad relationship with food.

12 Q. Okay. You said there that you'd asked to go to the

13 beach in accordance with what you were told to do.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. But she'd said, "But you're not actually allowed to go

16 to the beach", but you did that?

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. And you'd made this reference to what you were getting

19 for tea and you said, I think, that there were

20 consequences?

21 A. Oh yeah.

22 Q. And what were those?

23 A. It was only to me and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] didn't get

24 punished. We come in from school the following day and

25 [REDACTED] got their bread, jam and their -- as

1 usual, and [REDACTED] and I got those big old-fashioned mixing
2 bowls, huge, filled with boiled rice with raw eggs
3 through it, and we were expected to eat this. There
4 must have been five kilos of rice in this bowl. It was
5 huge and we were expected to sit and eat it and we
6 wouldn't be able to leave until we had.

7 FAE [REDACTED] just kept throwing up back into the bowl
8 and she was forced to eat it. And if we didn't finish
9 it, we'd come in the following day and there would be
10 a fresh batch on top of what was left. And that went on
11 for days.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. She didn't even put sugar in it, by the way.

14 Q. Okay. If we can move on to the part of your statement
15 at page 18, it begins at paragraph 82, and you tell us
16 there about various things that happened to you, some of
17 which you've already mentioned. But if we can just deal
18 with the other things that you mention here.

19 You say at paragraph 82 that you had to look through
20 Mrs JCI [REDACTED] hair for imaginary lice?

21 A. And I had to make her think I'd found them. I used to
22 just go "[click]", and just click my tongue. You know.
23 It was stupid.

24 Q. Was that something that you had to do regularly?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And then at paragraph 83 you talked about being forced
2 to massage [JCJ] feet.

3 A. Oh, they were rank. They were rotten.

4 Q. Did that happen regularly --

5 A. Oh yeah, yeah. Whenever he took -- and it was usually
6 always me. He'd just whip his shoes and socks off and
7 say, "You get over here and rub my feet". Honestly, it
8 made me sick.

9 Q. And then you talk about -- it's blanked out on the
10 screen but you'll be able to see it in the paper
11 statement -- that there was an occasion when [JCJ] told
12 [FAE] to break a photo over his head?

13 A. Over his head, yeah.

14 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?

15 A. [REDACTED]

16 Q. [REDACTED]

17 A. [REDACTED]

18 And [FAE] was being her normal cheeky, brattish self,
19 because at that point we didn't realise how bad the
20 treatment was. And he said something to her and she
21 gave him a cheeky answer and she said about his photo,
22 that he actually looked like [REDACTED] and she
23 went, "Yeah, and he's ugly too", or something like that.
24 "I would just break that photo over your head." And he
25 went, "Go on then". So she did.

1 I'm sorry, it was funny, but not afterwards. She
2 spent hours staring at that photo.

3 Q. Was that the consequence?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. But I'm sort of glad she did it, actually. That was
7 brave.

8 Q. And then at paragraph 86 you say that getting battered
9 by JCI was a regular occurrence.

10 "He was very hands on from the start and he was the
11 punisher."

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And you talk about Mrs JCI directing him to punish
14 you.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. What punishment would he give out? What would he do?

17 A. He'd lift(?) your bare bum. The boys actually never got
18 told to drop their trousers or whatever. They would get
19 punched or kicked or punched in the face, whatever. But
20 with us girls it was always, "Drop your knickers and
21 bend over", and if he had anything nearby, he'd use it.
22 If not, he'd just use his hands.

23 Q. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: That was [REDACTED] was it? That he went --

25 A. [REDACTED] yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: -- to your naked bottoms?

2 A. Yeah.

3 MS INNES: Did Mrs JCI ever punish you herself by

4 beating you or did she always direct JCJ to do it?

5 A. I remember I wet the bed once and I got shouted at and

6 slapped, and I think that might have been the first time

7 that I'd wet the bed.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But normally it was him.

10 Q. Okay. Now, you talk over the page -- again, this is

11 a paragraph that's blanked out on the screen, but at

12 paragraph 90 you talk about a time that FAE got

13 her hand caught in a mangle.

14 A. That was the washing machine out back.

15 Q. And what was JCJ reaction to that?

16 A. He just laughed. Thought it was hilarious. And rather

17 than show us how to reverse the mangle, he just stood

18 and laughed. We had to figure it out, how to release

19 the rollers, and probably made some of the crushing

20 worse, but ...

21 Q. Okay. In the rest of that page you tell us about the

22 incident with JCJ in the shed that you've already

23 told us about, so I'm not going to go over that again.

24 And then if we go to page 20, at paragraph 95 you talk

25 about the time that you've mentioned when you asked to

1 go to the beach and the punishment for that.

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. I think we're then at paragraph 97. You go on to tell
4 us about an incident that took place which was
5 ultimately followed by you and FAE moving from
6 the JCI-SPO

7 A. (Witness nods)

8 Q. You say at paragraph 97:

9 "I remember the day in 1968 when I was pulled out of
10 school and taken to the headmaster's office before being
11 taken home by the police who had been informed of
12 injuries found on FAE "

13 So, first of all, at paragraph 98, if you can tell
14 us in your own words now what had happened the night
15 before?

16 A. Oh, at the time we slept in that wardrobe bed and FAE
17 needed to go for a wee but the door to get to the toilet
18 outside was stuck and it had that mesh glass, enforced
19 glass with the metals through it.

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. So she put her leg against and pushed and the glass
22 broke. And JCJ stripped her naked and used the belt
23 on her whole body, front, back, everywhere. She was in
24 a horrific state. She had welts that probably rose
25 above her skin an inch. The marks of the belt, the

1 imprints. I couldn't even hug her, she was in so much
2 pain. Sorry.

3 Q. It's okay. Did she have to go to school the next day?

4 A. Yes. But when I took Mrs JCI-SPO breakfast in, she
5 called FAE in as well and told FAE, "Do not take gym
6 today", so when FAE's teacher said -- you did gym in
7 your vest and pants at the time -- "Come on, FAE, vest
8 and pants, into the gym hall", and FAE refused, but her
9 teacher forced her to take -- to do it. She didn't have
10 a letter saying she was excused.

11 So that's when the teacher discovered the mess that
12 she was in. Took her straight to the headmaster. They
13 called the police and then I was pulled out of class,
14 taken to the headmaster's office, and I mean that fully
15 grown headmaster and that teacher were in tears, and the
16 police just put us in the car and took us to [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] back to JCI-SPO

18 Q. You talked about being with FAE when Mrs JCI told
19 her that she'd have to miss gym. You then told us about
20 what happened when gym came up at school. Were you
21 there in FAE's class or is that something you found out
22 afterwards?

23 A. No, I found out when the police obviously were there.
24 That Mrs Buckhan had said, "You're doing gym, whatever,
25 you've not got an excusal letter so you're doing it", so

1 I was told that. And I heard the police telling
2 Mrs JCI-SPO what the teacher had told him, so ...

3 Q. And what was Mrs JCI-SPO reaction? Can you remember?

4 A. I remember -- the police officer was really good. He
5 only looked at the top of FAE's thigh basically. He
6 didn't look up further than that. I mean, that was
7 enough for him anyway. But he said to Mrs JCI
8 "This child needs to be seen by a doctor", and she
9 basically told him where to go. "My son does the
10 chastising as and when it's necessary. She won't be
11 going to the doctor." And she never.

12 Q. When you were with the headmaster and the teacher, can
13 you remember either of them or the police asking you
14 what was going on at home?

15 A. No, no. I remember Mrs JCI saying to the police
16 that she got that beating because she'd messed herself,
17 but that was absolute nonsense, I knew that.

18 Q. Okay. Can we look at another page in your records,
19 please. Just bear with me a moment. It's at
20 EDI-000000775 and at page 2.

21 This is a report, I think, in relation to FAE
22 FAE If we scroll down to the bottom of the page, we
23 see that it's by an R Watson, who is described as
24 "Inspector", and then 16 February 1968 is the date.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. If we just go through this report, I think we see that
2 it says:

3 "Due to a complaint having been received on
4 15 February that a girl [that's FAE] residing
5 [in the home that you were living in] was being
6 ill-treated by her elder brother, aged 18 years. It was
7 alleged that last week the girl had attended school
8 (which is [REDACTED] with staff marks on her arm, and
9 that today she was at school and had shown a classmate
10 her buttocks which were badly marked, being black and
11 blue. It was also alleged that [FAE] was so
12 distressed that she had expressed that she would throw
13 herself in the burn."

14 Then it says:

15 "I called at [REDACTED] School at 3.30 pm when I saw
16 the headmaster, the class teacher and the girl
17 concerned. The girl refrained from saying very much but
18 stated where she lived. I felt I should investigate
19 this complaint further and so visited [the address that
20 you were living at] at 5.15 pm when I interviewed
21 Mrs JCI [REDACTED] in the presence of the child. I saw part
22 of this child's leg and was surprised to see that it was
23 really badly marked. She informed me that she had been
24 thrashed by Mrs JCI [REDACTED] son. As the girl is ten
25 years of age, I did not pursue my examination but

1 advised Mrs JCI to have the child seen by her
2 doctor that evening. Mrs JCI was not cooperative
3 and refused to carry out my advice or instruction. She
4 admitted that she had asked her son to chastise FAE
5 FAE for soiling her underwear."

6 And I think that's the conversation that you were
7 present at?

8 A. I was there, yeah.

9 Q. And it then says:

10 "In the course of conversation I learned that this
11 woman has children fostered out to her by your
12 department, and that Ms Griffiths [I think is again the
13 social worker] has been dealing with this family.

14 "Acting on instruction from my chief inspector,
15 I have been instructed to submit this report for the
16 attention of Mr JH Millar, children's officer."

17 So I think that was the report that you've seen in
18 your records before, I think, that followed up --

19 A. Mm.

20 Q. -- that visit?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. What happened next?

23 A. I think we were only there for another month, maybe, and
24 then we were moved.

25 LADY SMITH: I think it would be about three weeks, judging

1 by the dates we have.

2 A. It wasn't very long, but it was long enough.

3 LADY SMITH: But you were there for another few weeks.

4 A. Yeah.

5 MS INNES: So we know that from your records, Shirley, that

6 the date of removal was [REDACTED] 1968, so about three

7 weeks --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- after this. Do you know if [REDACTED] were

10 removed at the same time?

11 A. No, they weren't.

12 Q. After you moved away from the JCI-SPO [REDACTED] did you ever

13 see or visit Mrs JCI [REDACTED] again?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. Can you tell us about that, please?

16 A. I wanted to ask her why she had treated us so badly and

17 what had we done. I'd asked permission from the matron

18 of Templedean to do that. I think by that time I was 12

19 and I'd started considering that what we had gone

20 through [REDACTED] was wrong and I wanted someone

21 to say, "This is why". All she said to me was, "It's

22 the way things are, kids should be seen and not heard,

23 you do something wrong, you take the punishment and

24 you're making a big deal out of nothing", and I thought:

25 well, what was the point in that?

1 Q. Okay. So that's when you were at Templedean?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So you went to Templedean after you were removed from
4 the JCI-SPO is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If we hear evidence from JCJ that the abuse
7 that you've described didn't happen, what's your
8 response to that?

9 A. He's lying and he should maybe read the reports.

10 Q. Okay. So, for example, if we hear evidence from him
11 that he never chastised you and he wasn't asked to do
12 so?

13 A. Well, why did his mother accuse him of it?

14 Q. At paragraph 135 of your statement on page 28, you say
15 that you spoke to JCJ I think, in 2011?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And what was the context of that?

18 A. I -- it's going to sound really stupid. Again, I had
19 reached a point where -- and I am -- I told him I was
20 writing a book about my childhood and I wanted to --
21 this was a lie, but I said I wanted to share some
22 memories with him to make sure that they weren't my
23 creation, that I have not made these memories up.

24 So he spoke to me. And he admitted that, you know,
25 "If one of the of you did something wrong, you all

1 got punished. That was how things worked at the time."

2 I didn't ask him to go into anything specific or any
3 specific punishment. I actually wanted him to say,
4 "That was a sign of the times and I'm sorry", but he
5 didn't.

6 Q. If we can move on again in your statement, please,
7 Shirley, you tell us about the impact that this has had
8 on your life and you talk about your response to some
9 things that have happened.

10 So at paragraph 156 you talk about Jack McConnell's
11 apology.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. You refer to that at paragraph 156 and you say:

14 "He said the people of Scotland apologised."

15 A. The people of Scotland never hurt me.

16 Q. And I think you say that there:

17 "Not the social work or the Edinburgh Council or the
18 government but the people of Scotland."

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So how did you feel about that?

21 A. Angry. Really angry. And that's what made me join
22 INCAS and decide to -- to fight that fight. Because if
23 that was an apology, that man should be ashamed of
24 himself for blaming the people of Scotland and not
25 departments that the government rule.

1 Q. Okay. We go on to paragraph 157. You say that --
2 sorry, just pausing again at paragraph 156, you say:
3 "I thought it would be over quickly but it took four
4 years for them to set up the first forum, which for me
5 was just the biggest load of rubbish that I have ever
6 sat through and I sat through all of them."
7 Is that the --
8 A. That was the Time to be Heard.
9 Q. Why do you say that you thought it was a --
10 A. Because most of it was around Quarriers and most of the
11 people that attended worked for Quarriers, either then
12 or previously, and I just thought it was a set-up.
13 Q. And then we know there was the National Confidential
14 Forum. Did you --
15 A. I never approached them because at that time they
16 weren't supporting people in foster care.
17 Q. At paragraph 157, you talk about people involved in
18 these forums and I think that's maybe reflecting back on
19 the Time to be Heard Forum?
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. So I think you're saying it would be important that it's
22 not people that work for the council or the institutions
23 that are --
24 A. Yeah, which was basically who was running them, and
25 I thought that was wrong. It wasn't independent.

1 Q. And then in terms of the City of Edinburgh Council, have
2 you ever had any kind of acknowledgement or apology from
3 them about what happened?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Have you ever raised a civil claim, so a claim in the
6 civil courts, about what happened?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Have you ever thought about looking for compensation
9 from JCJ [REDACTED] for example?

10 A. No. No point.

11 Q. Would you want his money?

12 A. No, he can have it. I'd like an apology. I'd like him
13 to own what he did.

14 Q. Okay. Would an apology or an acknowledgement from the
15 City of Edinburgh Council, would that make any
16 difference to you?

17 A. It would.

18 Q. How would it make a difference?

19 A. But that I don't think's coming. I think the government
20 again are going to accept responsibility and make that
21 apology for them.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Which again I think is wrong.

24 Q. How do you think an apology from the City of Edinburgh
25 Council would affect you?

1 A. I think that the fact that they're accepting --
2 I wouldn't say blame, I would say blind responsibility
3 for not fulfilling their duty of care at that time.
4 They let children down. Mine isn't the worst story ever
5 told, but ... if they owned that and said, "Our duty of
6 care was poorly lacking" and they'd learned from it --
7 I don't think it will ever happen.

8 Q. But if it did happen, I think you're saying --

9 A. Oh, my road would be all green and beautiful again.

10 Q. Okay. In terms of your statement and in terms of
11 lessons learned, at paragraph 161, you say:

12 "Somebody independent of Social Services has to be
13 involved to make sure children in care are heard, that
14 they can speak up without fear of being beat up or not
15 believed."

16 A. I stand by that.

17 Q. And you say that that's -- you know, it's something
18 that's still going on, you say there.

19 A. Well, we know that child abuse is still going on today.
20 We know that it's still a tea-room problem for social
21 workers, if that's what you want to give them the excuse
22 of. But we know social workers are not specifically
23 trauma-trained, and they should be.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Because they should be able to look at a child and

1 realise that that child's not communicating. Why? Why
2 is that child not saying -- like FAE wouldn't say
3 anything about the beating to the police. So you have
4 to ask yourself: why? Anybody that is trauma-informed
5 in any way would be able to spot some sort of problem.

6 Q. Okay. And here you emphasise that it should be somebody
7 independent of Social Services.

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 Q. So do you see that as being a person who works with the
10 child specifically and builds up a relationship with
11 them or --

12 A. It could be a teacher. It could be an independent --
13 I want to say the word "surveyor", but that's wrong.
14 Just somebody that works alongside the social worker as
15 an independent observer who will go not to every single
16 meeting, will attend meetings with social workers, make
17 their own notes and reports that can be married up or
18 disputed with the social workers' one.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Because kids don't necessarily trust social workers, but
21 they'll trust a stranger.

22 Q. Okay. And I think at paragraph 162, you talk there
23 about Social Services being better trained to speak to
24 children and to understand what they're trying to
25 express.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. And at paragraph 163, in terms of your hopes for
3 the Inquiry, I think in essence you're talking there
4 about the Inquiry holding people accountable.

5 A. Absolutely.

6 Q. Is that your principal hope for --

7 A. Oh, that's the dream, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And I think you've indicated that you've worked
9 with INCAS and I think you've --

10 A. For six years now, yes.

11 Q. You've provided support to other survivors?

12 A. Yes. I still do.

13 MS INNES: Okay. Right, Shirley, I don't have any more
14 questions for you just now.

15 A. Thank you.

16 MS INNES: There are no applications for questions, my Lady.

17 LADY SMITH: Can I check whether there are any outstanding
18 applications for questions?

19 Shirley, that does complete all we have to ask you
20 this morning, but before you go, I want to thank you for
21 the way in which you've engaged with the Inquiry, both
22 by providing the detailed, sometimes harrowing, written
23 statement that you have provided, but it's very
24 important that we are provided with statements like that
25 that tell us very clearly how it was for a child all

1 LADY SMITH: Now, before I rise for the break, a few names
2 there that are covered by my general restriction order.
3 The keen ear may have spotted that already. The
4 JCI-SPO their son JCJ the other foster children,
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] FAE, because it was easier to use [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] in the course of her evidence. It's fine to use
8 them within this room but not outside here.
9 Time for the break, I think, Ms Innes, yes?
10 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. We'll have another witness ready
11 at quarter to.
12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.
13 (11.26 am)
14 (A short break)
15 (11.45 am)
16 LADY SMITH: My apologies for the slight delay. We've been
17 sorting -- I say "we", I haven't been involved
18 personally, but a software problem has been being
19 attended to, software to do with the stenography
20 services. I hope that might make our stenographer's
21 life here a little easier for the next hour or so,
22 anyway.
23 We have a witness now who is ready to give evidence.
24 Is that right, Ms Innes?
25 MS INNES: We do, my Lady. The next witness is using the

1 pseudonym 'Cameron'. She was in the care of Edinburgh
2 Corporation, now the City of Edinburgh Council. She was
3 placed into foster care in Portobello on [REDACTED] 1965 and
4 removed on [REDACTED] 1968.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 'Cameron' (affirmed)

7 LADY SMITH: 'Cameron', it's important that you use that
8 microphone that's in front of you now. Even if your
9 voice is loud enough, we need to hear you throughout the
10 sound system.

11 Now, the red folder has your statement in it, the
12 one you signed, and you'll be taken to that in a couple
13 of minutes. You'll also see your statement will come up
14 on the screen, and it will take you to the parts of it
15 we're talking about as we go through your evidence. So
16 I hope that might be of some help to you as well.

17 But before you start your evidence, 'Cameron', can
18 I just assure you that I know what we're asking you to
19 do here is really difficult, and to come into a public
20 place and talk about your own life, your life as
21 a child, things that were upsetting at the time and may
22 well renew horrible emotions for you, is very difficult.
23 I get that. And I'm very grateful to you for being
24 prepared to do it.

25 If at any time you want a break or have a question

1 or any concerns, do speak up. You can speak up here.
2 You may not have been able to do so when you were
3 a child --
4 A. Yes.
5 LADY SMITH: -- but you can certainly do so here. And
6 I want to hear you if you're worried about anything.
7 So if you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
8 between us we'll do our best to make this a relatively
9 comfortable experience for you. All right?
10 A. Thank you.
11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
12 Ms Innes.
13 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.
14 Questions from Ms Innes
15 MS INNES: Now, 'Cameron', we understand that you were born
16 in 1958; is that right?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Can I ask you, please, to look at your statement. We
19 give it the reference WIT.001.001.0654. If we can look,
20 please, at the final page of it, I think we see there at
21 paragraph 140:
22 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
23 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
24 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement to
25 be true."

1 And you signed your statement on 15 August 2016. Is
2 that right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Thank you. If we just go back briefly to the beginning
5 of your statement, please, so page 1. You talk about
6 living, I think, with your mother, and at paragraph 3
7 you say that you believe that you have about 12 brothers
8 and sisters, although you don't know them all. Is that
9 something that you've learned from looking into your
10 records or is that something that you've always known?

11 A. No, it's -- it's more learnt from other family members.
12 I mean, I did remember my oldest brother, [REDACTED] I knew
13 I had him. But I didn't know about all the other
14 sisters and brothers till -- well, more or less when we
15 reconnected with our mother. That's when we found we
16 had more sisters and brothers, yes.

17 Q. And then you tell us about certain things that you've
18 learned from your records about your early life.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Am I right in saying that you don't have that many
21 memories of the time before you went into care for
22 a long time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. If we move on to page 4, you mention that you went to
25 [REDACTED] in Edinburgh?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I think you perhaps have some good memories of being in
3 [REDACTED] but you don't have that many memories?

4 A. No, because I don't believe we were there that long.

5 Q. Okay. I would like to move on, please, to page 5. And
6 at paragraph 26 we see that you [REDACTED]
7 moved to foster care with people called the JCI-SPO [REDACTED]
8 is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Do you know or can you remember being told about
11 moving to live with the JCI-SPO [REDACTED] ?

12 A. Not really, no.

13 Q. Can you remember being taken there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Who went with you?

16 A. [REDACTED] if I remember
17 I think there was two people in the car. What capacity
18 they were, I -- I presume now they were social workers,
19 but back then I wouldn't have known. We just called
20 them professionals back then. I'm sure there were two
21 people in the car with me [REDACTED]

22 LADY SMITH: 'Cameron', you'd have been, what, about six
23 years old at the time?

24 A. Something like that, round about that, I would say,
25 yeah.

1 MS INNES: And you say that you went to stay in a house at
2 Portobello, and I think it was a bed and breakfast?
3 A. It was bed and breakfast, yeah.
4 Q. We'll come back to that in a moment. You say it looked
5 small from the front but when you entered it was quite
6 a big house?
7 A. Yeah, yeah.
8 Q. And you say there had been various extensions at the
9 back of it?
10 A. Yeah.
11 Q. When you went into the house at the beginning, can you
12 remember being shown where you were going to be sleeping
13 or anything like that?
14 A. I vaguely remember being shown around in the rooms that
15 we would have to sleep in, yeah.
16 Q. And where were they? Were they upstairs? Were they on
17 the ground floor?
18 A. The room that we were taken to was upstairs, but it was
19 like a -- it was like -- when you got up the top of the
20 stairs there was a room, a bedroom, and then you went
21 through that to get into another bedroom. So it was
22 just off that. That's where we went.
23 Q. If I can ask you a little about the people that were in
24 the house when you lived there. There was Mrs JCI
25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. And you say you think your impression was that she was
2 in her late 40s/early 50s at the time?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And her husband also lived there?

5 A. Yeah, [REDACTED]

6 Q. Did you have much to do with him when you lived there?

7 A. Not really. He didn't really take any real part in our
8 day-to-day care there. Well, he went to work anyway,
9 so -- well, I presume it was work, because we didn't
10 really see him during the day. And even when he was in
11 the house, you very rarely seen him, very rarely.

12 It was mainly when the professionals came around,
13 then you'd see him then, but other than that he didn't
14 really take much in our day-to-day care, so ...

15 Q. Okay. And then there was -- the [REDACTED] JCI I think had
16 a son called [REDACTED] JCJ who was about 18?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And you also mention [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] Tommy Hazlett?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Can you remember him living in the house when you were
22 there?

23 A. No, no, no.

24 Q. Was he married? Did he have his own family?

25 A. Yeah, he was married, yeah, and he did have -- I know he

1 had kids. I think maybe one or two, because when he --
2 when he came around there, there was always just one or
3 two kids with him when he came around there. He might
4 have went on to have more, I don't know. But at that
5 time there was one or two kids that he used to bring
6 around there.

7 Q. And just staying with him at the moment, since you left
8 the care of the JCI-SPO have you ever found out about
9 anything that happened to Mr Hazlett?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What was that?

12 A. I found out that he's a convicted paedophile.

13 Q. Okay. And who did you find that out from?

14 A. I found that out from [REDACTED]

15 Q. Okay. And have you ever had anything to do with
16 Mr Hazlett since you left?

17 A. No, no, no.

18 Q. And just to be clear, did you ever experience any abuse
19 when you saw Mr Hazlett?

20 A. No, no. He never -- no, he never took anything to do
21 with us. He would just basically come around there,
22 visit and then go. I mean, he spoke to us, yeah, but he
23 was never -- no, he wasn't really involved in our care
24 or anything like that, no.

25 Q. Okay, thank you.

1 You also mention that there were [REDACTED] other foster
2 children in the house when you arrived.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And I think that you say they were [REDACTED] and they
5 were [REDACTED]?

6 A. They were [REDACTED] yeah.

7 Q. Then in paragraph 28 you talk about an old man who
8 lived, I think, perhaps in the garden?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What did he live in?

11 A. Well, I call it a shed. It was one of them -- you know
12 them big, massive long sheds. They look like a little
13 Swiss chalet type -- I mean, I still call it a shed.
14 I don't know if it is, but that's what I call it,
15 a shed. But he lived in there.

16 Q. So if we were to hear evidence that it was a chalet, or
17 that's how you would describe it, is that something that
18 you would agree with or disagree with?

19 A. Yeah, no, I would agree with it, yeah, yeah.

20 Q. Did the man that lived there, did he come into the house
21 much or did he keep to the --

22 A. He -- he more or less just came into the house for
23 something to eat and then we wouldn't see him again.
24 He'd just go back into the shed. Or if there was -- if
25 JCY [REDACTED] wanted him for anything, he'd come in the house

1 then. But you'd very rarely see him in the house.

2 Q. And then I think at paragraph 29 you say that you

3 remember that a baby girl came to the house for a while?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. But you say she wasn't there long?

6 A. No, she wasn't there long, no. Or I couldn't say

7 specific times, but it was like one minute she's there,

8 one minute she's gone. So she wasn't there for very

9 long. But I couldn't be specific in weeks or months,

10 you know what I mean.

11 Q. Okay. At paragraph 31 you tell us a little bit about

12 your memories of the first day that you were at the

13 JCI-SPO

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. And you talk, I think, about being called in for your

16 tea. What was for tea? Can you remember?

17 A. Two jam sandwiches and a cup of tea. That was our

18 dinner every night.

19 Q. For the whole time that you lived there?

20 A. The whole time -- well, one time JCI asked us

21 what we wanted for dinner, and said, "Well,

22 same as usual, pieces and jam and a cup of tea". And

23 the next day we were brought home from school at

24 lunchtime and just -- just forced -- forced to eat.

25 I've never seen so much food in that house in my life.

1 And we just had to eat and eat and eat. I think that
2 was a punishment because [REDACTED] had made that
3 comment. And it was just -- oof.

4 Q. And what were you given to eat then?

5 A. Boiled rice.

6 Q. And did that just happen on that one occasion or did it
7 happen --

8 A. Yeah, yeah, because that was all we got to eat, two
9 pieces with jam and a cup of tea, every night. That was
10 all we got to eat every night. I don't remember having
11 breakfast. I don't remember ever eating breakfast,
12 because I still don't eat breakfast to this day.
13 Because that's all we ever got. There was no sweets or
14 anything like that. We only got sweets if my dad came
15 round to visit us or if an official person came around.
16 But there was no treats or anything. That was all we
17 got, every day. Every day of the week, this is what we
18 got.

19 LADY SMITH: 'Cameron', when [REDACTED] said that you
20 always got two pieces of bread and jam for your tea, who
21 was there?

22 A. JCI [REDACTED] and JCJ [REDACTED]

23 LADY SMITH: And were you there?

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: Were there any other grownups there?

1 A. No, no. Maybe [REDACTED] might have been hanging about the
2 kitchen, but no, there was nobody else there.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: Did you get school lunches?

5 A. I don't remember having lunch at school. I don't
6 remember ever having lunch at school.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. But at the same time I don't remember going home for
9 lunch, so ...

10 Q. Okay. Right, if we go back to paragraph 31 and where
11 you were told that you were going to be sleeping. And
12 you've told us about this. There would be two rooms.
13 There was -- you went through one room, I think, to get
14 to the other room at the back?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And you were told that you were going to be sleeping
17 there.

18 A. (Witness nods)

19 Q. Did anybody else --

20 A. That's not where -- we didn't sleep in there.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. That's where we had to go. And JCI [REDACTED] was
23 sleeping in there.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. And -- because her and her -- JCI [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] never shared the same room.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So she was up in that room in a double bed, and we were
4 told that's where we would be going. But we were
5 there -- we were in there because we had to play with
6 her hair all through the night. We'd take it in turns,
7 like I would play with her hair for a couple of hours,
8 [REDACTED] would have a sleep, and then [REDACTED] would play
9 with her hair and I would have a sleep. That was our
10 sleeping arrangement, in the bed with her, playing with
11 her hair. I can't remember why we were -- I think it
12 was to get her off to sleep. I don't know.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. But that was our routine, until we got put in
15 the garden.

16 Q. Okay, we'll come back to that.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. Where did [REDACTED] ^{JCJ} sleep?

19 A. He was in that first room before you went through to
20 that other room.

21 Q. Okay. Right, so if we move on, please, to the next --
22 at the bottom of this page, onto the next page. You
23 talk about being moved out into the back garden and you
24 say that [REDACTED] ^{JCJ} built a kind of extension onto the
25 house.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Can you explain what it was like, please?

3 A. It was like a -- it was like a porch type thing and it
4 had the -- oh, sorry. It had plastic on the top because
5 you could -- the rain when it used to hit off it, it
6 was -- the noise was deafening. And then it was just
7 wood and then the plastic there again, and then the
8 double bed in there.

9 Q. Okay. Was it a proper bed or just a mattress? Can you
10 remember?

11 A. No, it was a proper double bed, yeah, yeah.

12 Q. And was there any room for anything else in that --

13 A. No, no, no. Not that I remember. I don't remember
14 anything else being in there.

15 Q. Okay. Who slept in that bed then?

16 A. Me and [REDACTED]

17 Q. And I think you say that this happened after about
18 a year of living at the JCI-SPO [REDACTED] That's your memory
19 of when it happened?

20 A. Because when the -- because it was a guest house as
21 well, when -- at the height of the season, them two
22 bedrooms were -- that I told you about, where JCI [REDACTED] was
23 in one and then through the back was where we went with
24 his mum, when the guests were there them rooms were used
25 for the guests, and then JCI [REDACTED] would go -- I presume he

1 just went in the other spare room at the front and he
2 slept in there.

3 Q. Did Mrs JCI take bed and breakfast guests only
4 during the summer or was it all year around?

5 A. It was mainly in the summer. Now and again we'd get the
6 odd guest in the winter and, like, the autumn. But it
7 was mainly the summer that was busy with people, yeah.

8 Q. Can you remember whether she would have used one room
9 for guests or more than one room?

10 A. Like I say, it was normally that room where we were and
11 then there was a room downstairs as well that they would
12 use.

13 Q. Okay. Now, at paragraph 32 on page 7, you say:
14 "We got put out into the garden because I used to
15 wet the bed."

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Is that your understanding of why you were put there?

18 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

19 Q. You say that many a time you still had to sleep in the
20 bed even if the sheets were wet?

21 A. Yeah. That was a punishment.

22 Q. Okay. And if the sheets were washed, who would wash
23 them?

24 A. Us. Me and [REDACTED]

25 Q. Okay. At paragraph --

1 A. When the guests -- when the place had guests in it, me
2 and [REDACTED] we had to get up early and do the
3 breakfast for them and get all that done for them, and
4 we would -- we would strip the beds and all that when
5 they left.

6 Q. And then who would wash that?

7 A. Us. We done it.

8 Q. Okay. Now, at paragraph 33 you talk about when you were
9 in that bed outside you weren't allowed to use the
10 inside bathroom?

11 A. Yeah, we weren't allowed to ever use the inside toilets
12 or bathrooms. We had to use the outside one.

13 Q. Okay, so you weren't ever allowed to use the inside?

14 A. The only time that I was allowed to use the bath was on
15 a punishment. I was put in hot baths, taken out, put in
16 a cold bath, then in a hot bath, then in a cold bath.
17 Naked. No clothes on. So that was the only memory
18 I have of having a bath. And I don't remember ever
19 getting in the bath. Ever. I don't remember anybody
20 ever washing my hair.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. It was just -- a bath was a punishment to me.

23 Q. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: Were those punishment baths something to do
25 with bed-wetting?

1 A. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know if it was
2 just -- I remember one time they accused me of stealing
3 my teacher's watch, so the punishment for that was the
4 hot baths. They wasn't cold, it was hot. And when it
5 was so hot, I just -- I said to him, "Right, I done it,
6 I done it". And then he said, "Where did you hide it?"
7 I says, "I'll take you to where I hid it". I took him
8 to this place not far from the school, but there was no
9 watch there because I didn't do it.

10 Then a few weeks later it turned out that someone
11 else at the school had done it. But I still got that,
12 it was just hot baths, hot baths. Usually it would be
13 a hot bath then a cold bath, but this time it was just
14 hot, hot, hot all the time, till I said to him, "Yeah,
15 I took it", just to stop the hot baths. But I never
16 took it. I said it to stop the baths. It was burning
17 me.

18 (Pause)

19 Q. Are you okay?

20 A. (Witness nods)

21 Q. Now, you mentioned "he". Who did this?

22 A. JCJ

23 Q. Was his mother there when this was going on?

24 A. Yeah. I mean, she wasn't there watching him doing the
25 baths with me, but she -- she knew it was going on. She

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 LADY SMITH: But same as before: if it's too much, just tell
3 me.

4 A. Thank you.

5 LADY SMITH: Right.

6 Ms Innes.

7 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

8 Now, 'Cameron', if we can go back to your statement,
9 please, at page 11 and paragraph 58. Now, it's blanked
10 out on the screen there but you'll be able to see it in
11 your own statement and your own copy. So I just want to
12 ask you, if it's okay, about this incident that you
13 describe here.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. You say that you remember one time seeing ^{JCJ} [REDACTED] grab
16 [REDACTED]

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And drag her out to the shed?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you know what had happened in advance of that or not?

21 A. I don't know what she done. I don't believe she did do
22 anything. And just out of the blue he came in, just
23 dragged her out to the shed. And I could hear her --
24 I could hear her crying. And when -- [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 So I heard her crying and I waited to see where he
2 was going and then I seen him taking her into the shed.
3 And I went out and I couldn't ... I couldn't have said
4 back then what he was trying to do, but I can say
5 it now.

6 He was trying to ...

7 LADY SMITH: You don't have to tell me the details. Was he
8 trying to hurt her?

9 A. Yes.

10 MS INNES: And you describe that in paragraph 59 of your
11 statement. We can see what you say, 'Cameron', about
12 that. And you say that you were -- you know, as you
13 said, you were crying yourself.

14 A. I was banging on the windows just to make him stop, but
15 he wouldn't stop. And I was screaming and just banging
16 on the shed windows. But he just -- he wouldn't stop.
17 And then I seen him turning round, and I don't know if
18 he saw me, but I seen him turn around, and I just ran
19 back into the house because I was scared if he saw me
20 I was going to get what she was getting, so I just ran
21 back into the house.

22 Q. Right. So we can see what you've told us in your
23 statement about that. And you also tell us in your
24 statement about many other incidents that happened. And
25 I think you talk about ^{JCJ} [REDACTED] hitting you with a belt,

1 and with other implements as well.

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. And you say that happened a lot?

4 A. All the time. All the time. And that didn't -- we

5 didn't have to do anything -- well, we didn't even know

6 when we were doing wrong or we were doing right, because

7 you got hit whatever. If you done right, you got hit.

8 If you did wrong, you got hit. So we just didn't know.

9 Half the time we'd be, "What did you hit me for?

10 I never done nothing".

11 Q. I'd just like to ask you about one more thing that

12 happened while you were there. If you're able to tell

13 us about that, that's fine. If you're not, it's in your

14 statement.

15 So you tell us about something that happened,

16 starting at paragraph 79 on page 16. So at paragraph 79

17 you talk about a thunderstorm.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And you say that you were -- were you sleeping outside

20 in this extension, lean-to thing, that was outside?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. And you said that you were frightened and you ran to the

23 kitchen. And what happened?

24 A. When I came back out, the door -- the door that we had

25 to use to get out to the outside toilet, or to where we

1 slept, it was a door where it had the glass at the top,
2 the wood and then the glass at the bottom. And the
3 bottom of the door would always stick.

4 This particular time I tried to open it where I put
5 my knee on the wooden part, but it wouldn't open. So
6 I put my knee on the glass part to push it open, and
7 I cracked the glass.

8 And he seen it. And he got the [REDACTED] of us together,
9 me and [REDACTED] and he was asking us
10 who'd done it. Of course we all denied -- I was denying
11 it as well, because we knew what was going to happen.
12 And then in the end, when he was threatening to beat
13 them, in the end I had to admit that I'd done it. And
14 that's when he ... That's when he stripped me naked and
15 beat me with a belt, bent me over a stool and beat me
16 with a belt.

17 Q. And again, you tell us about that in your statement, so
18 we can see what you've told us about that in your
19 statement. And you tell us, I think, that you went to
20 school the next day?

21 A. Yeah. And my teacher was asking me to do PE. And
22 I said to her, "I've been told I'm not allowed to do
23 it". And then she said, "Then you need a note", and
24 I said, "They didn't give me a note but they said I'm
25 not to do it".

1 And I think my teacher knew something was going on
2 there, but she -- like everybody, she just needed the
3 proof. And back then when we done PE, we didn't wear
4 shorts. It was like big -- I call them, if I can use
5 the phrase, granny knickers. They were big bloomers and
6 you had a coloured stripe up the side of them. That was
7 your PE kit.

8 And I said, "I haven't got my PE kit". She said,
9 "Get a spare one". And I had already spoke to my friend
10 what he'd done to me. And the teacher saw the bruising
11 and she asked me what it was, and I just said, "I fell.
12 I don't know how I got it. I fell."

13 Then next thing I know, this man's in the house
14 telling JCI [REDACTED] to get me to the doctor, because
15 he could see some of the bruises. He didn't see it all,
16 but he saw some of it. And he said to her, "You need to
17 get her to the doctor".

18 I don't remember going to the doctor about that.
19 I just remember next we were getting taken out of there.

20 Q. Okay.

21 Now, you tell us about that in your statement and we
22 see that in your records as well. I think you've seen
23 your records.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. I think we know that that happened in [REDACTED] 1968 and

1 you were moved in [REDACTED] 1968, so it was about

2 three weeks.

3 A. Yeah. It didn't feel like that. If felt like
4 a lifetime. It felt like months and months we were
5 still there. Because he was still beating us, even
6 though a professional had been in. He was still beating
7 us. It just went on.

8 Q. So although we know now from your records that was only
9 three weeks, to you at the time it felt like much
10 longer?

11 A. Yeah, yeah.

12 Q. Okay.

13 Now, you mentioned a moment ago that when your
14 teacher had initially asked you about what happened,
15 that you said that you fell. Are you able to explain
16 why you didn't feel able to tell your teacher what
17 had happened?

18 A. I was scared I was going to get more of that.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. We were always told not to tell, not to speak. We could
21 never -- but we were never left alone with people
22 anyway, where we could have had the chance to speak.
23 That just -- we were never ever -- even I remember my
24 father coming to visit us there and we weren't even left
25 alone with him. So you never got the opportunity.

1 Well, you wouldn't -- I think even if we'd had the
2 opportunity, I don't think we would have said anything,
3 because we were just too -- because we knew what we
4 would get.

5 And that day where -- I don't understand it now
6 still. You don't have to strip a child naked to hit
7 them with a belt. He could have done that with my
8 clothes on. But that's -- when he done that, we would
9 just ... I was scared to even breathe the wrong way
10 because I'd get it again. So you didn't say nothing
11 after that. No, no.

12 Q. So you remember some social workers or professionals,
13 you say, coming to the house, but you weren't left on
14 your own with them?

15 A. No, no. Either she was there, JCI [REDACTED] or her and
16 JCJ [REDACTED] would be there. Most of the time it was just
17 her. But there was a few times where he was there
18 as well.

19 Q. Okay. I think in terms of coming to -- you gave your
20 statement, I think, back in 2016 to the Inquiry. Are
21 you able to tell us how you felt, giving your statement
22 to the Inquiry and talking about the things that you set
23 out in your statement?

24 A. Brilliant. Brilliant. Even now, I'm still like: we're
25 allowed to talk. There's nobody at the back of me

1 slapping me. There's nobody standing there giving me
2 that look where I know I got to shut up now. Or you
3 were grilled, "This is what you have to say. If they
4 ask this question, this is your answer".

5 So yes, it feels good now. We can talk. And we're
6 not lying. And people are listening to us now. So
7 yeah, that's good, yeah. Yeah.

8 Q. I just have a few questions about, have you ever made
9 any claim through the courts about what happened to you,
10 against the City of Edinburgh Council or anything like
11 that?

12 A. No, no.

13 Q. Have you ever looked for compensation from

14 JCJ [REDACTED] ?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Would you want to?

17 A. Take his dirty money? No. No.

18 Q. Would an apology or an acknowledgement of what happened
19 to you from anyone --

20 A. Just being here and being able to talk about it to,
21 like, the way -- I don't know how to explain it. You're
22 higher up than a social worker. Does that make sense?
23 Or I don't know how to explain this, but --

24 LADY SMITH: I know what you're trying to say, yes.

25 A. What I mean is, like, we can talk to officials now, that

1 are like higher up than a social worker. So just that
2 is enough for me. Yeah, just that is enough for me,
3 that you know what went on in there. And like I say, we
4 are allowed to tell you now. We're allowed to talk
5 about it. So that -- that is enough for me.

6 MS INNES: And you tell us at the end of your statement on
7 paragraph 27 -- at paragraph 137, you talk there about
8 lessons that we should learn from your experience. And
9 you say:

10 "I would say, listen to them. Listen to children.
11 Hear them out and at least check out what they say."

12 A. Absolutely. Absolutely.

13 Q. You say:

14 "I'm not saying you should simply believe them. But
15 listen to them and check on what they say."

16 And you go on -- just going on here:

17 "Sometimes kids do tell lies, but an adult should be
18 able to look at a kid and know there is something wrong.
19 If you ask a child if they're all right and they say
20 'yes' but won't look you in the eye, you will know there
21 is something wrong."

22 So --

23 A. So my -- in my care file they say I was lashing out
24 a lot when I was young, and they referred to me as
25 a delinquent.

1 Today, if I was doing that today, people would be on
2 that, "No, there's something wrong there. There's
3 something wrong. We need to talk to her". They would
4 know by that behaviour something was wrong in that home.

5 But they just referred to me as being a delinquent,
6 because I lashed out a lot. Well, I'm crying out for
7 help! But they didn't ...

8 Q. So you're telling us that professionals should be able
9 to not only listen to children but also recognise the
10 signs when things are going wrong, and do something?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And I've had experience of that with
12 my grandchildren. One is severely autistic. And I've
13 seen that through him, some of his behaviours. And you
14 know he's not happy. Something's wrong. He's not
15 getting abused, not at all, I'm not saying that. But
16 you just know the little signs that something's wrong,
17 he's not happy, we need to sort something out for him,
18 put something in place for him.

19 You know, why is a child lashing out? There's
20 something wrong!

21 Q. Yes. So that's one of the things that you think we
22 should learn from your experience. I think you go on
23 again to say a similar thing at paragraph 139 where you
24 talk about that you've never had any faith in the system
25 and you say --

1 A. I haven't, no.

2 Q. And even today --

3 A. No, I still don't have faith in the system.

4 Q. Okay. You talk there about if a child is at risk, they
5 need to be seen, something needs to be done.

6 A. Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, because how are you going to
7 protect them if you're not going to listen to them or
8 look at the signs and wonder why is he acting like that?
9 If you -- I'm not a professional in any -- you know, I'm
10 not a professional. I'm not a social worker. I'm not
11 a doctor. But I do know, through caring for my
12 grandchildren, who I've got one that's special needs;
13 one's got severe autism. I know about working with
14 professionals with them. I know that when there's signs
15 there, please act on them. Could be nothing, but act to
16 them. Please act on them, because that child could be
17 suffering.

18 Q. Okay.

19 I'm going to stop asking you questions now,
20 'Cameron', if that's okay.

21 A. That's fine, yeah, that's fine.

22 Q. Are you okay with that?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You know that we have your statement, and everything
25 that you said in it is part of the evidence to the

1 Inquiry. Okay?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 MS INNES: There are no applications for questions either,
4 my Lady.

5 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications?
6 'Cameron', that completes all the questions we're
7 going to ask you today. I just want to thank you very
8 much for doing everything you've done to help the work
9 that we're doing here, both by providing your details --

10 A. Thank you for listening.

11 LADY SMITH: Oh, that's not difficult -- well, it's
12 difficult in that the content is difficult, but I know
13 that the effort and the emotional stress that goes into
14 giving evidence like you have done is far greater than
15 what we go through here. And I'm really grateful to you
16 for doing that, and for your reflections on what needs
17 to be thought about for the future when we're trying to
18 do better for children in care.

19 A. Yeah.

20 LADY SMITH: And not have them coming along to explain the
21 sort of things that you've explained to us today and
22 that you did before in your written statement.

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 LADY SMITH: So thank you so much for that. I hope you'll
25 be able to get some rest and respite for the rest of

1 to a placement in [REDACTED] Aberdeenshire from [REDACTED] 1955
2 to a date in 1962 which is either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
3 1962. The entry in the records is not clear which date
4 applies.

5 The only records which we have recovered are from
6 Stirling Council and so it's likely that they were the
7 responsible authority.

8 "My name is 'Sally'. I was born in 1947. My
9 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

10 I have four sisters and two brothers. The oldest
11 sister is five years older than me. Then there's my
12 second sister, who is three years older, and my third
13 sister, who was about two years older. She died when
14 she was young. After her, there is me, and then my
15 brother, who is about four years younger than me, and my
16 second brother, who is six years younger, and then my
17 youngest sister, who is nine years younger than me.

18 We stayed near Falkirk. It was a downstairs flat in
19 a four-in-a-block, with two bedrooms and a small kitchen
20 off the living room. The lady up the stair I think
21 looked after us a bit.

22 I remember my father was always drunk, fighting with
23 his brothers and beating up my mother. He was a pig.
24 He was a coal miner and spent his money on his drink and
25 his fags. He used to come home drunk and climb through

1 the window, and my third sister and I would let him in
2 our bed. He was always naked, but then none of us wore
3 pyjamas. He would put our legs between his legs to keep
4 us warm, although he never touched us sexually.

5 Our mother couldn't look after us properly. There
6 were too many of us for her to cope with. I later
7 learned that when I was just a baby my mother had been
8 pouring a cup of tea or something and she accidentally
9 poured it over my head. I still have the scars.

10 My father took a knife to my second sister once when
11 she was about seven. He'd asked her to go and get his
12 socks and she swore at him and told him to get them
13 himself. And he slashed her leg with a bread knife.

14 She was taken to the doctor, and although she
15 wouldn't say what had happened because she was scared,
16 the doctor knew what was going on.

17 We never had any toys or anything like that.
18 I never had socks on my feet, and there was never any
19 food in the house. We were always hungry. There was
20 never a fire and we would burn a little bit of paper
21 just to get a two-second heat.

22 I must have started school while I was still with my
23 parents, but I can't remember.

24 In 1952, when I was five years old, my older sisters
25 and I were taken away to a children's home. As far as

1 I remember, the lady up the stairs told us that our
2 father had sexually abused one of us. I don't know
3 which one, or how she thought that, only that it wasn't
4 me or my third sister.

5 My daughter has since got my records because
6 I wanted to find out why we were put in care. I didn't
7 want to think that my dad was a paedophile. The records
8 say that we were taken into care because we weren't
9 getting taken care of. It was pure neglect.

10 I remember us being taken somewhere but I can't
11 remember if it was a hospital or a court. All I have
12 a memory of is a big white room. Apparently we had been
13 taken to hospital at one time because my aunt had died
14 with TB and we had to be checked too. That's why
15 I think this big white room was a hospital. But I also
16 have a memory of a man asking me while we were there who
17 I wanted to stay with, and I said, 'My Daddy'.

18 The only time I remember there being any social
19 worker involved with us was on the night we left for the
20 children's home. Two social workers came into the house
21 for us, Ms Heron and Mr MacDonald.

22 I remember getting washed in the little corner sink
23 and being in my pants and my vest when my mum told
24 Mr MacDonald that they weren't going to take me. He
25 told my mother that they were taking all the girls and

1 that was it. Nobody explained what was happening or
2 where we were going.

3 My brothers stayed with our parents when we left.
4 One was just a baby at the time and slept in the bottom
5 drawer."

6 From paragraphs 15 to 50 'Sally' speaks of her
7 experiences in Whinwell children's home in Stirling.

8 Moving now to page 9, paragraph 51:

9 "We were at Whinwell Brae for over a year and in
10 1953 or 1954 we were moved into foster care in
11 Aberdeenshire. I don't know why we were moved or who
12 decided where we were going.

13 On the day we left Whinwell Brae, we were taken into
14 the dining room and there were sausages and eggs on
15 a hotplate for us. We were eating them when the two
16 social workers, Mr MacDonald and Ms Heron, came to pick
17 us up. We had never before been given food like that.
18 And if I remember correctly, the social workers sat at
19 the table and had their breakfast with us.

20 Mr MacDonald gave us all a present the day we were
21 leaving, and I got two coat hangers that were covered in
22 plastic. I don't remember what my sisters got. I kept
23 those coat hangers all my life, although they've since
24 been thrown away by someone.

25 After that, Mr MacDonald and Ms Heron drove my

1 sisters and me up to Aberdeen. My three older sisters
2 and I were all put in the car and told we were getting
3 taken to a place in the country, and that was it.

4 The foster home was in the middle of the country,
5 near [REDACTED] in Aberdeen.

6 It was just a little farmhouse with a bit of land,
7 where there were cows, geese, chickens, a cat and a dog.
8 There were also horses and sheep in the next fields,
9 although they didn't belong to us.

10 The people who fostered us were EHF [REDACTED] who
11 we called EHF [REDACTED] and her husband [REDACTED] who
12 we called [REDACTED]

13 I would think they would have been in their 40s.
14 She was a witch, but he was a nice man. It was like he
15 was lost, though, and he had an awful sad face all the
16 time. He didn't stick up for us. He couldn't even
17 stick up for himself.

18 EHF-SPO [REDACTED] were fostering other children when
19 we arrived, and more came and went over the years. When
20 we arrived there was a girl who was about 15, and a bit
21 handicapped. And there was another girl who was about
22 ten. The older girl was just a skivvy, treated like
23 a slave. But the younger girl had been with them since
24 she was six weeks old and she was treated like she was
25 EHF [REDACTED] own. EHF [REDACTED] made that quite plain.

1 There was also a boy there who had been fostered by
2 EHF before us. He had gone to the army, and
3 then he came back to live at the foster home. I'm not
4 sure what age he would have been when we arrived, maybe
5 about 18. He had red hair and a flattened nose.

6 Inside the house there was a kitchen, a sitting room
7 where we ate, four bedrooms and a bathroom. EHF-SPO
8 EHF-SPO had one of the bedrooms. My eldest sister and
9 the younger girl shared a room. The boy had his own
10 room. And my other sister and I and the older girl
11 shared a room.

12 I don't remember how I was feeling when we arrived
13 there, but I remember going in. As we drove up the
14 country road towards it, there was a little girl sitting
15 on a dyke by the side of the road swinging her legs. It
16 turned out she was the older girl.

17 We were taken inside, where there was another little
18 girl in the kitchen, baking. It turned out she was the
19 younger girl. The girls were given boiled egg and toast
20 to eat. EHF never offered us any. And now that
21 I'm an adult, I can't understand that. We'd been in
22 a car for three or four hours and she never offered us
23 anything to eat or drink.

24 I don't remember the social workers coming into the
25 house. I just remember standing in the doorway and

1 EHF saying, 'What a bonnie wee quine' to me.
2 I had to ask my sister what she meant because we didn't
3 know what a quine was.

4 I don't remember what happened after that. We were
5 probably shown to our rooms. There were two beds in my
6 bedroom. I shared a bed settee with my third sister,
7 and my second sister and the older girl shared a bed.
8 We didn't have a chest of drawers or wardrobe. Our
9 clothes were in a cardboard box under the bed that we
10 had to pull out. In her room, the younger girl had her
11 own wardrobe and her own chest of drawers.

12 We probably got up just after 7.00 am because school
13 was at 8.30 am. EHF would just come into the
14 room and shout that it was time to get up. As soon as
15 we got up, we had to say prayers at the bedside before
16 getting ourselves dressed. After that we all had to
17 take turns feeding the chickens and milking the cow, and
18 then we'd have breakfast.

19 Bedtime was 7.00 pm, summer and winter, every night,
20 even in the holidays. EHF would tell us it was
21 bedtime, and we had to get ourselves organised. We
22 never had pyjamas. We just wore pants and a vest.

23 We had our own milk there and our own cheese, butter
24 and vegetables, but we were never fed properly. We were
25 always hungry. I don't know what she did with all the

1 food because she never gave it to us. We all knew that
2 she got money for looking after us because we found the
3 books once. But it certainly wasn't spent on food.

4 Breakfast was normally just cereal. Sometimes there
5 was porridge that the older girl would make, and
6 sometimes it was brose, which is oatmeal with boiling
7 water. It's like porridge but it's not cooked. It's
8 disgusting.

9 On a Sunday we got broth to start with and then
10 boiled beef, boiled turnip and boiled potatoes and
11 carrots. That was fine. But usually during the week
12 we'd come home and get one sausage and one fried egg.
13 There was always a lot of watery soup and a lot of eggs,
14 and sometimes there might be a chicken on the table.
15 I was always given the neck of the chicken. That was
16 it.

17 If we were going to have chicken, she would tell the
18 older girl to go and grab one, and she would have to
19 kill it. It was traumatising to watch.

20 She used to bake as well, but we weren't allowed to
21 help. Only the younger girl could. I don't know what
22 happened to whatever they made, though. We never got
23 anything. They made jam as well, and we were allowed to
24 lick the pan, but that was all.

25 EHF [REDACTED] wore the same apron till the day she

1 died, and she kept a key in her pocket for the cupboard
2 where the biscuits were kept. In later years, my elder
3 sister's boyfriend at the time, who she eventually
4 married, would come to the house and give EHF [REDACTED]
5 a packet of chocolate biscuits. Those biscuits would go
6 in the cupboard, and the ones he'd brought the week
7 before would be brought out, although we never got them.
8 Then she'd lock the cupboard again and the key would go
9 back in her pocket.

10 We got a bath once a week on a Sunday. I don't
11 remember much about bath time, other than we shared the
12 water, and I think my third sister and I went in at the
13 same time. I do remember when my sisters were older and
14 working we had a Rayburn fire in the kitchen and there
15 would be pans of boiling water on it. So I don't think
16 we can have had hot running water. The younger girl
17 always got her bath first and the rest of us were told
18 by EHF [REDACTED] to wait until she's finished.

19 Otherwise, during the week we just washed our hands
20 and face ourselves. And we never had a toothbrush.

21 EHF [REDACTED] never took us to the dentist. We had to
22 go to the dentist at school. I was petrified of him.
23 I remember when I was about 14 he accidentally went into
24 my gum. And I've hardly been to a dentist since.

25 The local doctor was in [REDACTED] but we never went.

1 After my eldest sister left, she went to the doctor, and
2 was diagnosed as malnourished. One time when I was
3 about 12 I accidentally got a wasp in my mouth and it
4 stung me so badly that my tongue was all swollen.
5 I told EHF and she made me bike to the doctor
6 myself to get some sort of tablet.

7 When I reached puberty I was put in the bathroom
8 with my third sister with a big pad, and EHF
9 told me my sister would show me what to do. The pad was
10 so big that I had to tie it in a knot. It was
11 a disgrace. I think we got one pad a day if we were
12 lucky. So we sometimes just had to fold up newspaper,
13 or toilet roll if we were at school, because we never
14 had toilet roll at home.

15 EHF was just lazy. She did nothing. We
16 girls had to do everything. We had to muck the byre
17 out, milk the cow and scrub the kitchen floor. The
18 bread bin and a pail were kept under a unit, and we used
19 to just wipe round about it. But EHF would come
20 in, lift the pail and see we hadn't done it and make us
21 start again. Our knees were sore with cleaning the
22 kitchen floor.

23 We had to go down to a well and pump our own water
24 and carry it up a big hill back to the house. One time
25 when I went, the pump had gone dry and a cow had a pee

1 in the pool of water, but I just had to take it anyway
2 and boil it when I got back.

3 In the winter, a Tilley lamp had to be put in with
4 the hens to keep them warm. We all took turns to do it,
5 but it was a scary experience when you're just eight or
6 nine years old. We had to walk across the fields to the
7 henhouse in the dark, put the lamp inside and then bolt
8 back to the house.

9 I remember one time one of the cows tried to attack
10 me, and I was screaming, but none of them helped me over
11 the wall out of the field.

12 We hardly had any clothes, although what we wore
13 wasn't second-hand. Every year we got a grant for
14 clothes to last us the whole year, and we would go to
15 Skinners shop in [REDACTED] We were always excited, but it
16 was all school uniform stuff we got. We never got any
17 of the other clothes. They were put in a chest.
18 I don't know what happened to them all. EHF [REDACTED]
19 must have sold them.

20 We didn't have socks or pyjamas, and we were only
21 given one pair of pants for a whole week. I used to get
22 called 'Pishy' at school because I was still wetting the
23 bed and had to go to school with wet pants on.

24 We wore Wellington boots all the time, and because
25 we never had socks on I had a red ring around my legs

1 with them constantly rubbing.

2 We changed our clothes every Sunday and all of us
3 kids, except the younger girl, had to wash them, along
4 with all the sheets. All of us would kind of work as
5 a team, using a washboard in two big sinks and hanging
6 everything out.

7 Recently I looked back at photos of my time there,
8 and in one I was wearing a little dress with a frill.
9 I've no idea where that came from, but perhaps it was
10 one I was given to wear when the social workers came.

11 We all cycled two miles to school in the morning and
12 then back for lunch for a plate of watery soup before
13 cycling back afterwards. EHF [REDACTED] was always in her
14 bed when we left for school in the morning and when we
15 came back in the afternoon.

16 The schools were [REDACTED] Primary and then [REDACTED]
17 Academy, but I didn't get on very well at school.
18 I wasn't clever and I was just left in a corner to
19 please myself. One time I copied somebody else's work,
20 and the teacher knew I'd been cheating but he didn't do
21 anything. EHF [REDACTED] never helped either. She never
22 did homework with us.

23 I left school when I was 14 and a half, but I didn't
24 have any qualifications.

25 On a Sunday morning we'd get up and say our prayers

1 and then have to walk two miles to church for Sunday
2 School. Then we'd come home and walk two miles back to
3 the church for the service. It was always [REDACTED] that
4 went with us. EHF [REDACTED] never did.

5 We were never allowed to go to friends' houses or
6 anything like that. We weren't allowed to leave the
7 place. Even going to the end of the street was enough
8 to get a hiding from EHF [REDACTED] We were never allowed
9 to have friends over either.

10 Our playroom was outside. The foster boy used to
11 play cricket and had a ball, so we would play cricket
12 with him. There was also an old cooker and an old
13 frying pan in the yard outside and we would pretend to
14 cook with them. There were no toys, just two dolls, and
15 they were the younger girl's. I never got to play
16 with them.

17 We got to dance on a Friday night. Country music
18 would be put on and EHF [REDACTED] would play darts in the
19 living room.

20 We never celebrated a birthday. I never even knew
21 when my birthday was. At Christmas we got a tangerine,
22 an apple and a lump of coal. Christmas was just another
23 day.

24 We all had a bank account that we had to put
25 sixpence in every week. Years later, when EHF [REDACTED]

1 died, we went to get our accounts, but there was nothing
2 in them. EHF had been keeping the money
3 herself.

4 The only trip we had was once a year when we went on
5 the Sunday school picnic on a bus. We were given a bag
6 of goodies, with cake and things, but I don't remember
7 much else about those trips.

8 When I was nine, EHF told my eldest sister,
9 who then told me, that we had a baby sister. Up to then
10 I never even knew I had another mother. She was never
11 spoken about and I never saw her.

12 had family in Inverurie and they used to
13 come out in a car in summertime. They were nice,
14 although one auntie wasn't a very nice woman. I found
15 some photos of when they came, and I'm actually smiling,
16 so I must have been having a good day that day.

17 Our social workers came every year, and we knew when
18 they were coming. We always had to put on a nice dress,
19 and we would sit under the big tree in the garden and
20 have a glass of lemonade. Whenever that happened, sure
21 as anything, we would see the black car coming over the
22 hill. As far as I remember, it was always the two of
23 them, Mr MacDonald and Ms Heron.

24 The visit was always staged and we were always made
25 to play happy families. We would be kicked under the

1 table and warned by EHF to say nothing. And she
2 was always there. We never got to speak to them on our
3 own. I can't remember what sort of questions the social
4 workers asked.

5 The social workers were nice people, but I could
6 never have spoken to them about how EHF was
7 treating us, even if we had been given time on our own.
8 I would have been too afraid of getting a hiding
9 afterwards. I don't think I could have been confident
10 that if I had spoken with them it wouldn't have got back
11 to EHF

12 A lady who lived half a mile down the road, who had
13 two sons of her own, wanted to take me and my third
14 sister. But the social workers wanted us all kept
15 together. I know that if we had gone we would have had
16 a lot of happy memories, because she was a nice person.

17 EHF was an evil woman. She beat us the
18 whole time I was there, and never showed us any
19 affection. She never gave me a kiss or a cuddle.
20 I don't remember this, but my eldest sister told me that
21 we always had to give EHF a kiss before we left
22 the house.

23 We wanted a dog, but she wouldn't let us have one.
24 However, the next thing, the younger girl came in with
25 a dog on a lead. That dog was tied to a chair its whole

1 life and all it got to eat was saps, the same as what we
2 got. The poor dog died eventually with rabies.

3 I ran away quite a few times when EHF was
4 being bad to me. I never went far, just to the top of
5 the hill. And I knew she would come and get me, but
6 I just had to get away sometimes. She seemed to pick on
7 me all the time and I was unhappy a lot.

8 I played truant from secondary school once when
9 I was about 14. It was the best day of my life. I sat
10 in another girl's house and we had a laugh. I knew
11 I would get a hiding when I got home, but
12 I wasn't bothered.

13 I wet the bed a lot until I was 14, although I'm not
14 sure how often. When I did, I used to have to lie in
15 it, because if I told EHF I would have got
16 a hiding. I had to try and find myself a bit of the bed
17 that wasn't wet and cold.

18 EHF would give us hidings for nothing at
19 all. And every time, after she did, she would give us
20 a Rich Tea biscuit. I think she picked on me because
21 I was the youngest. She was an evil woman. She never
22 hit the younger girl or my eldest sister, because she
23 was quite quiet. But she did hit the others too, and
24 she was always hitting me. She was really coarse to the
25 older girl as well.

1 She would hit us anywhere she could: on the head,
2 the backside or the body, and she would use whatever she
3 could get her hands on. It might be a belt, a shoe or
4 a slipper, anything at all. And if she couldn't put her
5 hands on anything she would slap us with her open hand
6 on the head. If you said something she didn't like, she
7 would pick something up and throw it at you.

8 The older girl used to go with a boy. And one day
9 when I was still small she took me to a farm nearby to
10 meet him. We sat on the grass at the roadside with him,
11 when EHF [REDACTED] came along the road raving and
12 shouting. She took me home and, when we got there, hit
13 me so hard across the head with her hand that I fell
14 over and hit my head on the cast iron bath. I actually
15 saw stars. I never lost consciousness, but I had
16 a really sore head afterwards.

17 One day during the school holidays when I was in
18 Primary 7, EHF [REDACTED] hit me on the head with
19 a high-heeled shoe. She hit me so hard that she made
20 a hole in my head, which I've still got to this day.
21 I remember having a scab afterwards that covered almost
22 all of my head. I think I'd maybe been picking the scab
23 and it grew. And I remember the doctor coming in.
24 I don't know why he didn't report it, but he didn't.

25 The doctor told me he was going to cut the scab off,

1 and got a pair of scissors and told me to tell him when
2 the scissors were touching my scalp. The doctor told me
3 I had wet eczema. But it wasn't. I know it was started
4 by getting hit with that shoe. The doctor cut off all
5 my hair, and I had to wear a pixie hat afterwards.
6 I can't remember the doctor's name but he gave me
7 a sixpence for being a brave girl.

8 As soon as he left, EHF [REDACTED] took the sixpence
9 off me and I never got it.

10 When I went back to school, the teacher, who wasn't
11 a nice person either, took off my hat and showed the
12 rest of the class my head. I don't remember the
13 teacher's name, just that it was one of two women.
14 I had a note from the doctor that I was to hand to the
15 teacher that said my hat wasn't to be removed at any
16 time. But she did anyway, just to humiliate me. I ran
17 away from the school and went home. But as soon as
18 I got home, EHF [REDACTED] put me back to the school.

19 As a punishment, EHF [REDACTED] would put us out in the
20 snow without shoes on. It wasn't just for a minute. We
21 were outside for a long time. I had chilblains until
22 I was a teenager.

23 One day I was in the garage getting my bike, after
24 I'd been cheeky to EHF [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was shouting
25 to me, telling me that she wouldn't touch me. So I went

1 out, but she gave me another hiding.

2 The foster boy lost his temper quite a lot. I would
3 sit next to him to do my homework, but I couldn't
4 concentrate because I knew he would give me a slap. He
5 also used to play cards. And when I was about ten I had
6 to sit with the cards on a tray across my knees. He
7 started putting his hand up my skirt. And the second
8 time he did it, I told my eldest sister, who then told
9 EHF [REDACTED], but she did nothing about it. He just said
10 that I was enjoying it. But I was only a child.
11 I don't know if he did that to any of the others.

12 Towards the end of my time there, my eldest sister
13 got married and had left home. My second sister was
14 leaving because she had got engaged to a guy in [REDACTED],
15 and my third sister was also engaged and was working.
16 So I was the only child EHF [REDACTED] was getting paid
17 for.

18 She said that if the others were leaving, we could
19 all go. We were just money-making machines for her.
20 That was it. When the money stopped, she wasn't
21 interested in us.

22 My second sister said that she was going back to
23 stay with our mother, so EHF [REDACTED] told us we could
24 all go. And the three of us went to live with our
25 mother in Falkirk.

1 I hadn't had any contact with our mother before
2 that, but we all went there anyway. The social workers
3 weren't involved at all and I don't know if they even
4 knew.

5 When we arrived at our mother's, there were two
6 women on the stairs. One of them was at the bottom and
7 the other was at the top. I remember thinking that
8 I hoped the one at the bottom of the stair wasn't my
9 mother. She was an old, poor and ill-looking woman,
10 even though she must have only been around 40. It
11 turned out she was our mother. And she never even gave
12 us a kiss when she saw us.

13 Life there was just awful. We never got fed and our
14 mother was really bad to us. She was on her own. Our
15 father had left by then. And we weren't getting fed or
16 treated properly at all. After a time, my second and
17 third sisters decided they wanted to go back to
18 Aberdeen, so I was left on my own. And I was treated
19 like dirt.

20 I went to school in Falkirk for six months and left
21 school with no qualifications at 15.

22 About that time I got myself a little whippet dog,
23 and she became pregnant to an Alsatian. I came home one
24 day and my mother was flushing the pups down the toilet.
25 She drowned them all. She wasn't an evil person, but

1 she probably wondered how she could feed the pups when
2 she couldn't feed her children.

3 Our mother had three other children after me: two
4 boys and a girl. My older brother was her favourite.
5 He didn't like me because he thought I was taking over
6 his role.

7 I got a job as an auxiliary nurse in a hospital for
8 the handicapped in Larbert. And when I was about 16 my
9 mother threw me out. I went to live with a friend and
10 her mother, who lived along the road. And for the first
11 time I was fed properly.

12 After a while I went back up to Aberdeen and lived
13 with my second sister. I stayed there for about a year
14 before I got my own flat in Aberdeen and shared with
15 a friend.

16 I met my husband and we got married when I was 19.
17 We had a daughter, and then I had a miscarriage, and
18 then we had another daughter, but she died. I couldn't
19 have any more children so I decided I was going to
20 become a foster carer and I was going to make a better
21 job of it than EHF did.

22 I've now been married for 53 years and fostered
23 about a hundred children. We only recently retired from
24 fostering.

25 [REDACTED] died a long time ago, and I kept on seeing

1 EHF until the day she died about 20 years ago.
2 That was the hold she had on me, even though she had
3 treated me the way she had. I went back and forward to
4 see her, and I took my daughter to see her as well.
5 I think I felt obligated to go and see her. And
6 although I would have liked to have spoken to her about
7 how she treated me as a kid, I just couldn't.

8 My sisters and I kept in touch with our mother and
9 after a while she gave up her house in Falkirk and
10 stayed with all of us in Aberdeen for a while. When she
11 stayed with me, that was the first time I started to get
12 to know her. Eventually I actually got on quite well
13 with her.

14 I wanted to meet our dad. And when I was 21 I tried
15 to trace him through various places. Eventually I found
16 him in Peterborough, and by that time he had remarried
17 and had two children. He came up to Aberdeen to see us.
18 But he died a long time ago. I couldn't think of him as
19 my father, though. My dad was because he had
20 brought me up.

21 I think about my time in care all the time. It's
22 worse at night when I'm lying in bed trying to get to
23 sleep. It's the same things that come into my head all
24 the time, and they won't go away. I wish I could put my
25 head down at night and not think about it and not

1 remember all the bad things.

2 I can get a bit anxious, and I'm a nervous person,
3 which may have come from living in fear as a child.
4 I try to crack jokes, but it's just me putting a face
5 on things.

6 I'm certain that my education was affected. I could
7 never relax and I was never able to enjoy school or my
8 homework. If the foster boy was there, I was always
9 waiting on a slap and I could never concentrate.

10 I don't believe in God. I always think, if there
11 was a God, why would he let these children suffer? Why
12 would there be people like EHF treating children
13 so badly?

14 I am quite a chatty person, but I don't have many
15 friends. Those friends I do have, I have known
16 for years.

17 I know what it's like to be the outcast, and I've
18 a lot of empathy for people. That's why I went into
19 fostering, because of the way I was treated by EHF

20 EHF There is a need for foster carers and I wanted to
21 be better than her.

22 It wasn't straightforward, becoming a foster carer.
23 I think it took about six months for the whole thing to
24 go through. They were thorough, and we had to provide
25 references. At the time we started, we lived in a top

1 floor flat and we didn't have a telephone, a TV or
2 a car. All we had were the basics.

3 The first child we had was after I saw an advert in
4 a local paper looking for a foster home for
5 a 12-year-old girl. I went to the phone box at the
6 bottom of the street and a few days later a social
7 worker, Nan Cleveland, came up to the flat to visit us.

8 My husband had been in jail when he was young, and
9 Nan asked if either of us had a criminal record. I told
10 her about my husband, but she said she already knew and
11 she told us we were right to be honest.

12 Six couples had put in to foster the girl but we got
13 her. And she was a lovely girl. She stayed a while,
14 but in those days the parents were always given lots of
15 chances and eventually she went back to live with her
16 mother.

17 After her, we went on to foster a boy and a girl,
18 who we ended up adopting. We only had two bedrooms in
19 the flat, and the boy was ten, so we had to get a bigger
20 house, and the council gave us one.

21 We continued fostering for just under 40 years, and
22 did emergency care too. At one time we were looking
23 after six children at the same time, although that
24 wouldn't happen now.

25 At first we were called foster parents. Then they

1 changed it to foster carers. And now they've changed it
2 back to foster parents. To me, that's right, because
3 you are a parent to those children. When we first
4 started fostering, we got £25 a month for looking after
5 a child. I never had a bank account so I had to go to
6 the butcher, who would only cash it for me if I bought
7 meat from him.

8 It's changed now so that you get a pay for yourself
9 of £400 a fortnight, and you also get £400 which is the
10 child's money. I think it goes up when a child gets
11 into their teens. Once the child gets to 16, you don't
12 get any money. However, some of my children stayed on
13 anyway. One was with us until he was 21, although we
14 did get an allowance for him under the longer
15 looked-after children scheme.

16 The social workers were never away from the door.
17 They would do spot checks and announced visits. And
18 I remember one day the head of the department came.
19 We'd known she was coming in advance. And she asked me
20 if our house was always this tidy. But I told her it
21 wasn't, I tidied for her coming. You can't have a tidy
22 house if you've got lots of children.

23 More recently we had to do 30 hours of training
24 every year, about all sorts of things, including sex
25 abuse and drug abuse.

1 We had our own social worker, Audrey Shearer, who
2 was a really nice lady. And every child that came to us
3 had their own social worker too. The two sets of social
4 workers would be together at the looked-after children
5 reviews, which my husband and I would go to as well.

6 There were lots of other meetings I had to go to,
7 including the children's panels, or if there were any
8 problems to be discussed. In fact, there were far too
9 many meetings for the silliest of things that could have
10 been sorted out with a phone call. A lot of time is
11 wasted in meetings.

12 When a child was on a placement with us, their
13 social worker would phone and say that they were coming
14 and they would either take the child out for something
15 to eat or sit in the garden. I would ask the child's
16 permission if they wanted me to be there. And some said
17 they did want me there, some said they didn't.

18 I can't say that I always felt supported. One child
19 told her social worker that she was scared of my husband
20 because he had fallen out with her after she misbehaved.
21 The girl told her social worker that he had shouted at
22 her. So she and a boy we were also looking after were
23 removed from our care that day. There was
24 an investigation, although the police weren't involved,
25 and we were without children for a whole year.

1 Eventually we were allowed to look after children again
2 and we put that behind us, although when we were asked
3 if we would consider taking the girl back, we refused.

4 We had our last boy for 14 years. One year, he had
5 four different social workers. He never had the support
6 from one steady social worker. And I think that upsets
7 children a bit.

8 One thing my husband and I used to complain about
9 was when a child would arrive at the door with no
10 information about them. One boy used to set fires, but
11 we weren't told anything about that. I like to meet the
12 parents if I can. And we have actually had parents
13 staying overnight. I think that if you have
14 a relationship with the parents, it helps in looking
15 after the child.

16 My saying is that if you've room in your home and
17 room in your heart, you can take a child. It's strange,
18 now that I've retired from fostering, and I'm actually
19 regretting retiring, and I'm missing it. I'm finding it
20 hard to cook a meal and shop for two.

21 I've never had any treatment or counselling about my
22 experiences as a child. I tend to just get on with
23 things myself. I do get down sometimes, but I go to my
24 bed, shut my curtains and stay there until I feel
25 better. It doesn't happen often.

1 I have never spoken to anyone about what happened to
2 me in care. I've tried to put it behind me, and I never
3 wanted to report it.

4 My daughter contacted Stirling Council about a year
5 ago to get my records. She went to the social work
6 offices in Falkirk first, and she was told to go to
7 Stirling because they held the records. There was
8 nothing in them, though, just a bit of paper, that was
9 a court order showing the reasons we were put into
10 Whinwell Brae, the date and our ages.

11 My sisters' names were blacked out. And that was
12 all there was. 'Neglect' was the word they used. But
13 that was it. There were no logbooks or anything like
14 that. I think it's an absolute disgrace that that's all
15 there was.

16 My eldest sister has a book that EHF kept to
17 show the social workers, although I've not seen it. My
18 sister found it in her belongings when she died.
19 Seemingly it says that we each had a room to ourselves
20 and things like that. It was all lies.

21 Just because we were in the country and the social
22 workers were a distance away shouldn't matter. The
23 social work should have been coming to visit us more
24 often, and we should have been allowed to see our social
25 workers to tell them what was going on. Having said

1 that, the fear of EHF finding out and giving us
2 a hiding might have put us off telling them anything.

3 Children need to have somebody they know is safe for
4 them to speak to. If we had known it was safe to speak
5 to our social workers and that they wouldn't speak to
6 EHF there and then, we might have had the
7 confidence to speak out.

8 If someone goes into foster care, they should do so
9 for the right reasons, which are to look after children
10 and give them the best care that they can. Care that
11 they didn't have with their own parents. Children
12 should be shown that they can have a good life.

13 There needs to be much better information provided
14 to foster carers, so that they know of any issues there
15 might be with any of the children they are asked to look
16 after.

17 One child we looked after lived just across the road
18 from us, although we didn't know it at the time. It was
19 only when the child's father came to our door, shouting
20 and swearing at us, that we found out. There needs to
21 be proper checks done and the right amount of
22 information needs to be shared.

23 I was awful fond of the older girl, the little
24 handicapped girl who was also fostered, and we stayed in
25 touch. She just died in 2020.

1 I found out that the sister of one of the kids I was
2 fostering was in a home in Stirling. And I got so
3 excited because I thought it might have been
4 [REDACTED]. But it wasn't. I was disappointed,
5 because although it would have been emotional I would
6 have liked to have seen it again.

7 I don't have a lot of good memories of my childhood,
8 but the foster home at [REDACTED] was where I grew up, and
9 I have been back there. I wanted to take my
10 grandchildren and show them where I used to play. The
11 couple that stay there now let me in the house, and
12 I was amazed at what a small building it was. When
13 I was little, I'd thought it was huge.

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

18 And the statement was signed by 'Sally' on 14 June
19 2021.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

21 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I think we have time for further --

22 LADY SMITH: Yes, certainly, let's go on.

23 'Betty' (read)

24 MS INNES: My Lady the next statement that we are going to
25 read in has the reference WIT.001.001.4523, and this

1 witness is using the pseudonym 'Betty'.

2 She was in the care of Dundee Corporation. She was
3 placed in the care of two sets of foster parents in Fife
4 but Dundee remained responsible for her care. Dundee
5 City Council is accordingly the relevant successor.

6 'Betty's' first foster placement commenced on
7 [REDACTED] 1961 and she stayed there until she was moved
8 to the second foster placement on [REDACTED] 1962, and
9 she left there on [REDACTED] 1962.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.)

11 MS INNES: "My name is 'Betty'. My date of birth is [REDACTED]
12 1953. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

13 I lived with my mother and siblings at Douglas,
14 Dundee. I had six brothers in total, four older and two
15 younger than me. My father was in the Merchant Navy and
16 so he was not at home very much. I was much closer to
17 my father than my mother. He had always wanted a girl.
18 I think that is why my mother hated me.

19 Whilst I was living at home with my mum, I went to
20 Douglas Primary School. Some of us, including me, then
21 went to Powney Primary School. I had been to two
22 primary schools by the age of six.

23 At home we were left to our own devices a lot. My
24 mother and father fought a lot. My father drank. When
25 we didn't have enough money to pay the bills, the

1 electricity was switched off. In the winter we would
2 bring down the bed to the living room. We would all
3 sleep in the bed with our coats on.

4 We were not fed regularly. Meals were not
5 guaranteed. Sometimes we would just get a piece and jam
6 for dinner. To me that was just childhood. A lot of
7 people lived like that. I remember my mother going away
8 quite a lot.

9 I remember a black mariaah coming to the door.
10 A 'black mariaah' was what we used to call the police
11 vans back then. I was taken to a children's shelter
12 along with my siblings. It was late at night, and dark
13 outside. I can't remember if it was winter dark or
14 summer dark. I was six years old. I didn't know what
15 was going on. There was no explanation from anyone.

16 I don't remember there being any social workers
17 there but I would imagine there would have been. I only
18 remember the black mariaah and the police. It was quite
19 scary.

20 We didn't all go together to the same place. One of
21 my older brothers went to somewhere in Aberdeen. I went
22 to Laurel Bank children's shelter with four of my
23 brothers."

24 Moving on to the bottom of page 6 and paragraph 33.
25 There 'Betty' talks about matron telling her and her two

1 brothers that they were going somewhere. She thinks
2 they said foster care.

3 "We did not meet the foster parents before we were
4 taken to their home. There were no social workers there
5 that I can remember.

6 We were driven for what seemed like ages in a car.
7 It felt like we were going to the other side of the
8 planet, but it was only to Cupar in Fife. It was me and
9 my two brothers.

10 There were no issues when we were at our first
11 foster placement. The family were all good to us. The
12 foster parents had two grown-up sons and a grandfather
13 living with them. I had never had a lot of dealings
14 with my grandparents, so it was like having my own
15 granddad. He was a nice old man and the couple were
16 good people.

17 When we came home from school we always felt welcome
18 in their home. We never felt different. We were
19 treated as part of the family. I remember when the
20 first episode of Coronation Street was aired on
21 television. We were allowed to stay up and watch it
22 with them.

23 One of my brothers didn't stay long. I think he
24 became of an age where he had to leave care. He went
25 somewhere else. I don't know why. I just assumed it

1 was because he was older. He might have been about 14
2 or 15 years old when he left.

3 I can't remember which school we went to at the
4 first foster parents. It could have been the same
5 school, Castlehill Primary, that we went to at the
6 second foster placement, but I don't know.

7 We did have visits from the social work department
8 during our first foster placement. They came to see how
9 we were doing and to check that everything was okay.
10 I can't remember a lot about what happened during the
11 social work visits.

12 The first foster family were so nice, but we didn't
13 stay there long. We were with them for perhaps six
14 months to a year. Someone in the family had
15 tuberculosis. I used to think it was our fault that
16 they had got TB, because we used to play at the rubbish
17 dumps. We weren't checked, so we had to go back to
18 Dundee to get tested and inoculated. Nobody explained
19 what TB was. I was upset to be leaving them. I never
20 saw them again after leaving.

21 It was just one of my brothers and I that moved to
22 the second foster placement. We were taken directly
23 from one foster placement to the second foster
24 placement. The second foster carers lived in Cupar in
25 Fife as well.

1 The second foster placement was totally different.
2 They had their own young family that were at the same
3 school as us. The parents were in their 30s. They were
4 a younger couple than the first foster parents. They
5 had a daughter and a son. We did not stay with them
6 that long, maybe four or five months. I can't remember
7 their names.

8 We were made to feel different from the outset. We
9 did not feel part of the family. Nothing physical ever
10 happened to us, but we did not feel welcome. We were
11 always getting into trouble for things when the other
12 children wouldn't. It was scary.

13 Looking back as an adult, I think the foster parents
14 must have done the fostering for the money. It felt
15 like they didn't want us kids around.

16 We did the dishes after everyone had finished
17 eating. It was like we had rules but their own children
18 didn't. It felt like we were dogsbodies half the time.
19 It did not feel good.

20 When we had meals, the foster family and the
21 children would eat in the living room. We would have to
22 eat our meals separately in the kitchen with the door
23 closed. It was like, 'this is where we eat; this is
24 where you eat'.

25 The second foster parents did take us for clothes.

1 I'm not really one for shopping for clothes. Even now
2 I hate it.

3 The only thing I remember about clothes at the
4 second placement was an underskirt of netting. I got up
5 in the middle of the night to try it on and I put my
6 foot right through it. I was terrified of telling the
7 foster mother what had happened. I ripped out the bit
8 of netting and stuffed it down the back of the wardrobe.
9 I remember being terrified of her.

10 I shared a room with the foster parents' daughter.
11 My brother shared a room with the foster parents' son.
12 The daughter was the same sort of age as me. She was
13 maybe a bit older. She was at the same primary school
14 with me. I remember not being allowed to touch her
15 toys. I had to have my own toys and not play with hers.
16 It felt as though we were different. I remember going
17 to bed crying.

18 The foster mother would run me a bath, and that was
19 it. She did not help me wash or anything. I was able
20 to lock the door, so that was good.

21 We went to Castlehill Primary School in Cupar.
22 I didn't play with the foster parents' daughter
23 at school.

24 We did have social work visits. When we saw the
25 social worker, the foster parents were always there.

1 I think we did see the social worker once or twice
2 without the foster parents being present. I was too
3 scared to say anything to anyone. It was just the norm.

4 I never had contact from my mother or father when we
5 were in foster care.

6 I can't remember if I had a birthday at the second
7 foster placement.

8 There was no physical chastisement that I remember.
9 It was just verbal. It was such a vicious type of
10 abuse. I remember being made to feel different and not
11 welcome. I used to get into trouble a lot. It was
12 always for stupid things. I used to wonder why the
13 foster parents' daughter never got into trouble. She
14 used to do naughty things but I would get the blame for
15 it.

16 I was never able to explain. The foster parents
17 didn't want to know. I would get a row or denied pocket
18 money. Sometimes I would be called a name like
19 'little bitch'.

20 My brother was a little bit older than me. He just
21 got on with people and behaved himself as he didn't want
22 to get into trouble.

23 I was glad when we left. We were just moved on from
24 our second foster placement. I don't know why. I can't
25 remember anyone telling us. One day we came home from

1 school and our bags were packed. We were told that the
2 social worker was coming to pick us up. That is all
3 I remember. I was eight or maybe nine years old.
4 I think I was nine when I arrived at Roineach Mhor."

5 'Betty' then spent time in Roineach Mhor and
6 Strathcarron Children's Home, and describes that in the
7 following paragraphs.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MS INNES: Moving on to page 23, and at paragraph 108:

10 "I left the home when I was 14. I went to live with
11 my mum. She still didn't have room for me so my brother
12 had to move into a room with my other brothers. My
13 mother slept in the living room with my stepfather.
14 I had a room to myself.

15 I did not stay with my mother long. I was living in
16 a bedsit on my own when I was 15. It was on the [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] It was student accommodation and just a room.
18 I had started working at the time but I was short of
19 money. If I didn't have enough money to put in the gas
20 meter, I just went to bed."

21 'Betty' then goes on in the following paragraphs to
22 tell of her life after care. At paragraph 113 she says
23 that she met her second husband [REDACTED] in 1972 or 1973 when
24 she was 20.

25 Moving on to paragraph 116 on page 24 she says:

1 "I am still married to my second husband. We have
2 three grown-up children. I have a daughter who lives
3 just around the corner from us. My other daughter lives
4 in Dundee as well. And my eldest son lives in Aberdeen.
5 I have nine grandchildren. We have full-time care of
6 one of our grandchildren. We contained a kinship order
7 to look after him five years ago."

8 From paragraphs 117 to 119 'Betty' describes the
9 effect her time in care and the abuse she experienced
10 had affected her adult relationships. At the bottom of
11 this page, at paragraphs 120 to 123, 'Betty' describes
12 the impact on her physical health of her time in care.

13 Moving on to page 26 and paragraph 124, 'Betty'
14 says:

15 "I have had so many jobs, because things would just
16 get too much. I would have to leave because
17 I wasn't coping."

18 'Betty' then describes an incident at work when she
19 mentioned that her arms were getting really sore from
20 lifting big boxes onto shelves. One of the staff said,
21 "'Betty', you would be as well not being here."

22 Moving on to page 27 and paragraph 129:

23 "That incident happened eight years ago. Everything
24 from my past just all of a sudden came to a head. Even
25 now when I can't cope with something, I just have to

1 leave. Not take time off. I have to leave. I've done
2 it all my life. That's why I have had so many jobs.

3 I have had many breakdowns because I have not been
4 able to cope. If it wasn't for my husband, I wouldn't
5 still be here. It has been hard for him. He had to
6 give up work to care for me. I receive disability
7 benefits and my husband gets a carer's allowance. It
8 was tough for him because he has always worked."

9 From paragraphs 131 to 133, 'Betty' describes the
10 difficulties she has experienced and the treatment she
11 has received.

12 On page 28 at paragraph 134, 'Betty' describes the
13 difficulties that she has faced in forming friendships.

14 Moving on to page 29 and paragraph 136:

15 "I haven't seen my brother in years. When he got
16 married, his one stipulation to his wife was that he
17 would only get married if they never had kids. They
18 never did. I've only seen them once since they got
19 married many years ago. I think I was 15 at the time.
20 My brother doesn't want to have anything to do with his
21 family, his brothers, me, anybody. It's like his past
22 doesn't exist.

23 I am still in touch with my eldest brother. We go
24 for coffee once a month. He has Parkinson's. He is the
25 only one I keep in touch with. My siblings are all

1 splintered all over the place. Another brother is in
2 prison just now. It is the second time."

3 From paragraphs 138 to 145, 'Betty' describes
4 difficulties in her relationship with her mother.
5 Moving on to page 31 at paragraph 146:

6 "Sometimes I can't sleep at night. It is the
7 memories. They flood in at nighttime. Sometimes
8 I can't go to sleep at all. I am prescribed tablets.
9 They are supposed to be fact-acting sleeping pills, but
10 three or four hours after I take them I can still be
11 awake. Even now I can still wake up crying. I hate it
12 when that happens.

13 About five years ago, a social worker gave me
14 a phone number. It was when we took on my grandson
15 under the kinship order. I think it was to look into my
16 records. I have been advised about Future Pathways and
17 may look into contacting them."

18 Moving to paragraph 150 on page 32:

19 "I would say we need to listen to kids. Kids are
20 not lying. It doesn't matter how excessive it sounds,
21 you can guarantee it will be true. A lot of people
22 don't ask what is upsetting them. They just think, 'Oh,
23 they are just trying; they can't mix with people;
24 there's something wrong with them'. If a child can't
25 mix or they don't want to be near someone, there's

1 a reason. There's a reason they don't want to be near
2 the person.

3 When I was in care, we didn't have any choice. We
4 had to be there. We didn't have anyone to take us out
5 of the situation or tell us what was going on. It
6 wasn't until I got to the age of 14 that I thought, 'No,
7 I can't live with this on my own any longer'.

8 I would want to make sure that the people who are
9 looking after kids are well, well vetted. Abuse is
10 still going on. You can see it on the TV. Things don't
11 change. These people are still out there. They're
12 still doing it. They're still getting away with it.

13 When the Jimmy Savile scandal came out, I couldn't
14 watch it. It didn't surprise me. Half the time the
15 'do-gooders' are the ones that you really need to be
16 looking at.

17 People go through a lot worse than what happened to
18 me. It's the way it has affected me I want to
19 highlight. I just want people to realise that it did go
20 on.

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

25 And the statement was signed by 'Betty' on

1 31 January 2018.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS INNES: I think we'll finish there for today, my Lady.

4 LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll stop there for today and sit
5 tomorrow at 10 o'clock. Judging by the list I have at
6 the moment, we have an oral witness at 10 o'clock. Is
7 that still the plan?

8 MS INNES: Yes, two oral witnesses in the morning and
9 read-ins as well.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

11 Just for the record, EHF-SPO were mentioned in the
12 course of the read-ins this afternoon and their names
13 can't be repeated outside this room. They're covered by
14 my general restriction order.

15 Thank you very much. I'll rise now.

16 (2.56 pm)

17 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
18 on Thursday, 16 June 2022)

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